



# Annual Report 2017

## Liberal Democrat Group Local Government Association



# LGA Liberal Democrat Group 2017 Annual Report contents

- 3 A message from the Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group
- 4 LGA Liberal Democrat Group Executive 2015-2017
- 6 Who are my Liberal Democrat LGA Board Representatives?
- 7 The 2017 Election and the LGA's Political Balance

## REPORTS:

- 8 Children and Young People Board
- 9 LGA Liberal Democrat Group Whip
- 11 Community Wellbeing Board
- 12 Culture Tourism and Sport Board
- 13 Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
- 14 Improvement and Innovation Board
- 15 Resources Board
- 16 Safer and Stronger Communities Board
- 17 Fire Service Management Committee and Fire Commission
- 18 City Regions Board
- 19 People and Places Board
- 20 Lib Dem Retained Peers Report
- 22 District Councils Network Report
- 23 County Councils Network Report
- 24 Brexit Task and Finish Group
- 25 Business Rates Task and Finish Group
- 26 The LGA Liberal Democrat Group Office

Front page photo:

This year saw over 30 council seats gained in local by-elections, including this gain from UKIP in Aylesbury Vale with almost 68% of the vote!

a message from

## The Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group



Cllr Gerald Vernon Jackson CBE - on  
behalf of the LGA Leadership  
Team:

Cllr Chris White,  
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE,  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE and  
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE

Welcome to our annual report. The aim of this is to keep all Liberal Democrat Councillors in touch with the work of the Liberal Democrat Group over the past year and to ensure you can see what our lead members have been doing on your behalf. From lobbying over business rates to campaigning for the reform of social care funding, we have been working hard both within the LGA and the Liberal Democrats to ensure our voice is heard.

It was good to see this work bear fruit in the Liberal Democrat manifesto - with local government at the heart of it, including a pledge to drastically reduce the powers of central government ministers to interfere in democratically elected local government and a pledge to raise £6 billion a year on social care and the NHS - with the party putting social care and public health at the forefront of this promise. This is something that I know will chime with others here at the LGA.

There were also commitments to lift the borrowing cap to help councils build more homes for social rent; giving local authorities the power to penalise excessive land banking - and allow councils to levy up to 200 per cent council tax on empty homes. In addition we wanted to invest nearly £7 billion more in our children's education, increasing school budgets and the pupil premium.

This year also saw the local elections, with the Liberal Democrats winning over 440 seats, and with net gains in councils from County Durham to the Isle of Wight, and across to Norfolk and Powys. It also saw us take the leadership of another 2 authorities - Cornwall Council and Hart DC in Hampshire.

Finally, on a personal note, by the time you read this, I will have stepped down as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group at the LGA as we would have elected a new leader by the time of the LGA conference. I would like to say a big "thank you" to everyone I have worked with over the last 6 years. To all Liberal Democrat Councillors up and down the country who do a great job representing your community - keep up the good work!

Finally, as a Portsmouth City Councillor and someone who continues to be passionate about local government I look forward to working with my successor as Group Leader and with other colleagues in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald Jackson'.

**Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE**  
**Leader, LGA Liberal Democrat Group**

# LGA Liberal Democrat Group Executive and Leadership Team 2015 - 2017

Elected in August 2015 for two years, the Lib Dem Group Executive represent the political leadership of Liberal Democrats in local government inside and outside the LGA Group.

The Executive consists of the Leadership Team and the lead Lib Dem members of the LGA Group boards and panels, along with the Lib Dem representative on each of the other bodies in the LGA. The Leadership team are listed below.

The results of the latest LGA Lib Dem Group Elections will be made public by the end of June 2017.



**Group Leader  
(and LGA Vice Chair)**  
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE  
geraldvj@gmail.com



**Group Chair**  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
ruth.dombey@sutton.gov.uk



**Deputy Group Leader**  
Cllr Chris White  
chris.white.stalbans@gmail.com



**Deputy Group Leader**  
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE  
themayor@watford.gov.uk



**Group Whip**  
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE  
howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk



The LGA Lib Dem Group work with ALDC all year round - for example organising the "Next Generation" and "Be a Councillor" programmes. *Photo: Next Generation participants meeting with Tim Farron MP.*

# Other **LGA Liberal Democrat** Executive members from 2015 - 2017:

## **Culture, Tourism & Sport**

Cllr Mike Bell  
North Somerset  
mike.bell@n-somerset.gov.uk

## **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport**

Cllr Keith House  
Eastleigh  
keith.house@eastleigh.gov.uk

## **Cities**

Cllr Abi Bell  
Hull  
councillor.bell@hullcc.gov.uk

## **District Councils Network**

Cllr Ric Pallister OBE  
South Somerset  
ric.pallister@southsomerset.gov.uk

## **Audit**

Cllr David Neighbour  
Hart  
david.neighbour@hart.gov.uk

## **Community Wellbeing**

Cllr Richard Kemp CBE  
Liverpool  
richard.kemp@liverpool.gov.uk

## **Resources**

Cllr Claire Hudson  
Mendip  
cllr.hudson@mendip.gov.uk

## **People & Places**

Cllr Heather Kidd  
Shropshire  
heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk

## **County Councils Network**

Cllr Ross Henley  
Somerset  
rhenley@somerset.gov.uk

## **Local Partnerships**

Edward Lord CC OBE  
City of London  
edward.lord@cityoflondon.gov.uk

## **Children & Young People**

Cllr Liz Green  
Kingston  
liz.green@kingston.gov.uk

## **Safer Communities**

Cllr Anita Lower  
Newcastle City Council  
anita.lower@newcastle.gov.uk

## **Fire (Chair)**

Cllr Jeremy Hilton  
Gloucestershire  
jeremy.hilton@gloucestershire.gov.uk

## **ALDC Representative**

Cllr Kath Pinnock  
Kirklees  
kath.pinnock@kirklees.gov.uk

## **Local Leadership**

Cllr Baroness Cathy Bakewell  
South Somerset  
bakewellc@parliament.uk



From County Durham (above) to West Sussex (left) and across the country, Liberal Democrats gained seats from both Labour and Tories this May

# Who are the Liberal Democrat members on LGA Boards?

LGA Boards cover all areas of a local authority's remit and provides guidance to the LGA as it represents local government in Westminster and advises councils around the country. The members listed below were those who served from 2015 - 2017. Reports from lead members are further on in this Annual Report.

