

## **Chairman's Update July and August 2014 – Councillor's Forum**

### **Local Government Association (LGA) business**

1. At the July **Leadership Board** members received an update on **LGA Communications** and an initial assessment of **Annual Conference**. They also reviewed the work of the Board over the past year.
2. The July **LGA Executive** received reports updating them on progress with the **Better Care Fund** and the **Municipal Bonds Agency**.
3. At **Councillors Forum** members listened to Rob Webster, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, who spoke about developing the health and care systems of the future.
4. I met LGA and council officers in **Brussels** in August. I was briefed on the forthcoming legislative programme and on the work of new MEPs.

### **Ministerial/Parliamentary business**

5. I spoke with **Kris Hopkins MP**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, about the **Local Government Finance Settlement 2015/16 technical consultation** and pointed out some issues which are not covered in the consultation. I also met the Minister this week to discuss **adult social care**.
6. I had an introductory meeting with **Margot James MP**, LGA Vice-President. We discussed the **100 Days** campaign and how the Conservative Party could best be encouraged to adopt its recommendations in their manifesto.

### **Meetings with other organisations and individuals**

7. I was interviewed by **Mark Smullian** for a feature in **LGIU magazine**. We spoke about what I hope to accomplish in my time as Chairman and the 100 Days campaign.
8. I met with **Sir Robert Worcester**, Chairman of **Magna Carta 800** Committee, in which I reinforced local government's interest in the anniversary and registered our interest in bidding for a Magna Carta grant to support local government engagement in the anniversary. The Barons' challenge to an over-mighty King 800 years ago resonates with the LGA's own campaign to reverse years of centralising top-down government by devolving powers and funding to a constitutionally independent and rejuvenated local government.

9. I spoke at the **One Public Estate Launch** alongside **Rt Hon Frances Maude MP**, where the One Public Estate programme was extended to 20 further councils, using property as a starting point to make savings, boost local regeneration and encourage co-operation with central government.
  
10. I provided introductory remarks at a **Reform** seminar on **financial management and productivity** in local government in which I discussed the future of local taxation, the practicalities of pooling budgets, the opportunities presented by greater community engagement, and the challenges of effective partnership working.