



Formal Minutes of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee in Session 2023–24

The Formal Minutes of a select committee record its formal proceedings and decisions.

They include:

- the names of the members who attended (all or part of) each meeting of the Committee;
- declarations of members' interests;
- details of written and oral evidence reported to the House by the Committee;
- any other formal decisions taken by the committee (recorded as 'orders' or 'resolutions'), for example to begin an inquiry, to report evidence to the House, to make a visit or to appoint a specialist adviser; and
- visits made by the Committee.

When the Committee publishes a Report, the Formal Minutes relating to consideration of the draft Report are published with the Report itself, and are not included in this document. You can find these reports on the Committee's webpages.

For more information about Formal Minutes, see [Erskine May paragraph 38.26](#).

Transcripts of oral evidence taken in public by the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Attendance statistics for members of the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Wednesday 08 November 2023

Members present¹

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair²

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Ben Everitt

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

1. Appointment of Specialist Advisers

Ordered, That Tony Travers be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to local government finance (for details of declarations of interest, see Appendix).

Ordered, That Aileen Murphie be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to local government finance and public services value for money (for details of declarations of interest, see Appendix).

Ordered, That Kelvin MacDonald be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to planning (for details of declarations of interest, see Appendix).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Delay to Abolition of no-fault Evictions

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 8 November 2023.

The Office for Local Government

¹ The list of members present at each meeting of the Committee indicates those Committee members who were present for all or part of the meeting.

² Elected by the House (Standing Order No. 122B); see Votes and Proceedings [27 January 2020].

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 8 November 2023.

Voter Identification

Correspondence to Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Faith and Communities, dated 8 November 2023.

Long-term Plan for Towns

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 1 October 2023.

Committee's Report into Funding for Levelling Up

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 13 October 2023.

Committee's Special Report into Response Times to the Committee's Reports

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 5 October 2023.

Birmingham City Council

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, dated 5 October 2023.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Funding

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local Government and Building Safety, dated 9 October 2023.

Finances and Sustainability of the Social Housing Sector

Correspondence from Rentplus, dated 25 September 2023.

Publication of Post Poll Report into Voter ID at Local Elections

Correspondence from Electoral Commission, dated 12 September 2023.

Report into the Accuracy and Completeness of the Electoral Registers

Correspondence from the Electoral Commission, dated 15 September 2023.

Disabled people in the Housing Sector

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, dated 28 September 2023.

Electoral Registration

Electoral Integrity Project [ELR 013]

The Finances and Sustainability of the Social Housing Sector

Inclusion Group [FSS 079]

3. Financial Distress in Local Authorities

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Ben Everitt declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that he employs a councillor in his office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and witness Councillor Lewis was a colleague at Derbyshire County Council and worked for him.

Councillor John Fuller OBE, Vice Chair Local Government Association Economy and Resources Board and Leader of South Norfolk District Council; Councillor Graham Chapman, Vice Chair SIGOMA—Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities—and member of Nottingham City Council; and Councillor Claire Holland, Acting Chair London Councils and Leader of Lambeth Council, gave oral evidence.

Mr Stephen Jones, Director, Core Cities UK; Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen, Chair District Council Network and Leader of Breckland Council; and Councillor Barry Lewis, Finance Spokesperson, County Council Network (virtual), gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 13 November 2023 at 3.30pm.

Monday 13 November 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Nutrient Neutrality

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 13 November 2023.

Park Homes and Holiday Sites

Correspondence to the Secretary of State for Housing and Planning, dated 13 November 2023.

Pre-appointment Hearings

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 31 October 2023.

Building Insurance Commissions

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Local Government and Building Safety, dated 1 November 2023.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Local Government and Building Safety, dated 3 November 2023.

Building and Fire Safety

Correspondence from the British Woodworking Federation, dated 8 November 2023.

