

Discussion with Lord Kerslake

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Lord Kerslake has been invited to attend the Board in his role as Chair of an [inquiry](#) on *Better Devolution for the UK* set up by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution, for which the LGA acts as secretariat. It is seeking evidence on devolved nations, local government, central powers in the UK and wider constitutional reform.

This discussion is an opportunity for members to raise issues related to the implications of devolution in England for the constitutional settlement in the UK and the principles to sustain it as set out in the LGA's [English Devolution](#) report, including:

- Subsidiarity: bringing power as close to people as possible
- Legal standing for local government: enshrining the position of local democracy through a constitutional settlement
- Fiscal autonomy: providing local areas the same fiscal tools and powers that our global competitors have.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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Background

1. The APPG for Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution in the UK was established in 2014 to provide cross-party parliamentary space for an open discussion on the need for a UK-wide settlement. Its qualifying officers are Lord Foulkes of Cumnock, Lord Purvis of Tweed, Andrew Rosindell MP and Catherine West MP. The Local Government Association provides the secretariat.
2. In March 2015 the Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution APPG published [A Parliament for Reform 2015-20](#), a legacy paper setting out the constitutional issues which need to be addressed in the new Parliament. The *Better Devolution for the UK* inquiry builds on the framework set out in the legacy paper.
3. The inquiry is chaired by Lord Kerslake, who is supported by a panel appointed by the qualifying officers to consider written evidence and oversee the oral evidence sessions. Panel members are as follows:
 - Graham Allen MP
 - Dame Kate Barker
 - Lady Victoria Borwick MP
 - Baroness Janke
 - Jason Kitcat
 - Lord Maclennan of Rogart
 - Lord Norton
 - Rt Revd. Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby
 - Gavin Robinson MP
 - Lord Wigley