

Chair's Update

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

Local Government Association (LGA) business

Meetings

- **Cllr Bob Wellington**, WLGA Chair, and **Steve Thomas**, WLGA Chief Executive to discuss the work of the LGA and the WLGA's membership.
- **UK Forum Meeting** to discuss the work of the four associations and joint work on **devolution** across the UK.

Speaking engagements

- **Congress of the Council of Europe Debate** to call for devolution and decentralisation across the UK.

Media

- **Local Government Chronicle** interview on the outcome of the **General Election** and expectations of the new government.
- **BBC Radio Berkshire** and **BBC Radio Oxford** interviews to discuss the local government reaction to the **General Election**.
- Joint-letter to **the Times**, proposing shifting "the balance of power and responsibility from a remote Westminster, Holyrood, Stormont and Cardiff Bay to local people".
- **BBC News**, **BBC Radio 2** and **BBC 5 Live** interviews following the Chancellor's announcement about devolving powers to English cities.
- Joint-letter to **the Guardian** proposing **an end to cuts in local government budgets** following the General Election.

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

Meetings

- **Jane Hutt AM**, Welsh Government Minister for Finance & Government Business, to discuss Welsh devolution and the recommendations of the **Silk Commission**.
- **Lord Best**, Crossbench Peer and LGA President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Baroness Eaton**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Heather Wheeler MP**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Dr Julian Huppert MP**, LGA Vice President, to discuss our recently launched campaigns, '**Future Funding**', '**Show Us You Care**' and '**DevoNext**'.
- **Liz Kendall MP**, Shadow Minister for Care and Older People, to discuss **adult social care** budgets, **health and social care integration** and the **Better Care Fund**.

- **Lord Freud**, Minister for Welfare Reform, to discuss **Universal Credit** and the future role of Local Government in **welfare reform**.
- **Rt Hon Greg Clark MP** - Secretary of State, **DCLG** to introduce the new Secretary of State to the LGA and discuss **devolution, social care, financial stability** and **sector-led improvement**.

Meetings with organisations and individuals

- **Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE**, Chair, **Women's Local Government Society (WLGS)**, **Ann Reader** and **Anne Baldwin**, Advisers to the WLGS to discuss the work of the WLGS to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2017.
- **Sir Philip Dilley**, Chairman and **Dr Paul Leinster CBE**, Chief Executive, **Environment Agency**, to share the priorities of the LGA and discuss planning and flooding policy.
- **Mike Cherry**, National Policy Chairman and **Martin McTague**, Local Government Chairman, **Federation of Small Businesses**, to discuss **devolution, business rates** and **local growth funding**.
- **Mayor Jules Pipe**, Chair, **London Councils** and Leader of London Borough of Hackney to discuss the work of London Councils and the LGA.
- **Business Services Association** Roundtable to discuss local government finance, devolution, the LGA agenda for the new Government and partnership working.
- **Sir David Wootton**, Chair and **Judith Armit**, Chief Executive, **Local Partnerships** to discuss the work of Local Partnerships.
- **Cllr David O'Neil**, President and **Rory Mair**, Chief Executive, **COSLA**, to discuss the outcome of the **General Election**.

Meetings with councillors and member councils

- **Hampshire and Isle of Wight** Leaders Meeting to update members on the work of the LGA and, in particular, on the topic of local government finance.
- **Cllr Carl Maynard**, Leader, **Cllr Martin Kenward**, Deputy Leader, **Malcolm Johnston**, Executive Director of Resources and **Tony Leonard**, Director of Services, **Rother District Council** to discuss Sector-led Improvement and the Council's transformation plans.
- **Cllr Jeremy Birch**, sadly since deceased, Leader and **Neil Dart**, Head of Paid Service, **Hastings Borough Council** to discuss Sector-led Improvement.
- **Cumbria Joint Districts Meeting** to discuss the work of the LHA and a proposal for unitary local government in the county.
- **Cllr David Hodge**, Chairman, **CCN**; Leader of Surrey County Council and Deputy Chairman of South East England Councils to discuss the work of CCN and the continued role of the LGA.
- **Cllr Sir Stephen Houghton CBE**, Chair, **SIGOMA**; and Leader of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to discuss the work of SIGOMA and fairness in future funding.