Shared Ownership

Great Place Housing Group [SHO 049]

Shared Ownership Resources [SHO 054]

Anchor Housing [SHO 057]

G15 [SHO 075]

Dr Alison Wallace, Professor David Cowan and Professor Hellen Carr [SHO 091]

National Housing Federation [SHO 132]

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [SHO 145]

Stanimira Milcheva [SHO 146]

Rentplus-UK Ltd [SHO 148]

Housing Ombudsman [SHO 149]

2. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee undertake an inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment.

3. Financial Distress in Local Authorities

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Nadia Whittome declared an interest in that she is a board member of One Nottingham.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Dr Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive, Local Government Information Unit; Paul Dossett, Partner and Head of Public Sector Assurance London & South-East, Grant

Thornton; Abdool Kara, Executive Director, National Audit Office; David Phillips, Associate Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies, gave oral evidence.

Lorna Baxter, President, Association of Local Authorities' Treasurer Societies, and Section 151 officer, Oxfordshire County Council; Gary Fielding, Section 151 officer, North Yorkshire Council; Steve Thompson, Section 151 officer, Blackpool Council; Bob Watson, Section 151 officer, Surrey Heath Borough Council, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 20 November 2023 at 3.30pm

Monday 20 November 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Mohammad Yasin

1. Financial Distress in Local Authorities

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Mohammad Yasin declared an interest in that he is a member of Bedford Town deal board and he employs a councillor in his office.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and he employs councillors in his office.

Simon Hoare MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Local Government), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; Nico Heslop, Director of Local Government Finance, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Lift Testing and Safety

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 20 November 2023.

Renters Reform Bill

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 15 November 2023.

Committee's Special Report into Department's Response Times

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Dated 10 November 2023.

3. Appointment of Specialist Adviser

Ordered, That Professor Ian Cole be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in matters relating to housing (for details of declarations of interest, see Appendix).

4. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Draft Report (Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the First Report of the Committee, HC 59.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 27 November 2023 at 3.30pm

Monday 27 November 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Financial distress in local authorities

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 27 November 2023.

Pre-appointment Hearings for Ombudsman and Oflog Chair Roles

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 27 November 2023.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' response times to the Committee's reports

Correspondence to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, dated 27 November 2023.

Plans to Abolish Section 21 'no fault' Evictions and Court Reform

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 21 November 2023.

Levelling Up Fund: Round 3

Correspondence from Minister for Levelling Up, dated 20 November 2023.

Shared Ownership

Mr Chris Tapp [SHO 001]

Ms Claire Woodcock [SHO 002]

Hanson [SHO 004]

Mr Robert Oyedepo [SHO 007]

Mr Roger Edwards [SHO 008]

Mr Peter Mengerink [SHO 009]

Olukemi Adedeji [SHO 011]

Ms Lorraine Jimenez [SHO 013]

Michelle Furber [SHO 016]

Mr Lachezar Haralambiev [SHO 021]

Ms Emily Engel [SHO 023]

Sarah Campbell [SHO 026]

Jigsaw Homes Group [SHO 027]

Mr Gary Holmes [SHO 028]

Mr Martin Kerfoot [SHO 031]

Mr Scott Leboeiro Pumar [SHO 032]

Miss Lou Hooper [SHO 034]

Mrs Alice Wright [SHO 035]

Mr Richard Nicholson [SHO 037]

Mrs Judith Wakeford [SHO 040]

Ms Morag Cameron [SHO 041]

Mr Julian Gray [SHO 042]

Ms Catherine Williams [SHO 043]

Rosie Hall [SHO 045]

Forbes [SHO 048]

End Our Cladding Scandal campaign [SHO 052]

Ms Alison Bancroft [SHO 053]

Mrs Naomi Sjoberg, and Ms Deborah Akinbola [SHO 055]

Mrs Y Evison [SHO 058]

Lawlor [SHO 059]

Ms Rashida Khatun-Uddin [SHO 060]