## Community Well-being Board

Cllr Richard Kemp	Liverpool	richard.kemp@liverpool.gov.uk
Cllr Doreen Huddart	Newcastle	doreen.huddart@newcastle.gov.uk
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (sub)	Cambridgeshire	nethsingha@btinternet.com

## Culture, Tourism & Sport Board

Cllr Mike Bell (lead)	North Somerset	mike.bell@n-somerset.gov.uk
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds	stewart.golton@leeds.gov.uk
Cllr Flick Rea (sub)	Camden	flick.rea@camden.gov.uk

## Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

Cllr Keith House (lead)	Eastleigh	keith.house@eastleigh.gov.uk
Cllr Adele Morris	Southwark	adele.morris@southwark.gov.uk
Cllr Simon J Galton (sub)	Harborough & Leics	simon.galton@leics.gov.uk

## Children and Young People Board

Cllr Liz Green (lead)	Kingston	liz.green@kingston.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cheltenham & Gloucs	Cllr.Chris.Coleman@cheltenham.gov.uk
Cllr Jon Hubbard (sub)	Wiltshire	jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk

## Improvement Board

Mayor Dave Hodgson (lead)	Bedford	Dave.Hodgson@bedford.gov.uk
Cherry Beath	BaNES	cherry_beath@bathnes.gov.uk
Dave Neighbour (sub)	Hart	david.neighbour@hart.gov.uk

## Safer and Stronger Communities Board\*

Cllr Lisa Brett (lead until 03/17)	BaNES	lisa_brett@bathnes.gov.uk*
Cllr Anita Lower (lead from 04/17)	Newcastle	anita.lower@newcastle.gov.uk
Cllr Daniel Duggan	Gateshead	cldr.dduggan@gateshead.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Coleman (sub)	Cheltenham & Gloucs	Cllr.Chris.Coleman@cheltenham.gov.uk

\* (Note: Cllr Brett resigned her seat in March 2017, Cllr Lower then became lead member and Cllr Daniel Duggan was then appointed as the replacement Lib Dem member on the Board)

## Resources Board

Cllr Claire Hudson (lead)	Mendip	cldr.hudson@mendip.gov.uk
Cllr Simon Shaw	Sefton	simonshawsouthport@hotmail.com
Cllr David Brown (sub)	Poole	d.brown@poole.gov.uk

## Audit Committee

Cllr David Neighbour	Hart	david.neighbour@hart.gov.uk
----------------------	------	-----------------------------

## Fire Commission (our lead also chairs this commission)

Cllr Jeremy Hilton (Lead)	Gloucestershire	jeremy.hilton@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Cllr Roger Price (sub)	Hampshire	rprice@fareham.gov.uk

## City Regions Board

Cllr Abigail Bell (Lead)	Hull	cldr.abi.bell@gmail.com
Cllr Iain Roberts	Stockport	cldr.iain.roberts@stockport.gov.uk
Cllr Tim Bick (sub)	Cambridge	tim.bick@btinternet.com

## People & Places

Cllr Heather Kidd (Lead)	Shropshire	heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk
Cllr Stan Collins	Cumbria	stanstheman@cix.co.uk
Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes	sarah.osborne2@lewes.gov.uk
Cllr David Bill (sub)	Hin'kley & Bosworth	d.bill@ntlworld.com

## Local Partnerships (External appointment)

Edward Lord CC OBE	City of London	edward.lord@cityoflondon.gov.uk
--------------------	----------------	---------------------------------

## Local Leadership (External appointment)

Cllr Baroness Cathy Bakewell	South Somerset	bakewellc@parliament.uk
------------------------------	----------------	-------------------------

# The 2017 Local Elections and the LGA's Political Balance

---

As a cross-party membership organisation, the LGA's governance is determined by the strength of its four political groups.

Following the local elections each year, Plymouth University's Elections Centre calculates the proportionality figures using a formula that takes account of the number of council seats held by each group and the population and type of authority that they represent.

Political Balance of the LGA at the time of calculation for 2017-18 was:

CON	43.88% (+3.41%)
LAB	38.07% (-1.79%)
LIB DEM	9.40% (no change)
IND	8.65% (- 1.62%)

*(Figures in brackets show change from previous year)*

This means that the LGA Liberal Democrat Group moves back to being the 3rd largest group within the Association - and once again means that no group has majority control of the LGA.

## Seats won in 2017

- Liberal Democrats were elected to 441 seats at this year's local elections
- We also gained 33 seats in by-elections between May 2016 and May 2017
- Following the local elections in May, we gained the leadership of a further 2 councils: Cornwall Council and Hart DC in Hampshire
- Liberal Democrats had net gains in the following authorities:
- County Durham - 5 seats
- Powys - 4 seats
- We also had net gains in seats in the following authorities compared to 2013: Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Hampshire, Ceredigion, Newport, Norfolk, Leicestershire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Port Talbot and West and East Sussex.



6 of our 7 Liberal Democrat Councillors who were successfully returned to Shropshire Council

# Children and Young People Board

---

Cllr Liz Green



Interesting times that we are living through! Whilst we do not know what will happen, it is heartening that Justine Greening has been reappointed as Secretary of State for Education. Not only is she 'not a fan' of grammar schools, but also has been more open to talks with the LGA and teaching unions. It may, hopefully, also mean more fruitful discussions between the LGA and the DfE.

School funding became a major issue during the general election campaign, so for the Conservative Government to continue to ignore the pressures on schools seems unlikely.

The plan was for the National Schools Funding Formula to be introduced in 2019/20. Under the formula some Council areas would see an increase in funding, whilst others see a decrease – however headlines mask the underlying issues.

Many Councils have had to reduce schools funding due to increased pressure of the High Needs block funding and increased costs for schools, like NI and inflation, have not been met.

In 2013 the DfE stopped funding the sector led Children's Improvement Board, preferring to control it themselves.

They have now realised that this is not working to help Councils *before* they are rated as inadequate. If discussions can continue, we should see some funding returned for sector led improvements.

The Children and Social Work Bill progressed into law just before the election was called.

The LGA had some reasonable successes, especially in ensuring that sex and relationship education (SRE) was made compulsory in all secondary schools. The LGA also won the battle that Social Work England had greater statutory independence and that the SoS should not be able to amend children's social care legislation in a local authority in intervention without local consent.

