

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

5 March 2015

- **Paul Overall**, 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