**Chairman’s Update**

This report covers Councillor Gary Porter’s activities in the period since the last Councillors’ Forum.

**Local Government Association (LGA) business**

1. **Meetings:**
   1. **Baroness Eaton** (Vice president, LGA)
   2. **Clive Betts MP** (Vice president, LGA)
   3. **Cllr Mark Hawthorne** (Chair, People and Places board, LGA)
   4. **Cllr Sir Richard Leese** (Chair, City Regions Board, LGA)
   5. **Lord Kerslake** (President, LGA)
   6. **Cllr David Simmonds** (Chair, Improvement and Innovation Board, LGA)
   7. **Cllr Peter Box** (Chair, Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, LGA)
   8. **Cllr Jeremy Hilton** (Chair, Fire Services Management Board, LGA)
   9. **Cllr Roy Perry** (Chair, Children & Young People Board, LGA)
2. **Ministerial/Parliamentary business**
   1. **Brendon Lewis MP** (Minister of State for Housing and Planning, DCLG)
   2. **Camilla Sheldon** (Community Rights Division, DCLG)
   3. **Helen Edwards** (Director General, DCLG)
   4. **Marcus Jones MP** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Local Government, DCLG)
   5. **The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP** (Secretary of State, DCLG)
   6. **The Rt Hon Lord Freud** (Minister of State for Welfare Reform, DWP)
   7. **The Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP** (Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, Cabinet Office)
   8. **Ministerial Group on Syrian Refugees**
   9. **Mark Lancaster TD MP** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence Personnel and Veterans, MoD)
   10. **Rt Hon Greg Hands MP** (Chief Secretary, HMT)
   11. **Peter Schofield** (Director General, Neighbourhoods, DCLG)
   12. **Welfare Reform and Work Bill Committee**
   13. **Asylum Refugee and Migration Task and Finish Group**
3. **Meetings with organisations and individuals**
   1. **Association of North East Councils** (ANEC) meeting
   2. **Freedom Dinner 2015** (by Forest, Boisdale, the Institute of Economic Affairs and Action on Consumer Choice)
   3. **NALC conference 2015**
   4. **Alex Thomson** (Chief Executive, Localis)
   5. **Judith Armitt** (Chief Executive, Local Partnerships)
   6. **Sir David Wootton** (Chairman, Local Partnership)
   7. **Nicholas Boys Smith** (Director, Create Streets)

**4**. **Conservative Party Conference**

* 1. Resolution Foundation fringe
  2. Town & Country Planning Association fringe
  3. LGiU annual local government dinner
  4. Jon Sparks (Chief Executive, Crisis)
  5. Demos Roundtable
  6. Philip Barnes (Land and Planning Director, Barratt Developments PLC)
  7. LGA/British Property Federation Conservative Party Conference dinner
  8. LGA Conservative Party Conference reception
  9. Brett Amphlett (Policy & Public Affairs Manager, Builders Merchants Federation)
  10. Andrew Laird (Director, Mutual Ventures)
  11. Sarah Calkin (Senior Correspondent, Health, Emap)
  12. Moira Fraser (Director of Policy and Research, Carers Trust)
  13. Ruth Davison (Director of Policy and External Affairs, National Housing Federation)
  14. Bright Blue and Hanover Housing event
  15. Localis Annual Members dinner