There were many other vital work streams happening over the year, including Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), fostering and permanency, Single Inspection framework and unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Finally, as I have served 6 years (maximum allowed under group standing orders) as Lead Member for Children and Young People's board, there will be a new lead next year. I wish them good luck.

If you are interested in Education, and not already a member of the Liberal Democrat Education Association, please consider joining.

Any questions please get in contact with me at [liz.green@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:liz.green@kingston.gov.uk)

# Whip's Report

## Cllr Howard Sykes MBE



### Meetings

I have attended all but one meeting of the LGA Liberal Democrat Executive - 9th June, 21st July (absent family), 15th September, 19th Jan and 2nd March.

The Officers' meetings are held the night before the Executive, on a Wednesday afternoon/evening. 8th June, 20th July (absent family), 14th September, 18th January, and 1st March (absent full council).

The Group Officers also have regular telephone conferences which I have taken part in.

### Other

I have been consulted about and decided on various ad-hoc appointments which are made in consultation with the Head of Office and other Group Officers as appropriate.

### Formal business

Attendance and submission of reports within deadlines are monitored by me and reported to the executive. Members can see a summary in this year's Annual Report.

I am pleased to report continued improvement in members submitting reports on time. You will also notice that this year's report contains updates from our lead on the LGA Refugee Task and Finish Group, the

Brexit Task and Finish Group and the Business Rates Task and Finish Group. The Executive highlighted these as important areas which the wider group membership might find of interest. Many thanks to Councillor Chris White (St Albans/Hertfordshire) for leading on the Refugee and the Brexit Task and Finish Groups and to Cllr Michael Headley for leading on the Business Rates Task and Finish Group.

As part of the governance review of the national Party, the Liberal Democrat Group was asked to appoint observers to the Party's Federal Policy Committee and a joint LGA/ALDC representative to the Federal Board.

We sought nominations from Councillors and appointed Councillor Richard Kemp (Liverpool) as our representative to the Federal Policy Committee, and in consultation with ALDC, Councillor Anood Al-Samerai (Southwark) to the Federal Board.

There have also been two additional task and finish groups within the LGA, one looking at Combined Authorities, which Councillor Ian Roberts (Stockport) lead on, and the other on LGA Governance, on which Councillor Ed Lord (City of London) leads for us. Many thanks to Richard, Anood, Ian and Ed for undertaking these additional tasks.

We made a number of amendments to the Group's standing orders and election regulations at our Group AGM in 2016. These will be reviewed each year to keep up with changes at the LGA corporately and the wish of members. There are a number of further amendments planned, linked to Combined Authorities and Greater London Authority Assembly Members.

We filled the casual vacancy on the Safer and Stronger Communities Board created by former Councillor Lisa Brett's departure to the USA. Councillor Daniel Duggan (Gateshead) was appointed for the remainder of her term. Many thanks to Daniel for stepping into the vacancy.

I have greatly enjoyed the role of Group Whip, although much of a Whip's work is 'under the radar' and unseen. It has also been immensely frustrating at times as we have no real sanctions when a private word/chat fails to work.

# Whip's Report (Continued)

I also wish to place on record my thanks and appreciation for the help and support I get from the Liberal Democrat Office, Rob and Amy and especially Terry, in dealing with all matters in connection with the role and responsibility of Whip.

This is my final report as Group Whip, as I will be handing over to Councillor Alan Connett (Group Leader, Devon County Council and also on Teignbridge District Council), who takes on the role.

## Contact details:

**Councillor Howard Sykes MBE,**

Liberal Democrat LGA Group Whip

**Office:** Room 343, Level 3, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UL

**Home:** 5 Ballard Way, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8DU

**T:** 0161 770 4016 **F:** 0161 770 4026

**E:** [howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk)

**W:** <http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>

**Mobile and text:** 0786 750 7653

**Twitter:** @Howard\_Sykes

**Facebook:** /Councillor Howard Sykes

## Record of Attendees

### Attendance July 2016 – March 2017

	21/7/16	15/09/16	19/01/17	02/03/17
Gerald Vernon-Jackson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dorothy Thornhill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chris White	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howard Sykes	Apologies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ruth Dombey	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liz Green	Apologies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Kemp	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Mike Bell	Yes*	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Keith House	Apologies	Apologies	Yes	Yes
Dave Hodgson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clare Hudson	Yes*	Yes	Apologies	Yes
Lisa Brett (Anita Lower from 02/03/17)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Jeremy Hilton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abi Bell	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Yes*
Heather Kidd	Apologies	Apologies	Yes	Yes*
Dave Neighbour	Yes	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Iain Roberts (sub for Abi Bell))	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	N/A
Paul Smith (from January 2017)	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes

Note - \* indicates the member took part on the phone

### Reports July 2016 – March 2017

	21/7/16	15/09/16	10/16*	12/16*	19/01/17	02/03/17
Howard Sykes (Lead Peer)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Howard Sykes (Whip)	Nothing to report	Nothing to report	Nothing to report	Nothing to report	Nothing to report	Y
Liz Green	Nothing to report	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Richard Kemp	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mike Bell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Keith House	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Dave Hodgson	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Claire Hudson	Y	Nothing to report	Y	Y	Nothing to report	Y
Lisa Brett (resigned March 2017)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A
Jeremy Hilton	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Abi Bell	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Heather Kidd	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Edward Lord	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Paul Smith (Joined October 2016)	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jon Hubbard (Joined October 2016)	N/A	N/A	Y	Nothing to report	N	Y
Dave Neighbour	Y	N	N	N	Y	N

\* Note - October's meeting was cancelled and there was no meeting in December, but members were still asked to submit reports

# Community Wellbeing Board

Cllr Richard Kemp CBE



## Community Wellbeing Board

For Lib Dems the next year will be much the same as the last. With Norman Lamb back in as MP for North Norfolk and Health Spokes we can get on with the jobs we set ourselves last year.

During the year we:

- Established a Facebook page for about 60 Lib Dem Councillors and Parliamentarians looking at health and social care issues
- Held a fringe meeting at both the Lib Dem Conferences
- Published a booklet on good practice in public health, "Building Healthy Communities"
- Held Lib Dem Group meetings at the ADASS conference
- Spoke at a whole range of conferences both as Lib Dem Spokespersons and on behalf of the LGA as a whole.