Mrs Zahrah Aullybocus [SHO 063]

Mr Lachezar Hara [SHO 065]

Torus [SHO 066]

Sherrington [SHO 068]

Dr Peter Williams [SHO 069]

Yorkshire Housing Limited [SHO 070]

Sage Homes [SHO 071]

Leeds Building Society [SHO 072]

Censeo Financial [SHO 073]

Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing [SHO 074]

Barrington Court Residents' Association [SHO 077]

Sarah Campbell [SHO 079]

Mrs Emma Spence [SHO 080]

Gillian Perceval [SHO 082]

Mr Nick Poteri [SHO 084]

Greater Manchester Housing Providers, and Great Places Housing Group [SHO 086]

South Yorkshire Housing Partnership, and Great Places Housing Group [SHO 087]

Trowers & Hamlins LLP [SHO 088]

The Leasehold Advisory Service [SHO 089]

Moat Homes [SHO 090]

Chartered Institute of Housing [SHO 093]

The National Sales Group [SHO 094]

Legal & General [SHO 095]

Karbon Homes [SHO 096]

Trent & Dove Housing [SHO 097]

Building Societies Association [SHO 098]

bpha Ltd [SHO 099]

Warwick District Council [SHO 100]

Ms Lesley Noels [SHO 102]

Abri Group [SHO 103]

Northern Housing Consortium [SHO 105]

Thirteen [SHO 106]

Addleshaw Goddard LLP [SHO 107]

Ms S Shiels [SHO 108]

heylo [SHO 109]

Aster Group [SHO 110]

Mr Michael Brown [SHO 111]

Faizi F [SHO 112]

Mr Michael D'Ambra [SHO 113]

HomeOwners Alliance [SHO 114]

Places for People [SHO 115]

Deborah Allen [SHO 116]

McCarthy Stone [SHO 120]

Kirsty Walsh [SHO 121]

Dr David Lynn [SHO 122]

The Riverside Group [SHO 123]

Ms Delphine Sylvain [SHO 125]

Mrs Kelly McCabe [SHO 128]

Susan Richardson [SHO 129]

Clarion Housing Group [SHO 133]

Danny Ribeiro [SHO 134]

Orbit [SHO 135]

UK Finance [SHO 138]

Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association [SHO 140]

Sovereign Housing Association [SHO 142]

Jenna Delich [SHO 147]

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Council Tax Collection

Draft Report (Council Tax Collection) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 57.

4. Fire Safety

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Paul Morrell OBE, Chair, Independent Review of the Construction Products Testing Regime, and chartered quantity surveyor; Anneliese Day KC, Co-author, Independent Review of the Construction Products Testing Regime, and barrister specialising in construction disputes, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 4 December 2023 at 3.30pm

Monday 4 December 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Financial Distress in Local Authorities

Correspondence to the Chief Executive of CIPFA, dated 27 November 2023.

Correspondence to the Director of Policy at the Local Government Association, dated 27 November 2023

Correspondence from Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, dated 29 November 2023.

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of CIPFA, dated 30 November 2023.

Correspondence from the Acting Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, dated 30 November 2023.

Move-on Period for Newly Recognised Refugees

Correspondence from the Refugee Council, dated 30 November 2023.

Severe Maladministration

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 30 November 2023.

Levelling Up Statement

Correspondence to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, dated 27 November 2023.

Pre-appointment Hearing of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, dated 16 October 2023.

Levelling Up Fund Round 3

Correspondence from the Minister for Levelling Up, dated 30 November 2023.

Shared Ownership

Anonymous [SHO 012]

Anonymous [SHO 044]

Anonymous [SHO 127]

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Shared Ownership

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Nadia Whittome declared an interest in that she is a member of One Nottingham.

Dr Alison Wallace, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Housing, University of York; Sue Phillips, Founder, Shared Ownership Resources; and Steve Collins, Chief Executive, Rentplus-UK Ltd, gave oral evidence.

