

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 5 March 2015
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>First 100 Days</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members to Councillors' Forum. He also welcomed Professor Tony Travers, Director of LSE London, a research centre at the London School of Economics, and Visiting Professor in the LSE's Government Department.</p> <p>Professor Travers discussed a number of issues regarding the potential outcome of the forthcoming Local and General Elections and their possible impact on the work of local government. Regarding the General Election he highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The conventional two party political system has changed and more political parties were involved in politics at a local and national level.• Current polling suggested that the Labour and Conservative parties would receive a very similar number of seats in the General Election.• There were a number of scenarios for national government following the General Election; an outright win for one party, a formal coalition agreement or a minority government with a 'confidence and supply' arrangement with one or more smaller parties.• Should the future government push forward with English devolution plans there could be a situation where Labour may be the largest party, but the Conservatives would have a majority when voting for English laws. <p>Professor Travers also discussed the possible outcome of the elections for local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was likely to be more devolved powers for English city regions and potentially county regions.• A future government may suggest a move towards proportional representation in local government if smaller parties are involved in a formal or informal coalition agreement.• A comprehensive spending review would be likely to be published	

in June or July 2015, with the local government funding settlement following in December as usual.

The LGA Group Leaders discussed how the LGA's First 100 Days campaign had influenced their own parties' manifestos. The Group Leaders particularly focussed on how the national debate on devolution and decentralisation had resonated strongly with political parties. The LGA should continue to present a united front on devolution, and the First 100 Days campaign showed costed examples of policies which would benefit the whole local government sector.

In the discussion which followed Members made a number of comments around the relationship between MPs and local councillors, the local government grant settlement and the likelihood of continued austerity measures and council tax freezes following the General Election. The Chair thanked Professor Travers for his contribution to the meeting.

2 Chair's Update

Members **noted** the Chair's report.

3 LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports

Members **noted** the reports from each of the LGA Board Chairs.

- a) Children and Young People's Board - Councillor David Simmonds
- b) City Regions Board - Councillor Sir Richard Leese CBE
- c) Community Wellbeing Board - Councillor Izzi Seccombe
- d) Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Councillor Ian Stephens
- e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - Councillor Peter Box CBE
- f) Improvement and Innovation Board - Councillor Peter Fleming
- g) People and Places Board - Councillor David Hodge
- h) Resources Board - Councillor Claire Kober
- i) Safer & Stronger Communities Board - Councillor Ann Lucas OBE

4 Digest of the last meeting

The minutes were **agreed**.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Sparks OBE	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gary Porter	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Jim McMahon	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
	Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
	Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	
Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council	

Cllr Lisa Brett
Cllr Jeremy Hilton
Cllr Liz Green

Cllr Howard Sykes MBE
Cllr Heather Kidd
Cllr Jill Shortland OBE
Cllr Stan Collins
Cllr Norman Bradbury
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE
Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Shropshire Council
Somerset County Council
South Lakeland District Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Warwickshire County Council
Gloucestershire County Council

Apologies

Cllr Nicolas Heslop
Cllr Phil Davies
Cllr Anthony Hunt
Cllr Robert Bucke
Cllr Sarah Hayward
Cllr Teresa O'Neill
Cllr Martin Tett
Cllr Robert Light
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE
Cllr Ravi Govindia
Cllr Jonathan Owen
Cllr David Finch
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE
Cllr Bryony Rudkin
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell
Cllr Graham Chapman
Cllr Clyde Loakes
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor Jules Pipe
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE
Cllr Nick Forbes
Lord Peter Smith
Cllr David Phillips
Cllr Sue Woodward
Cllr Keith Wakefield
Cllr Peter Box CBE
Cllr Lib Peck
Cllr Nicholas Crofts
Cllr John Merry CBE
Cllr Amy Cross
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE
Cllr Claire Hudson
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE
Cllr Chris Townsend
Cllr Deborah Croney
Cllr Mahroof Hussain
MBE
Cllr Judith Blake
Cllr Claire Kober
Cllr David Burbage MBE
Cllr Kevin Bentley

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Tendring District Council
Camden Council
Bexley Council
Buckinghamshire County Council
Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Suffolk County Council
Wandsworth London Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Essex County Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
High Peak Borough Council
Nottingham City Council
Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Lewisham London Borough Council
Hackney London Borough Council
Northumberland Council
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Swansea City and County Council
Staffordshire County Council
Leeds City Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Lambeth London Borough Council
Liverpool City Council
Salford City Council
Blackpool Council
Liverpool City Council
Mendip District Council
South Somerset District Council
Mole Valley District Council
North Dorset District Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Haringey Council
Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Colchester Borough Council

Cllr Nigel Ashton
Cllr Steve Count
Cllr Kenneth Meeson
Cllr Roger Begy OBE
Cllr Jane Scott OBE
Cllr Elaine Atkinson
Cllr Mike Eathorne-
Gibbons
Cllr Norman Murphy
Alderman Sir David
Wootton

North Somerset Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Rutland County Council
Wiltshire Council
Borough of Poole