

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 7 March 2019
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item Decisions and actions

1 Chairman's Welcome, Declarations of Interest and Apologies

There was a minute of silence in remembrance for Cllr Clarence Barrett who passed away on Friday 2 March 2019. Independent Group Leader Cllr Marianne Overton MBE spoke of the important contribution Cllr Barret made to Local Government.

The Chairman noted the apologies.

2 James Brokenshire MP

Cllr James Jamieson introduced James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

James Brokenshire MP added to the words of recognition by remembering Cllr Clarence Barrett and the work they did for their community and Local Government.

James Brokenshire MP highlighted the challenges of Brexit to local government and how communities have confidence in their local council to deliver changes coming after the UK leaves the EU. This comes on the back of the strong record that the Government has on delivering for local government and giving councils the tools to support their communities.

James Brokenshire MP highlighted the recent Local Government Finance Settlement, that will see continued support for local government to deliver on the current challenges our communities are facing including Adult Social Care, which currently is a big pressure for local government.

James Brokenshire MP wants local government to be ambitious with how towns can grow and make new partnerships going forward, with support from the Stronger Towns Fund, which can have a transformative impact on where town centres can develop to be more vibrant.

James Brokenshire MP highlighted how the new business rate formula will be finalised, which will be more transparent and simpler. The government wants local government to have more control over business rates and the income that comes from them.

Members made the following comments:

- The traffic modelling around ports from the Department of Transport only takes into account lorries rather than other kind of traffic, this impacts how we can prepare of Brexit as Port Authorities.
- The Business Retention Rate pilot needs to come to an end and become fixed within the year, so councils are able to plan around the income it generates long term. Currently the pilot has proven very costly for local government.
- Adult Social Care is very important in local government, and we are awaiting the conclusions from the Adult Social Care Green Paper.
- Plymouth should be considered a strategic port, due to the role it will play in delivering medicines, and the funding that would come with this status to deliver on the increased need for the port.
- Local Plans can see major delays and it does not feel like a transparent process for those on the ground in local councils.
- Welsh councils are concerned about funding that Welsh councils get compared to English Councils.

James Brokenshire MP responded

- Feedback will be taken to the Department of Transport for better local resilience details to be shared.
- The Fair Funding Review and the Business Rate pilots are coming together and will be concluded later in the year and repayment issues will be addressed.
- The Adult Social Care Green paper will be published soon, when the work on the conclusions has been finished rather than a point on the timeline.
- The stronger town fund will see additional funding for each of the = nations of the UK. Wales will see real inclusion in this fund.
- Local plans are very important to local development and councils should have greater presence with the timeline around their delivery.
- While the Department of Transport leads on funding for ports, reflections can be made from local government stakeholders to influence the strategy of the funding.

Cllr James Jamieson thanked James Brokenshire MP for attending

3 Chairman's Update

Members agreed the update .

4 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

Members made the following comments:

- LGA Annual Cultural and Tourism Conference was very successful and saw good engagement from the sector.
- There is concern over the LEP Review and the national consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. However, the fund will continue to run through local government until national government indicate differently.
- Knife Crime is being addressed currently with a series of meetings within the sector.

Members noted the reports.

5 Digest of the last meeting

Members agreed the notes.

Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr David Williams	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
	Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Nadeem Ahmed	Pendle Borough Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee CBE	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
Cllr Nick Chard	Kent County Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Linda Haysey	East Herts Council
Cllr Matthew Hicks	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset County Council
Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
Cllr Oonagh Moulton	Merton London Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	Bexley Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Lynn Riley	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
Cllr Nick Forbes CBE	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Tom Beattie	Corby Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Ipswich Borough Council
Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Sian Timoney	Luton Borough Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Paul Tilsley CBE	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Vacancy	Liberal Democrat Group
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Wayne Davies	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Carolyn Rule	Cornwall Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council