

Minutes of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Councillors' Forum

Thursday, 25 January 2024

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions
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1	Welcome, Declarations of Interest
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The Chair welcomed attendees to the Councillors Forum and introduced Joanna Killian, who would join the LGA as Chief Executive from March 2024.

2	Crown Commercial Services
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The Chair welcomed Eddie Gibson (National Senior Account Manager, Local Communities and Housing) and David Bemrose (Head of Account Strategy for Local Communities and Housing Sector) from the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to give a presentation to the Councillors Forum. Eddie and David presented on the work of the CCS, in particular that they assist Councils to drive services that bring value. It was explained that the CCS is owned by the public sector and that it self-finances with any surplus going back into the public purse. They explained that CCS does not set policy but helps to implement policy across the public sector estate.

In the conversation that followed, the following points were made:

- CCS was now a business partner of SOLACE.
- A number of examples of policies CCS had supported the implementation of were shared with Members including investing in an account management team dedicated to facing into the local government sector. Every Council would have a dedicated account manager.
- CCS had undertaken a new procurement and invested money in the LGA to take on this role.
- A request was made for CCS to look into work, such as peer challenges, focused on climate change.
- CCS also reminded Members that they were holding a roundtable with Councillors on 6 February 2024.

3 Chair's Update

Members noted the Chair's update. The Chair emphasised that the LGA welcomed the news of the additional £600m funding for Local Government, which had been announced since the 2024/25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement due to lobbying from across the sector. The Chair explained it was almost unprecedented for a Government to announce additional funding at that point in the year. He also emphasised that it was not enough to address the amount of gaps and challenges facing Council budgets.

The Chair expressed his thanks to Simon Hoare MP, the Minister for Local Government, for his engagement with the sector and that he was looking forward to continuing working with the Minister.

4 LGA Board Chair Reports

The Chair invited the following Chairs to update on the work of Boards:

- Children and Young People Board – Cllr Louise Gittins
- Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board – Cllr Darren Rodwell
- People and Places Board – Cllr Martin Tett

6 Digest of the last meeting held on 19 October 2023

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

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman Members	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
	Cllr Joe Harris	Cotswold District Council
	Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Richard Henry	Stevenage Borough Council
	Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr David Welsh	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Tracey Dixon	South Tyneside Council
	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Marland	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Bella Sankey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Cllr Susan Brown	Oxford City Council	
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council	

Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset Council
Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland District Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Louise McKinlay	Essex County Council
Cllr Phillip King	Harborough District Council
Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Peter Golds CBE	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough
Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
Cllr Paul Marshall	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Adam Brown	West Northants Council
Cllr Ian Hollidge	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Simon Oakley	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Lynette Sullivan	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Heather Williams	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Harvey Cohen	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Bobby Bennett	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Steve Foster	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Rowena Bass	Kingston upon Thames London Borough
Cllr Isobel Darby	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Jane MacBean	Buckinghamshire Council