The challenges we campaigned and spoke about through the local government family will not go away. During the election we pledged that we would provide £6.1 billion by way of extra tax for Health and Social Care.

That money is desperately needed but may not be forthcoming. Local Government needs to enhance its public health offer to stop people becoming ill and our social care offer to get people out of hospital and back into their own communities and homes quickly.

We tried last year to provide not just a distinctive Lib Dem view of these activities which largely involved more local decision making but also just a view of what is possible if we accept the tasks needed to deal with the problems with energy. The Lib Dem council and parliamentary teams must aspire to do the same next year.

In Norman we have a first class spokesperson and have tried to back him. He is one of the most popular MPs in the health and social care field. It is our job as councillors to continue to back him to the hilt.

**Richard Kemp CBE,  
LGA Lib Dem Spokesperson 2015/17  
richard.kemp@liverpool.gov.uk**

# Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

---

Cllr Mike Bell



This year, Liberal Democrats on the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board have continued to help to shape the national political agenda and made decisive interventions on priority issues.

We have continued to work closely with Sport England on the delivery of their strategy 'Towards An Active Nation 2016-2021' to ensure that councils and local partners are central to their plans to tackle inactivity, and to re-balance funding away from national organisations and towards local bodies.

We've also pressed the LGA to strengthen its strategic links with a number of bodies including the Football Association and the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

Lib Dem Councillors have continued to make an active contribution to the work of the Libraries Taskforce, including helping to secure £4 million for the Libraries: Opportunities for Everyone Fund.

We have supported the development of a new shared purpose agreement between the LGA and Arts Council England.

We continue to press for a re-balancing of Arts Council funding to all parts of the country and emphasising that councils and their local partners are well placed to lead a step-change in cultural participation.

Jointly with the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board the Board, we successfully influenced DCMS to open applications for bidding for the UK host of European Capital of Culture 2023, giving councils certainty over the process.

We are also working within the LGA to support the Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) and Buckinghamshire County Council to deliver a national project to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018.

We have continued to have a close relationship with tourism leaders and have quizzed Viscountess Penelope Cobham CBE from VisitEngland, Patricia Yates from VisitBritain and Kurt Janson from the Tourism Alliance on tourism issues.

I was also pleased to take part in a number of Leadership Essentials events on culture and sport this year. Since these innovative events were launched, more than 500 councillors have benefited from in-depth discussions and development on culture and sport.

I'd like to put on record my thanks to our Lib Dem team on the Board, Stewart Galton (Member) and Flick Rea (sub), for their continued interest, support and engagement.

**[Mike.Bell@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Bell@n-somerset.gov.uk)**

# Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

---

Cllr Keith House



Housing and Planning have dominated the work of the Economy Environment Housing and Transport Board this year and look set to do so again for 2017-18.

Adele Morris and I have split much of the Board's work between us and I want to put on record my thanks to Adele for work with the Planning Advisory Service and at events.

The LGA's Housing Commission sought to set out local government's case for building more homes to meet need and to give councils a stronger role in delivery.

It helped build the case to push back some of the government's more divisive housing policies such as forced sale of higher value homes and mandatory rents for higher income tenants.

It also trailed the LGA's offer of Peer Reviews on Housing for councils looking to take an active role in development for social rent, market rent and sale.

The Housing White Paper's launch showed a movement away from government's fixation on home ownership but as we argued was largely tinkering around the edges of the planning system, failing to meet the opportunity to help councils achieve the homes we need or to remove the borrowing cap for those councils with Housing Revenue Accounts.

In advance of the White Paper we ran our own survey of Lib Dem Council planning leads with around 80 replies.

This demonstrated the need to update our own approach to planning policy. Work had started on this before the local elections but was put on hold due to the General Election.

This needs to be a priority as our housing ambition is higher than our enthusiasm to will the planning means.

We backed Cathy Bakewell's amendment to the Buses Bill seeking concessionary travel for under 18s which, like an attempt to open up bus franchising powers to non-Mayoral authorities and seeking devolution of Bus Services Operators Grant to councils, failed to gain government support.

Elsewhere: on energy we supported Liz Green's campaign condemning restrictions on financial gain to state schools from solar energy installations, on traffic have raised the issue of non-London councils being able to issue fixed penalties for moving traffic offences and have started a review on recycling targets.

A busy, challenging, frustrating yet rewarding year.

**[keith.house@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:keith.house@eastleigh.gov.uk)**

# Improvement and Innovation Board

Mayor Dave Hodgson MBE



The changing nature of Local Government supports the importance of councils being given the help they need to innovate and improve their performance. The IIB recognises the need for this help.

The Board offers improvement assistance, and sets a strategic framework for LGA activity designed to help and support councils drive their own improvement and strengthen local accountability and transparency.

Our objectives include the delivery of an effective programme of sector-led support.

## Priorities

The Board agreed 5 priorities

- Leadership
- Improvement
- Accountability & Transparency/ sharing practice
- Productivity & Efficiency
- Innovation

These priorities shape the improvement offered to the sector and discussions with the DCLG on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The final end of year position on deliverables is summarised below (Source: MoU 2016/17)

	Total	Green	Amber	Red
Deliverables	50	48	2	0

Agreement has been reached with DCLG about this year's MoU with an agreed total grant of £21 million, £400,000 less than 2016/17.

**Highlighting Leadership Offer** – forms part of the wider package of sector-led improvement. The six main programmes had 649 bookings (latest figures for 2016/17) with the uptake by Liberal Democrats and total number of places shown in the brackets:

Leadership Academy [9/105], Leadership Essentials [23/369], Focus on Leadership [17/89], Leader's Programme [1/9], Next Generation [14/63] and Leading Edge [0/14]

**Productivity Programme** – encompasses a range of projects to help improve productivity and efficiency. The programmes fall into three headings: Transforming Services; Smarter Sourcing; Generating Income.

## Independent Evaluation of Corporate Peer Challenge

An evaluation of the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) programme was completed by The Centre for Local & Regional Government Research at Cardiff University. The evaluation reveals that CPC remains a highly effective tool at the heart of the Sector-Led Improvement programme, has a positive impact for participating councils and the sector as a whole, and provides value for money. The report stresses the importance of the CPC's evolution, and identifies areas for further advances.

