Chair’s Update

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

**Local Government Association (LGA) business**

Meetings

* **Helen Edwards**, Director General, Localism, **DCLG**, to discuss LGA campaigns
* **European Structural Investment Fund Growth Programme Board** to discuss the governance arrangements and the role of local partners
* Labour Local Government Leaders on Local Government finance settlement

Speaking engagements

* **CoR and Congress Delegations** to introduce both Delegations and to discuss the LGA’s activity in Europe

Media

* **BBC** interviews to discuss social care services
* **BBC** Interview to discuss devolution
* **Guardian** interview on aging population and pressure on services

**Ministerial/Parliamentary business**

Meetings

* **Margot James MP,** PPS to William Hague MP, to discuss devolution and the combined authority in the West Midlands
* **Baroness Cathy Bakewell** to discuss LGA campaigns
* **Labour LGA vice-presidents lunch**

**Meetings with other organisations and individuals**

Speaking engagements

* **Open University** to highlight LGA’s role in facilitating Dame Jane Roberts’ research and provide a local government perspective on the findings
* **GovernUp’s** ‘Localism 2.0’ launch to discuss devolution of financial powers

Meetings

* **Matthew Bell**, Chief Executive, **Committee on Climate Change**, to discuss councils’ actions to reduce carbon emissions
* **Michael Ward** (Chair), **Neil McInroy** (CEO), **Centre for Local Economic Strategies**, to share LGA policy on promoting local growth and calls for further devolution
* **Paul Everall**, Chief Executive and Company Secretary, **Local Authority Building Control,** to discuss future engagement between LGA and LABC
* **Jill Sherman**, Whitehall Editor, The Times, to discuss the LGA’s finance campaign

**Meetings with councillors and member councils**

* **Cllr Pete Marland,** Leader, and **Carole Milles,** Chief Executive, Milton Keynes Council to discuss funding growth and devolution