Clare Miller, Chief Executive, Clarion Housing Group; Helen Spencer, Executive Director of Growth, Great Places Housing Group; Oliver Boundy, Executive Director of Development, Anchor; and Professor Stanimira Milcheva, Professor of Real Estate Finance, University College London, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 3.30pm

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Financial Distress in Local Authorities

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 5 December 2023.

2. Financial Distress in Local Authorities

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Nadia Whittome declared an interest in that she is a member of One Nottingham.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Mary Robinson declared an interest in that she is a member of the council and board in Cheadle.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; Nico Heslop, Director, Local Government, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and Joanna Key, Director General, Regeneration, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 10.00am

Wednesday 13 December 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair
Bob Blackman
Ian Byrne
Mrs Natalie Elphicke
Kate Hollern
Tom Hunt
Mary Robinson
Nadia Whittome

1. Declaration of Interests

Tom Hunt declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

The Finances and Sustainability of the Social Housing Sector

Correspondence to the Minister of State, dated 5 December 2023.

Financial Distress in Local Authorities

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 7 December 2023.

3. Electoral Registration

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Nadia Whittome declared an interest in that she is a member of One Nottingham.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs two councillors in his office.

Simon Hoare MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Local Government), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and Liz Owen, Deputy Director for Registration and Franchise, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 18 December 2023 at 3.30pm

Monday 18 December 2023

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Andrew Lewer

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

The Position of Woking Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and Liverpool City Council

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 13 December 2023.

Finances of Social Housing

Correspondence from Group Chief Executive of the Guinness Partnership, dated 12 December 2023.

The Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 13 December 2023.

2. Shared Ownership

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Baroness Penn, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; Emma Payne, Director for Social Housing and Resettlement, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 10.00am

Wednesday 17 January

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Wastewater Treatment

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 16 December 2023.

Office for Local Government

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 19 December 2023.

Lift Testing and Safety

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 19 December 2023.

Financial Distress in local authorities

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing & Communities, dated 22 December 2023.

Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 9 January 2024.

Shared Ownership

Correspondence to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Housing and Communities, dated 12 January 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

National Association for Therapeutic Education [CBE 002]

Professor (Dr) Monica Lakhanpaul [CBE 003]

Friends of Didsbury Park [CBE 004]

Barnardo's [CBE 006]

Miss Claudia Fussell [CBE 007]

University of Birmingham [CBE 008]

Chartered Institute of Housing [CBE 009]

Groundswell [CBE 010]

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council [CBE 011]

The National Allotment Society [CBE 012]

University of Manchester [CBE 013]

National Network of Parent Carer Forums [CBE 014]

Dr Jon Winder [CBE 015]

The University of Manchester [CBE 016]

Public Map Platform [CBE 017]

Living Streets [CBE 018]

Ludicology [CBE 019]

Association of Play Industries (API) [CBE 020]

Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) [CBE 021]

Dr Anna Bocking-Welch, Dr Richard Huzzey, Dr Cristina Leston-Bandeira, and Dr Henry Miller [CBE 022]

Dr Wendy Russell [CBE 023]

Play Worcester [CBE 025]

A Place in Childhood CIC [CBE 026]

Professor Helen Dodd, Dr Lily FitzGibbon, Dr Kathryn Hesketh, Dr Rachel Nesbit, Brooke Oliver [CBE 027]

Goldsmiths, University of London [CBE 028]

Built Environment Trust [CBE 029]

Playing Out [CBE 030]

Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming [CBE 031]

UK Health Alliance on Climate Change [CBE 032]

PRP [CBE 033]

Sustrans [CBE 034]

Health Equity North [CBE 035]

Impact on Urban Health [CBE 036]

University of Leeds, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Make Space for Girls, Keep Britain Tidy [CBE 037]

Play Wales [CBE 038]

Historic England [CBE 039]

