

Minutes of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 21 July 2022
Venue: Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Declarations of Interest

2 Any other business that Chair considers urgent

The Chairman welcomed the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP – Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to the meeting and thanked him for his time. Areas of focus for the Secretary of State included:

- Building safety
- Levelling up fund
- Nutrient neutrality
- Devolution deals

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

- Implications for local government on the increase in national living wage;
- Retrofitting of homes;
- Social care; and
- Support available for those on the Ukraine family scheme.

3 Vision for Volunteering

The Chairman welcomed Paul Reddish, the Chief Executive of Volunteering Matters who gave a presentation on the vision of what volunteering should look like by 2032.

Local government should consider full awareness and appreciation of volunteering, making sure there are less barriers in place to enabling people to volunteer, ensure that there was diversity, collaborating with groups and experimenting with new approaches.

In response to a query on barriers for those who wish to volunteer, it was advised that a strong local council for voluntary service (CVS) that embraces low level organised groups and provides advice would be a way forward. It was also recommended that councils focus on community engagement and approach communities with open questions on how they could help with time, resources, or funding.

4 Chairman's Update

The Chairman introduced his report updating on recent work of the LGA, highlighting that engagement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities would continue.

5 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chairman invited the following Chairs to update on the work of their Boards in turn:

- Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
- Improvement and Innovation Board – Cllr Peter Fleming
- Resources Board – Cllr Andrew Western
- Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Cllr Nesil Caliskan

6 Digest of the last meeting held on 9 June 2022

The digest of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record.