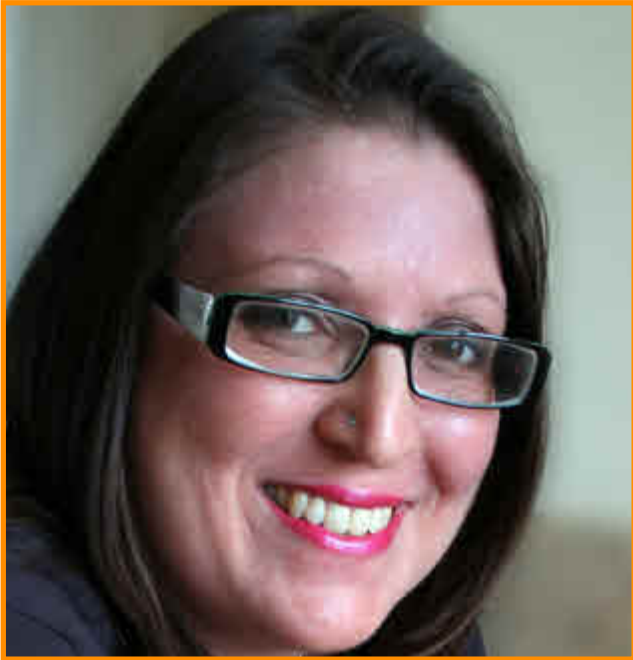
## Performance Support

Performance support is part of the work of the Boards' political leads. Councils facing challenges receive regular assistance with further support discussed/investigated. Children's Social Service still accounts for the majority of support undertaken.

[dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk)

# Resources Board

## Cllr Claire Hudson



Key themes from the Resources Board 2016-17:

### Workforce

- Review of the National Joint Council pay spine - many councils are feeling the pressure on salaries at the lower end of the pay spine as the Minimum Wage/ Living Wage catch up with it.
- Sleeping-in payments

### Finance

- The 2017/18 finance settlement contained changes to funding streams, including a reduction in the New Homes Bonus to pay for a one year only Adult Social Care Support Grant. This is not new money and not a solution given the scale of the funding crisis. The New Homes Bonus has been restricted to over 0.4% growth which will affect shire district authorities and those with lower housing growth. The social care precept has been increased to 3% in 2017/18 and 2018/19 but cannot exceed 6%.

- The cost of adult social care continues to be a big concern, particularly with the retention of Non Domestic Rates in the pipeline. District councils are worried that the top slice of this amount for Adult Social Care could mean that there is little benefit to retention.
- The Fair Funding Review looking at the methodology used to measure the relative need to spend on local services by councils.

### EU Funding - key issues in 2016-17

The Resources Board has set up an EU Funding Working Group looking at:

- The Resources Board contribution to developing a new legal base for local government
- Securing the current funding to 2020
- Post EU Exit Domestic Regional Aid. The first phase will stress the need for a successor to EU Regional Aid based on case study evidence.

### Welfare Reform

A report was commissioned in early 2016 on the ongoing impact of welfare reform. The research supported the need for a local safety net and support for claimants with additional needs:

- Councils continue to express concerns that some households are struggling to manage the changes and absorb reductions to income.
- Rising housing costs, diminishing supplies of social housing, low wages and insecure employment are further constraining people's ability to cope and placing pressure on a wide range of council services.
- Those most impacted by welfare reform are low income in work claimants.

[cllr.hudson@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hudson@mendip.gov.uk)

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Cllr Anita Lower



This report is the first following the resignation of Lisa Brett from the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB). May I extend my thanks to Lisa for all of her hard work.

I would like to thank Councillor Daniel Duggan from Gateshead who stepped in to cover for the final meeting of the year.

The board has two Liberal Democrats, seven conservatives, seven Labour and two Independents. The Liberal Democrats have two main issues to champion, tackling abuse and exploitation and tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

Lisa was working with Barnardos in partnership with the LGA and they have established a National FGM Centre with links to several other local authorities; however this project now has funding issues and is currently under threat. Talks are continuing with Government and Health Service providers to try and continue the work. Lisa was chair; Labour now want to take the chair, however they have agreed to my representing the Liberal Democrats on the boards.

Over the past twelve months the board has discussed a number of issues. In February we met with representatives of the National Water Safety Forum representatives to coordinate our

lobbying of the Home Office to improve access and the content of the Water Incident Database (WAID). They have been unable to find a session for this at the LGA conference but hope to have a workshop in the innovation zone.

We have contributed to the discussions in the House of Commons on modern slavery, including extending the regulations to small and medium sized businesses. Following a presentation to the SSCB in January by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner we are in discussion with his office about publishing guidance for councils about modern slavery.

We have been working with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner to help raise the standards of CCTV use in England and Wales. We are also in discussion with Big Brother Watch about body worn cameras being used to tackle littering, dog fouling, parking infringements or recycling and what is proportionate.

We have held a number of events in relation to Taxi Licensing across the country where we have discussed cross border working, supporting disabled access and child sexual exploitation.

We are continuing to press for localisation of licensing fees and licensing regulations to be more relevant to local areas. I have met with MP's and student representatives from across the country to discuss ASB and whether students are the perpetrators or the victims.

I spoke to the all parliamentary working group who are looking into the effects of gambling and the impact of Betting Shops on the High Street. We discussed Fixed Odds Betting Terminals and the Gambling Guidance which was compiled from our meetings with the industry.

PREVENT Champions Network Roundtable chaired by Ben Wallace Minister of State for Security, to look at how members can be more engaged with PREVENT and how they can be supported.

Liberal Democrat SSCB priorities:

1. To emphasise the preventative work being undertaken by councils in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and highlight the cost benefits of this work to the public purse.
2. To ensure that no additional burden of responsibility falls upon councils without the appropriate additional resources.
3. To promote Liberal Democrat values at each opportunity.

[anita.lower@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:anita.lower@newcastle.gov.uk)

# Fire Services

---

## Cllr Jeremy Hilton



I have continued to chair the LGA Fire Services Management Committee for a third year. It has been a very busy time with various meetings being held with Home Office civil servants and government ministers. Cllr. Roger Price has been the Lib Dem named substitute on the FSMC.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 31 January. The Act gives police and crime commissioners the ability to takeover local fire and rescue services. We blocked this legislation during the coalition. A number of Police & Crime Commissioners have accepted a £100,000 grant from the Home Office to employ consultants to prepare business cases for takeover bids.