Dr Azadeh Fatehrad and Dr Davide Natalini [CBE 040]

Fields in Trust [CBE 041]

Learning Through Landscapes [CBE 042]

Professor Shelley McKeown Jones [CBE 043]

Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Michael Keenan, Dr Lyndsey Stoodley and Chris Lawton [CBE 044]

The Heritage Alliance [CBE 045]

Food Active [CBE 046]

Healthy Air Coalition [CBE 047]

Dr. Matteo Giusti [CBE 048]

MATT+FIONA [CBE 049]

Environmental Horticulture Group [CBE 050]

Dr Holly Weir [CBE 051]

Buckingham Town Council [CBE 052]

Natural England [CBE 053]

Mr. Merrick Denton-Thompson [CBE 054]

University of Sheffield / Sheffield - Child of the North (N8 Research Partnership) [CBE 055]

Wheelscape Ltd [CBE 056]

Bruno Waghorn [CBE 057]

Professor Melody Smith [CBE 058]

BACAPH British Association for Child and Adolescent Public Health [CBE 059]

Make Space for Girls [CBE 060]

London Sport [CBE 061]

Dr Jennifer Wills Lamacq [CBE 062]

Mrs Sharon King [CBE 064]

Natasha Sturrock [CBE 065]

Dr Naomi Lott [CBE 066]

Mr Tim Gill [CBE 067]

London Play [CBE 068]

Youth Sport Trust [CBE 069]

Clarion Housing Group [CBE 070]

Alliance for Childhood [CBE 071]

Ellen Weaver [CBE 072]

Loughborough University [CBE 073]

CREATE streets [CBE 074]

Thornton Education Trust [CBE 075]

University of the West of England [CBE 076]

UCL Institute of Education, Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination [CBE 077]

Bite Back 2030 [CBE 078]

University of Central Lancashire [CBE 079]

Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination [CBE 080]

Greater Manchester Moving [CBE 081]

TOWN [CBE 082]

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning [CBE 083]

The Food Foundation [CBE 084]

Play England [CBE 085]

Intelligent Health [CBE 086]

Playing Out [CBE 087]

Samantha Haycock [CBE 088]

Tomas Johnson and Jennifer Rutherford [CBE 089]

Stephanie Edwards [CBE 090]

Professor Helen Lomax [CBE 091]

Mr Simeon Shtebunaev [CBE 092]

Ann Semlyen [CBE 093]

Grosvenor Property UK [CBE 094]

Professor Scarlett McNally [CBE 095]

University College London [CBE 096]

Alex Smith [CBE 097]

Rebecca Bryant [CBE 098]

Northumbria University [CBE 099]

Modeshift [CBE 100]

Dinah Bornat [CBE 101]

Harriet Grant [CBE 102]

Professor Alison Stenning [CBE 103]

2. Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit Oxford, in connection with its inquiry into Disabled people in the housing sector.

3. Fire Safety

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in his office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs councillors in his office.

Lee Rowley MP, Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and Chandru Dissanayake, Director of Regulatory Reform, Safer and Greener Buildings, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 22 January at 3.30pm.

Monday 22 January

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

1. Financial Distress in Local Authorities

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in his office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs councillors in his office.

Bernadette Conroy, Chair, and Jonathan Walters, Deputy Chief Executive, Regulator of Social Housing; Peter Denton, Chief Executive Officer, and Shahi Islam, Affordable Housing Director, Homes England, gave oral evidence.

Baroness Scott, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Social Housing and Faith), and Emma Payne, Director for Social Housing and Resettlement, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 24 January at 9.15 am.

Wednesday 24 January

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair
Ian Byrne
Mrs Natalie Elphicke
Kate Hollern

1. Children, Young People and the Built Environment

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and a trustee of Fields in Trust.

Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs a councillor in her office.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Dr William Bird, CEO, Intelligent Health; Professor Helen Dodd, Exeter University; Professor Alison Stenning, Newcastle University; and Dr Jennifer Wills Lamacq, DECPsy Academic and Professional Tutor, UCL, gave oral evidence.

