**Chairman’s Update June 2014 – Councillor’s Forum**

**Local Government Association (LGA) business**

1. At the June **Leadership Board** members received an update on the **First 100 Days** work and the **Municipal Bonds Agency.** Recommendations to enhance LGA influence in **Brussels** were also explored.
2. The June **LGA Executive** welcomed **Andreas Kiefer**, Secretary General of Congress the Council of Europe, and **Cllr John Warmisham**, Congress UK Delegation Leader, to present on the **Congress of the Council of Europe Peer Review of Local Democracy in the UK.**
3. I had lunch with Labour, Conservative and Cross-Bench **LGA Vice-Presidents** to update them on our latest programme of work and to outline the next phase of the LGA campaign ahead of the general election and beyond.
4. **Councillors Forum** received a surprise and very welcome visit from **Lord Heseltine** and **Minister Greg Clarke MP**. Members were updated on **funding for LEPs**. Councillors also listened to Paul Kissack from the **Department for Education** who attended in Ed Timpson MP’s absence. **Carey Oppenheim** from the **Early Intervention Foundation** also addressed the group.

**Ministerial/Parliamentary business**

1. In addition to the **Vice-President lunches** at the Houses of Parliament and numerous speaking engagements alongside Ministers, Peers and MPs, I also met with **Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP,** Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to explain how vital local authorities are to **culture, heritage and sport**, and the huge role this sector plays attracting visitors, driving growth and transforming places.
2. The LGA hosted a **farewell reception** for me as I prepare to hand over as Chairman. It was a pleasure to share the evening with colleagues from local and central government on the sun-kissed roof terrace of Local Government House.

**Meetings with other organisations and individuals**

1. I spoke at **The King’s Fund** breakfast seminar about the extent of the financial pressures on local government, their impact on **adult social care**, and the implication for the NHS.
2. I met with **Catherine Staite,** Director at INLOGOV to discuss **collaborative arrangements** within local government.
3. At the **Business Services Association** **Local Government Committee**, I spoke to members about **public service reform and partnership working**, and **procurement and commissioning**.
4. **Mayor Lawrence Yule**, Chairman of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and President of Local Government New Zealand visited Local Government House. The Mayor briefed me on the **outcomes of the discussions at the recent UCLG meetings in Nigeria**.
5. On an invitation from LGA President Lord Best, I attended the **Bircham Dyson Bell** business breakfast and spoke about areas of **cooperation between business and local government** and how local government can **drive economic growth.**
6. I participated in the **public commissioning and public accountability** panel, chaired by **Nick Raynsford MP** at the **Centre for Public Scrutiny** annual conference.
7. I addressed the **Local Government Pensions Committee** conference in Bournemouth where I spoke about the work that has been done on the **Local Government Pension Scheme** and the need for better **deficit reduction**.

**Meetings with councillors and member councils**

1. I travelled to **Hampshire County Council** and met with Chief Executives and Leaders from Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, Southampton and all Hampshire District councils. We discussed the progress of **Rewiring Public Services** and **future LGA work**.
2. My farewell tour is now underway with visits to meet the leaders of **Gloucestershire** and **Gloucester Councils, Worcestershire County Council**, **East and West Sussex County Councils**, and the **Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames Council**.
3. I have also met with the Leader of Wandsworth Council and the Leader and Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove.
4. I opened the **UCLG World Forum at Liverpool.** I also met with **Mayor Joe Anderson** and **Ged Fitzgerald**.