The LGA secured a number of changes to the Act as it progressed through parliament. We helped to strengthen the consultation that PCCs will have to conduct to progress their plans to take over fire, they will have to consult local residents, local authorities and any employees who would be affected by the transfer, including both fire and policing employees.

There will also be an additional requirement for the PCC to publish a summary of the views of the

employees consulted, and PCCs will also have to publish a response to the representations and views they have received on their proposals to transfer governance.

In cases where there is local opposition to the transfer of governance, an independent assessment will be made of the proposals, which the Secretary of State will publish.

The LGA has also worked closely with the Home Office on aspects of reform to the fire and rescue service, such as the introduction of an inspection regime, which we have argued should be proportionate.

We are also working to update our peer review offer so that it complements the new inspection regime.

The Home Office also want the service to drive commercial transformation across the sector, on issues such as procurement as well as encouraging greater collaboration.

The LGA published its report at the Fire Conference on “An Inclusive Service” which aims to improve equality and diversity within a Twenty-First Century Fire and Rescue Service.

Finally, a Fire Reform Board has been set up between the LGA and the National Fire Chief’s Council, which I chair.

[jeremy.hilton@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.hilton@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

# City Regions Board

---

## Cllr Abi Bell



The City Regions Board has met six times since the mid-term report in May 2016.

The focus of the past year has been on employment and skills to further growth in economic areas.

To this end the City Regions Board has been involved in the development of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission.

Additionally, work has now started on a sub-national trade and investment policy.

The City Regions Board is now working with the IPPR into research on 'Devolution, Local Government and Gender Representation.

There has also been joint working with the People and Places Board on the Leading Places agenda which is looking at the relationship between councils and universities.

Following the EU Referendum in June 2016, the City Regions Board has been pushing to understand what implications there will be on local government and devolution.

On the direction of the Board, the LGA developed the Devolution Hub which can be found at [www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution](http://www.local.gov.uk/topics/devolution).

This is a one-stop shop for local government on all the issues concerning devolution.

Working with the LGA Lib Dem office, a survey of Lib Dem leaders was conducted to understand how the Devolution agenda was impacting Lib Dem groups, particularly as we are in opposition in many Councils which now have devolution deals.

With new mayors elected this May, a piece of work is planned to understand what the impact on day to day decision making is in local Councils which have this new layer of governance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry, Rob and Amy in the Lib Dem LGA Group Office for their support this year and also Cllrs Iain Roberts and Tim Bick who have been part of our team on the City Regions Board.

**[cllr.abi.bell@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.abi.bell@gmail.com)**

# People and Places Board

---

## Cllr Heather Kidd



This has been a busy year both in the Board and with external work.

### ***The Board.***

Much of the work has revolved around the faltering Devolution bids, employment and skills and digital connection. Both continue into the new Board from July onwards.

The visit from the Chief Exec of OFCOM was particularly helpful and made it clear that Sharon White had a real understanding of the limitations of BT's roll out of Broadband, the Contractual issues with the public and mobile phone coverage.

She was working on enhanced powers and and having OFCOM fines repatriated from Government to be applied to enhancing services. We live in hope that this is carried out.

The Skills and Employment report has now been finalised and is to be tabled at the June meeting. This is long but some useful stuff in it.

**The Rural Policy working group** - I have Chaired - has met and gathered evidence over the last months. This was well on the way to its last evidence session and being tidied up for Autumn Conference. Consultation took place at the 2017 Spring Conference.

This was well attended and some useful information came forward. Areas covered included Broadband and mobile signal, housing, coastal areas, deprivation, economic delivery, agriculture and more besides.

The team have worked on rural transport and Broadband delivery specifically . We have met with Baroness Kate Parminter when possible and liaised with Mark Williams, then MP for Ceredigion.

The General Election has halted the work which will be recommencing as soon as possible and will now be put forward to Conference in the Spring.

It will enable more evidence to be taken and updated in the light of Brexit - possibly!

Vital parts of the existing work were fed into the manifesto for the election.

We are also now looking at putting forward a rural motion to the Autumn Conference to focus on rural issues which are frequently overlooked.

The challenge for next year is to make the Board much more rural and much less the balancing Board for the City Regions Board sharing much of its paper work.

### ***Heather***

Heather Kidd

Shropshire Councillor for Chirbury & Worthen

Eastville  
Chirbury  
SY15 6BH

Tel: 01938 561651  
Mobile: 07980 635518

**heather.kidd@shropshire.gov.uk**

# Lib Dem Retained Peers Report

Cllr Howard Sykes



Covers period September 16 to June 17

## Executive summary

A great deal of support has been delivered during the past 12 months across the country to our council groups, group leaders and council leaders. Any Group or group leader can request support, whether it's for future planning, dealing with difficult issues within the council or mentoring, to develop skills, or simply be a sounding board.

We have two lead members, Councillor Howard Sykes (Oldham MBC) and Councillor Alan Connett (Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council). They work together and with both ALDC and the LGA Liberal Democrat team to support our councillors nationally.

## Federal September Conference (Brighton)

Howard and Alan attended. Three formal training sessions were run: Effective Ward Councillor - getting the balance right between campaigning, community and the council; Using the Council to Campaign; and Time Management and how not to be a slave to your email.

There were a number of one-to-ones with key group leaders/deputies and we also based ourselves at other times on the LGA/ALDC stand to provide help and support as required.

## ALDC Kickstart – September and November

Alan attended the September Kickstart event as a mentor to support ALDC. Howard attended the November Kickstart also as part of the ALDC team. Both Howard and Alan will be supporting the July Kick-Start (7-9) 2017.

## LGA Conference 17

Howard and Alan will be attending.

## Peers Pool

At long last the LGA has accepted the need to gather Peers together for a conference which was held on 8 September in Birmingham. Another is already planned for 6 September 2017 in Manchester.

We have refreshed our Peer Pool on a couple of occasions since the last AGM.

We have also issued a number of email newsletters to the Peer Pool this year in an attempt to keep colleagues better informed and more involved.

## LGA Improvement and Innovation Board (I&IB) and Performance Support Panel (PSP)

Howard as National Lead continues to attend both the above meetings.