Gemma Hyde, Projects and Policy Manager, TCPA; Alice Ferguson, Associate and Board Director, Playing Out; Harriet Grant, Freelance reporter, Guardian; and Helen Griffiths, Chief Executive, Fields in Trust, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 29 January at 3.30pm.

Monday 29 January

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair
Bob Blackman
Ian Byrne
Mrs Natalie Elphicke
Tom Hunt
Andrew Lewer
Mary Robinson
Nadia Whittome
Mohammad Yasin

1. Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Draft Special Report (Government response to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee's report on Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report of the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House

2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Shared Ownership

Correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Communities, dated 24 January 2024.

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of Rentplus, dated 19 December 2023.

Regulation of caravan sites

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, dated 19 January 2024.

Building Safety Levy

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, dated 26 January 2024.

Statement of Levelling Up Missions

Correspondence from the Minister for Levelling Up to the Chair, dated 25 January 2024

Future of the Household Support Fund

Correspondence to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, dated 29 January 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Architecture for Kids [CBP 104]

Children's Commissioner Evidence[CBP 105]

Earls Court Development Company; ZCD Architect [CBP 106]

Sally Watson (PhD at Newcastle University) [CBP 107]

Wildlife & Countryside Link [CBP 108]

Nicky Gavron; Joanna Chambers [CBP 109]

Helen Prentice [CBP 110]

Royal Institute of British Architects [CBP 111]

Sport England [CBP 112]

Transport for London (TfL) [CBP 113]

Waltham Forest [CBP 1114]

Disabled people in the housing sector

Propertymark [DPH 001]

Action Disability Training & Consulting [DPH 006]

Royal College of Occupational Therapist [DPH 007]

HFT [DPH 008]

National Residential Landlords Association [DPH 010]

Publica Group Ltd [DPH 011]

Gloucestershire Health and Social Care NHS Trust [DPH 012]

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) [DPH 013]

ANUK, Unipol National Codes of Standards [DPH 014]

Disability Rights UK [DPH 015]

National Network of Parent Carer Forums [DPH 016]

Inclusion London [DPH 017]

Royal College of Occupational Therapists [DPH 018]

Fleur Perry [DPH 019]

Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) [DPH 020]

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) [DPH 021]

Homeshare UK, Shared Lives Plus [DPH 023]

Midland Heart Limited [DPH 024]

Migrant Help [DPH 025]

Expert Link [DPH 026]

Muscular Dystrophy UK [DPH 027]

Papworth Trust [DPH 028]

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation [DPH 029]

Housing Made for Everyone (HoME) coalition [DPH 030]

Habinteg Housing Association [DPH 031]

Mrs Vanessa Dockerill [DPH 033]

Bristol City Council [DPH 034]

Local Government Association [DPH 035]

Shelter [DPH 036]

Mrs J Hewitt [DPH 037]

Centre for Ageing Better [DPH 038]

District Councils Network [DPH 039]

Voluntary Organisations Disability Group (VODG) [DPH 040]

Stephen McNeice [DPH 041]

Housing Ombudsman Service [DPH 042]

3. Consideration of Financial Distress in Local Authorities Report

Draft report (Financial Distress in Local Authorities) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Third Report of the Committee, HC 56.

4. Departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs councillors in his office.

Sarah Healey CB CVO, Permanent Secretary, Matt Thurstan, Chief Finance Officer, Catherine Frances, Director General, Local Government, Resilience and Communities, and Joanna Key, Director General, Regeneration, Housing and Planning, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 5 February at 3.30pm

Monday 05 February

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Fire Safety

Correspondence to the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 5 January 2024.

South Tees Development Corporation and Teesworks Joint Venture

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 29 January 2024.

Social housing allocation in England.

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Housing and Faith, dated 30 January 2024.

