

## Chair's Update

This report covers Councillor David Sparks' activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum.

### Local Government Association (LGA) business

#### Meetings

- Leading members of **COSLA**, **WLGA** and **NILGA** to review the position of local government across the UK after the Scottish referendum.
- **European and International Delegation Leaders**, discussing the LGA's role in EU and international issues.

#### Speaking engagements

- European meeting of **Commonwealth Local Government Forum** to discuss decentralisation and devolution.
- **Independent Group Annual Conference** on how local government is changing and how the LGA's vision fits into this.
- **Political and Constitutional Reform Committee**, discussing devolution following the Scottish referendum.

### Ministerial/Parliamentary business

#### Meetings

- **Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP**, Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss local government finance and the Autumn Statement.
- **Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP**, Secretary of State for Health, where I highlighted the 100 days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Health further highlighting the 100 days campaign.
- **Chuka Umunna MP**, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to discuss economic growth and devolution.
- **Sarah Wollaston MP**, Chair of the Health Select Committee where I highlighted the 100 days campaign.
- **Emma Reynolds MP**, Shadow Minister for housing, to discuss the Lyons review on housing and the LGA's 100 days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP**, Minister of State for Care and Support to discuss the 100 days campaign.
- **Graham Stuart MP** to discuss the LGA's Autumn Statement submission.
- **Oliver Letwin MP**, Minister for Government Policy and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancashire to discuss devolution and the 100 days campaign.
- **William Hague MP**, in his capacity as Chair of the Cabinet Committee for Devolved Powers to discuss devolution.
- **Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**, Minister for Universities, Science and Cities where I discussed devolution to cities and shires, growth and skills.
- **Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP** to discuss devolution and the 100 Days campaign.
- **Rt Hon Ed Balls MP**, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss devolution and decentralisation.

## Meetings with other organisations and individuals

### Speaking engagements

- **National Children and Adult Services Conference** on the future of children and adults' services.
- An event run by the **Association of North East Councils** on the future for health and wellbeing.
- **European Structural Investment Fund Programme Growth Board** where I discussed the LGA/LEP Network proposal.

### Meetings

- **Neil Cleeveley** to discuss the possibility of joint work with **NAVCA**.
- **Liz Pearce CBE**, Chief Executive of the **British Property Federation**, and **Ghislaine Trehearne**, Assistant Director, to discuss opportunities for joint working.

## Meetings with councillors and member councils

### Visits

- **Lancashire County Council**, meeting with **Cllr Jenifer Mein, Leader**, and **Cllr David Borrow**, Deputy Leader to discuss their membership and future direction following their corporate peer challenge.
- Tri-Borough trialling project alongside **Lord Freud** in **Lambeth, Lewisham** and **Southwark**, focusing on a Peckham Jobcentre.

### Meetings

- **South East England Councils (SEEC)** Executive, reiterating the LGA's aims for all councils.
- Leader of Preston City Council, **Cllr Peter Rankin**, and the Chief Executive **Lorraine Norris** to discuss their membership and the LGA's role.
- **Cllr John Hart**, Leader of Devon County Council to discuss the south west.
- **Leaders' Committee**, a meeting of the London Council Leaders, to discuss current key issues.

### Speaking engagements

- **South West Councils Leaders Meeting** on the LGA's 100 days campaign and devolution work.
- **East Midlands Councils Event** on the future of Local Government and Public Services in the Next Parliament.
- **County Councils' Network Annual Conference**, setting out a common agenda for local government.
- **Assembly of the East of England LGA**, focusing on 100 days and devolution.