## Team work and the wider local government family and party

Alan and Howard continue to co-ordinate their work through formal and timetabled phone conferences in addition to very regular informal contact.

They also use conferences (when face to face) as an opportunity to forward plan their work ensuring it is aligned to both the LGA Group's objectives and those of ALDC (and keep the corporate LGA happy as well!).

Howard meets regularly with ALDC's CX Tim Pickstone and both he and Alan work closely with ALDC's team, especially their regional support officers.

Howard and Alan continue to co-ordinate their holidays and leave (as far as is possible) so one of them is always available.

#### **Lead Member contact details**

Howard Sykes (National) E:

[howard.sykes@local.gov.uk](mailto:howard.sykes@local.gov.uk);

T: 0161 770 4016; M: 07867 507 653.

Alan Connett (Regional) E:

[alan.connett@local.gov.uk](mailto:alan.connett@local.gov.uk);

T: 01626 638102 M: 07843 013 705 (no mobile signal at home).

## **Groups/Councils directly helped and supported via Peer Support**

*Details are in regular Executive reports.*

### **Groups/Councils directly helped and supported, details are in the regular Executive reports**

Bath and North East Somerset (BaNES);

Cumbria;

Eden;

South Lakes;

Devon;

York;

Pendle;

Lancashire;

Mendip;

Cheltenham;

Milton Keynes;

Three Rivers;

Colchester,

Elmbridge;

Walsall;

West Dorset;

Stockport;

Warrington;

Suffolk;

Cotswold;

Torbay;

South Somerset;

West Somerset and Taunton Deane;

Hart;

Uttlesford;

Kirklees;

Cornwall.

### **Other work Peers have been supplied for**

Leadership Essentials Health and Wellbeing;

Maidstone;

Cornwall;

North Devon;

Devon;

Central Beds;

Eastbourne Planning workshop;

Leadership Essentials on Culture;

Facilitator briefing session for

Integration Tool (health/social care);

Sutton communications review;

Elmbridge coalition workshop;

Mansfield Corporate Peer Challenge;

Evaluation of the Corporate Peer

Challenge Programme (unpaid);

Birmingham political nous;

Winchester Corporate Peer Challenge;

Oadby and Wigston Corporate Peer

Review;

Brighton and Hove peer challenge;

South Somerset peer challenge;

Colchester Homes;

Elmbridge;

Cardiff;

Taunton Deane and West Somerset;

Maidstone;

Hart;

Watford.

# District Councils Network

---

## Cllr Paul Smith



The Liberal Democrats are represented on the DCN Member Board by myself as one of the District Council Network's 3 Vice Chairs and Cllr Ric Pallister.

The DCN taken forward many initiatives over the last year including

- A new All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils has been established, chaired by Mark Pawsey MP. The APPG has hit the ground running and has conducted an Inquiry in relation to collaboration and devolution which saw representations from over 70 councils as well as four high profile oral evidence giving sessions with input from District Councils and MPs alike. The Report will be launched on the 12 July at the House of Commons
- The DCN also hosted its first National Conference on the 2-3 February 'District Delivering Growth' that over 180 people attended. This high profile and successful two day event featured two Secretaries of State. Cllr Ric Pallister took part in a panel discussion on housing and Cllr Chris White spoke on a panel regarding Brexit and the impact for district councils.

The DCN has lobbied on various issues - and had success in influencing government - in particular in terms of the Planning and Housing Bill and the Housing White paper.

Specific examples of this include:

- preventing the privatisation of planning departments and securing an uplift in planning fees (to be confirmed)
- calling for greater fiscal freedoms and compulsory purchase order powers in relation to housing
- raising strong concerns about the reduction in the new homes bonus

The DCN has also lobbied on:

- Shaping the reform of business rates for example by agreeing and setting out a collective set of principles for business rates with CCN and RSN
- Clarity over the DFG funding in national guidance as it relates to district councils
- Providing tailored briefings on a wide range of issues and responding to over 20 consultations. This includes the Housing White Paper (which included a policy seminar at which Cllr Ric Pallister updated members following his chairing of the DCN Housing task and finish group), the Industrial Strategy and business rates, as well as responding to fiscal announcements such as the local government finance settlement and the budget.

**[Paul.Smith@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Smith@colchester.gov.uk)**

# County Councils Network

---

Cllr Jon Hubbard



CCN is a network of 37 County Councils and Unitary authorities that serve county areas.

CCN is a cross party organisation whose views carry particular weight for a large proportion of the country outside the big conurbations: its 37 member councils, with over 2,500 Councillors, serve 25 million people or 47% of the population, over 44 thousand square miles or 86% of England.

CCN is a member led organisation, and works on an inclusive and all party basis. CCN Council and Executive Committees include Councillors from each of our member authorities.

The Liberal Democrats are represented on the CCN by a dedicated group of elected members from across the country and I am currently the Group Leader and Vice-Chair of the CCN.

In the past year the CCN has lobbied central government on a number of issues including local government funding, social care, schools funding and county governance.

The CCN is currently running a major campaign identifying the importance of County Council's and the social and economic benefits of them.

There is a dedicated website, <http://www.yourcountymatters.org.uk>, which explores this in more details and is well worth visiting.

Part of the campaign for fairer funding for counties highlights the discrepancy between funding for Counties against Met Boroughs and London, with London councils receiving £550 per head for key services, the Mets receiving £407 per head and Counties receiving just £249 per head for those same services.

If you would like to know more about the CCN or are interested in attending the CCN Council or CCN Exec meetings please do get in touch.

Cllr Jon Hubbard  
Lib Dem Group Leader, CCN  
[jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
01225 807969

[jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk)

# Brexit Task and Finish Group

Cllr Chris White



The Brexit Task and Finish Group met on Friday 16 June.

## Government capacity

There is now a new second Permanent Secretary at the Department for Exiting the European Union to improve capacity. You will also have seen press reports that hundreds of civil servants are now being transferred from other departments. This will obviously slow down other government activities.

## Where next?

The General Election certainly did not clarify matters. It is no longer clear whether there is going to be a hard or soft Brexit. The Government needs to get 8 bills through parliament with no majority (and questionable support from the DUP).

Business groups have been lobbying hard over the single market and the customs union and the negotiating hand in Brussels is weaker than ever. Idiot noises from the likes of Davies and Johnson only serve to muddy the waters.