2. Disabled people in the housing sector

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in her office.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs councillors in her office.

Mohammad Yasin declared an interest in that he is a member of Bedford town deal board and employs a councillor in his constituency office.

Mikey Erhardt, Policy and Campaigns Officer, Disability Rights UK; Christina McGill, Co-Chair, Housing Made for Everyone Coalition; and Jacquell Runnalls, Co-opted Lead in Accessibility and Inclusive Design, Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist section in Housing, gave oral evidence

Cllr Victor Chamberlain, Member of the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board, Local Government Association; Adrian Dobson, Executive Director Professional Knowledge and Standards, Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA); Timothy

Douglas, Head of Policy and Campaigns, PropertyMark; and Sam Stafford, Planning Director, Home Builders Federation, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 19 February at 3.30pm.

Monday 19 February

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Long Term Plan for Housing

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 13 February 2024.

Departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, dated 12 February 2024.

Fire Safety

Correspondence from Paul Morrell to the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety regarding the Construction Product Testing Review, dated 07 February 2024.

Local Audit Consultation

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 08 February 2024.

Household Support Fund

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 08 February 2024.

Finances and sustainability of the social housing sector

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, dated 05 February 2024.

Move-on Period for Asylum Seekers

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 14 February 2024.

Shared Ownership

Correspondence from Shared Ownership Resources, dated 13 February 2024.

The Office for Local Government

Dr A. R. Fraser [OLG 001]

Léonie Cowen & Associates [OLG 002]

mySociety and the Centre for Public Data [OLG 003]

The London Borough of Hounslow [OLG 004]

The Local Government Association [OLG 005]

Professor Laurence Ferry and Dr Henry Midgley [OLG 006]

Dr Ben Worthy [OLG 007]

South East Councils [OLG 008]

ICAEW [OLG 009]

National Association of Local Councils [OLG 010]

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy [OLG 012]

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [OLG 013]

Centre for Governance and Scrutiny [OLG 014]

District Councils' Network [OLG 015]

The Health Foundation [OLG 016]

Szabina Kutasy [OLG 017]

SIGOMA [OLG 018]

London Councils [OLG 019]

2. The Office for Local Government

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in his office.

Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in her office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he is a member of Ipswich town deal board and employs councillors in his office.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs councillors in her office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Lord Amyas Morse, Interim Chair, Office for Local Government, and Josh Goodman, Chief Executive, Office for Local Government, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 26 February at 3.30pm

Thursday 22 February

The Chair and Nadia Whittome visited Oxford in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Disabled People in the Housing Sector, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 17 January 2024.

Monday 26 February

Members present

Clive Betts, in the chair

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Fire Safety

Correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 19 February 2024.

Electoral Commission Strategy and Policy Statement

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 20 February 2024.

Developments in Four Councils

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 22 February.

Shared Ownership

Correspondence from the Regulator of Social Housing, dated 16 February 2024.

Anonymous [SHO 0150]

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Jo McCafferty [CBE 0115]

Miranda MacLaren [CBE 0116]

Disabled People in the Housing Sector

Anonymous [DPH 0005]

Mrs Sharon King [DPH 0009]

2. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Children, young people and the built environment

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he is a member of Ipswich town deal board and employs councillors in his office.

Mohammad Yasi declared an interest in that he is a member of the Bedford town deal board and employs a councillor in his office.

Tim Gill, Researcher and author of 2021 RIBA book Urban Playground; Dinah Bornat, Co-Director of ZCD Architects; Jo McCafferty, Director, Levitt Bernstein; Jonny Anstead, Founding Director, TOWN; and Sarah Scannell, Assistant Director Planning, Birmingham City Council, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 4 March at 3.30pm.

