

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBITION – JULY 2017****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report to Committee the key messages from the Local Government Association (LGA) annual conference, which took place in Birmingham between 4 and 6 July 2017.

Information and Advice

2. Following Committee approval on 15 March 2017, Councillor Cutts MBE, Councillor Adair, Councillor Rhodes and Anthony May attended the LGA conference held between 4 and 6 July 2017.
3. The conference was organised by the LGA which is a politically-led, cross-party organisation that works on behalf of councils as a voice for local government. It is a membership organisation made up of 415 authorities in 2017/18.
4. This year the conference was focused around the future of local authority finance and powers amidst the government negotiating the exit from EU, the competing priorities local government face and new ways of tackling those challenges.
5. Conference attendees heard speeches from the Chairman of the LGA, Lord Porter, and the Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP.
6. Attendees also participated in workshops and plenary sessions which focused on the challenges of making commercialism happen, the role of local government outside the EU, delivering health and wellbeing outcomes for whole communities, and the future of adult social care.
7. Anthony May spoke at the conference as part of a plenary session with NHS England on "Local Government and the NHS: are we serious about working together?".
8. During the conference attendees joined the County Councils Network for a reception where they launched a new report "Understanding County Economies: Analysis to Inform the Industrial Strategy and the Devolution Debate". This report explores the economies of county areas.
9. Details of the presentations can be found on the [LGA website](#).

Chairman of the Local Government Association

10. In his keynote speech, Lord Porter, Chairman of the Local Government Association made a plea to Government to give Local Authorities the powers and finances they need to keep the country running whilst the Government focuses on Brexit negotiations. He emphasised the importance of keeping local tax in the local area and recognised the huge uncertainty in how services would be funded beyond 2020.
11. The speech saw the launch of the LGA's newest publication ["Growing Places"](#). This paper explores the role of local government as leaders of place in an unprecedented time for the nation and the shift in thinking that is required.

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

12. In his speech the Communities Secretary focused on the areas for improvement in local government. He reflected on the Grenfell Towers tragedy and the questions that arise.
13. The Communities Secretary pointed to the need to rebuild, refresh and reinforce the trust local people have in democracy and emphasised the importance of true engagement and support for local communities.
14. In terms of the housing challenge, the Communities Secretary recognised that there was a need to rethink the development process and advised that a consultation had been launched on a new way for councils to assess their local housing requirement as was promised in the Housing White Paper. The Communities Secretary talked about the challenge of delivering the right infrastructure to support new housing developments and spoke about the new Housing Infrastructure Fund. The prospectus for the fund had been launched that day inviting bids for a share of £2.3 billion set aside for housing infrastructure.

Other Options Considered

15. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. To feedback to Members on the outcomes of the LGA conference.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

18. The cost of attending the conference was set out in the report to Policy Committee on 15 March 2017.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That members consider whether there is any follow up work they require in relation to the topics covered in this report, and if so, that they be delegated to the Chief Executive for action.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Nerys Davies, Executive Officer,
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Constitutional Comments (SLB 04/09/2017)

19. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS 04/09/2017)

20. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Report to Policy Committee – 15 March 2017](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All