The Queen's Speech offered no real clue as to the Government's intentions, on this or any other issue.

## Constitutional rights

Local government has certain constitutional rights in relation to legislation emanating from the EU. In particular this is exercised by the Committee of the Regions, which has shaped legislation in the past. These rights are potentially lost under Brexit and the LGA, and equivalent bodies like CoSLA and NILGA, will need to seek new mechanisms.

One possible plus is the revival of the Board of Trade with regional representation. But, as ever with the current Government, it is unclear whether this will really have any meaning.

## The LGA's current stance

The issues facing local government need to be placed in the public domain, e.g. through articles in the Economist.

The economic role of 'rural' areas (for these purposes counties) is potentially underplayed in the UK. CCN research has provided useful backing for a stance which emphasises the impact on some key but overlooked drivers of the economy.

A great deal needs to be done to secure replacement funding and to make sure it goes to local government rather than LEPs.

## Detailed papers

The T+F group considered a raft of papers on the impact of Brexit on certain areas, both in terms of risks and opportunities. Unfortunately these were all crafted on the basis of a hard Brexit and a clear Conservative majority and so now have to be revisited, not least to avoid the LGA looking as though it supported hard Brexit. So far we have been shown papers on:

- EU public procurement rules
- State Aid rules
- Transport
- Employment Law relating to local government
- Consumer protection
- Local government finance
- Environmental protection, waste and planning

The group offices are to be asked to look at these in detail.

[chris.white.stalbans@gmail.com](mailto:chris.white.stalbans@gmail.com)

# Business Rates Task and Finish Group

---

Cllr Michael Headley



The Task & Finish group was set up in April 2016 with the intention initially of holding 4 meetings over the next 4 months.

The intention of the group is to inform the work that the LGA is undertaking on 100% business rates retention.

Meetings have continued beyond the initial period, although there has been a pause with the General Election. I am the sole Liberal Democrat on the group.

The group has considered all the key elements of the scheme, although work on some aspects is more advanced than on others.

This has included:

- \* Transfer of grants and new responsibilities
- \* Types of reset (full and/or partial)
- \* Fair Funding review
- \* Impact of revaluation
- \* Business Rates appeals

One of the areas of most debate so far has been the consideration of resets under the new scheme.

There is an inbuilt tension between encouraging and rewarding business rates growth and at the same time matching resources to need.

This has led to the compromise around partial resets – where funding is brought back to a needs based baseline at intervals whilst allowing growing authorities to keep some of their growth above that baseline.

However, I argue that this is only sustainable over the long term with full needs based resets at longer intervals.

The Fair Funding review is at an earlier stage but fundamentally will be crucial for the distribution of funding across authorities.

**[michael@mheadley.co.uk](mailto:michael@mheadley.co.uk)**

# The LGA Liberal Democrat Group Office

The Liberal Democrat Group office provides direct support and advice to Liberal Democrat council groups and councillors whilst also acting as the day-to-day voice of the Liberal Democrats within the LGA.

We currently have three full-time members of staff. Terry Stacy, the head of office, Rob Banks and Amy Haldane all have experience as Liberal Democrat Councillors.

We help the Group to achieve their political objectives within the LGA and the party, working closely with LGA officers, Liberal Democrat HQ, our parliamentarians in both the House of Commons and House of Lords and with our colleagues at the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors with whom we organise joint events as well as sessions and fringes at both spring and autumn party conferences.

In addition to supporting the LGA Liberal Democrat Group we are also the first port of call for Liberal Democrat councillors in relation to a variety of policy, governance or legal issues.

We do weekly joint emails with ALDC to all councillors and ALDC members on a range of issues, news from the Liberal Democrats, local government news, good practice from council groups and councillors, highlight lobbying successes and details of events for councillors and campaigners. We also use twitter to keep our followers up to date, follow us on @libdemlocalgov.



Terry - [terry.stacy@local.gov.uk](mailto:terry.stacy@local.gov.uk) - Head of the Group Office - Terry is responsible for the operation of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group. He also provides specific support on housing, welfare, fire and culture.  
020 7664 3295



Rob – [rob.banks@local.gov.uk](mailto:rob.banks@local.gov.uk) – Political Adviser – provides support for: environment; economy and transport; community well-being; and safer communities  
0207 664 3204

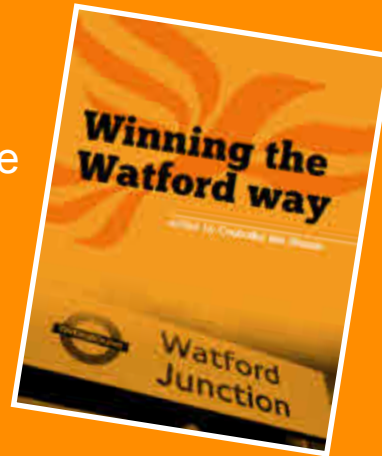


Amy – [amy.haldane@local.gov.uk](mailto:amy.haldane@local.gov.uk) – Political Assistant – provides support for children and young people; culture tourism and sport in addition to improvement /peer work and group elections/appointments.  
0207 664 3293

# Publications available on our website include...

## Winning the Watford Way

As this booklet reveals, Watford's team have had their highs and lows and there have been many lessons learned.



## Building healthy communities

This booklet is about public health. There is so much that can be and is being done by every council in the country.

## Stand for what you believe in: be a Liberal Democrat councillor!

Lib Dem councillors have long been an important democratic voice for the party. Our well-worn mottos of 'working hard all year round' and 'success you can see' really mean something to the communities we represent.



## Are you under 30? Could you be a

## Liberal Democrat councillor?

The LGA Lib Dem Group, working with the Association of Lib Dem Councillors and Liberal Youth, have produced a booklet for young people thinking of getting involved as a Lib Dem Councillor.

[www.local.gov.uk/lga-libdem-group/our-publications](http://www.local.gov.uk/lga-libdem-group/our-publications)

# Contact Us

---



**Liberal Democrat  
Group Office**  
**Local Government  
Association**  
**Local Government House**  
**Smith Square**  
**London SW1P 3HZ**



**020 7664 3235**



**LIBDEM@lga.gov.uk**



**[www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk/](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk/)**



**@libdemlocalgov**

---