Monday 4 March 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

1. Disabled People in the Housing Sector

The Committee considered this matter.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 11 March at 3.30pm

Monday 11 March 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Private Parking Code of Practice

Correspondence to the Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State for Levelling Up and Roads & Local Transport, dated 11 March 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

ROAM [CBE 0117]

Michelle Golding [CBE 0118]

Town and Country Planning Association [CB0119]

Anonymous [CBE 0120]

Departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2023-24

Correspondence to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, dated 1 March 2024.

Office for Local Government

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Office for Local Government, dated 01 March 2024.

The Case for Cambridge

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 06 March 2024.

Action taken in Relation to Four Authorities

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 07 March 2024.

Fake Signatures on EWS1 Forms

Correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer of the Fire Industry Association, dated 11 March 2024.

Correspondence to the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, dated 11 March 2024.

Shared Ownership

Anonymous [SHO0153]

2. Future Programme

Ordered, That Mr Clive Betts have leave to visit York on 18 March 2024 to attend the 6th Local Authority Treasurers Investment Forum North Conference in a representative capacity.

3. Electoral Registration

Draft report (Electoral Registration) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 58.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 18 March at 3.30pm

Monday 18 March 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Parliamentary Scrutiny of Institutions with Devolved Powers,

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 18 March 2024.

Committee's Visit to Oxford

Correspondence from Councillor Susan Brown, dated 13 March 2024.

Move-On Period for Asylum Seekers

Correspondence from the Ministers for Legal Migration & the Border and Housing & Homelessness, dated 5 March 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

StreetGames [CBE 121]

Pupils 2 Parliament [CBE 122]

Disabled People in the Housing Sector

Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section in Housing [DPH 044]

2. Disabled People in the Housing Sector

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs councillors in his office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he is a member of the Ipswich town deal board and employs councillors in his office.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs councillors in her office.

Mohammad Yasin declared an interest in that he is a member of the Bedford County Board and employs a councillor in his office.

Felicity Buchan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Housing and Homelessness), and William Burgon, Director for Regeneration, Housing and Planning, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and Philip White, Director of Building Safety, Building Safety Regulator, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 25 March at 3.30pm

Monday 25 March 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Kate Hollern

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of Homes England, dated 21 March 2024.

ZCD Architects [CBE 0123]

Triangle Adventure Playground [CBE 0124]

Professor Luca Csepely-Knorr [CBE 0125]

Joy Burgess [CBE 0126]

Playing Out [CBE 0127]

Fake Signatures on EWS1 Forms

Correspondence from the Chief Executive Officer of RICS, dated 19 March 2024.

Gaps in Social Care Legislation

Correspondence from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, dated 19 March 2024.

Reforms to Social housing

Correspondence to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Housing and Faith, dated 25 March 2024.

The Long Term Plan for Housing

Correspondence to the Minister of State, dated 25 March 2024.

Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Correspondence to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local Government, dated 25 March 2024.

Departmental Annual Report and Accounts

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government, dated 22 March 2024.

Disabled people in the housing sector

Samantha Lewis [DPH 0045]

2. Future Programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Improving the home buying and selling process.

3. Shared Ownership

Draft report (Shared Ownership) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 61

4. Children, Young People and the Built Environment

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association.

Mohammad Yasin declared an interest in that he is a member of the Bedford town deal board and employs a councillor in his office.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs a councillor in his office and is a member of the Ipswich town deal board.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and employs a councillor in her office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a Vice President of the Local Government Association and is a member of the Northampton Forward board.

Joanna Averley, Chief Planner, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; and Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, gave oral evidence.

Lee Rowley MP, Minister for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, and Joanna Averley, Chief Planner, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 15 April at 3.30pm

Monday 15 April 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Mrs Natalie Elphike

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Private Members Bill on Whistleblowing

Correspondence to Mary Robinson MP, dated 15 April 2024.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Triennial Review

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 15 April 2024.

Committee's Report on Council Tax Collection

Correspondence to the Secretary of State, dated 15 April 2024.

Correspondence to the Information Commissioner, dated 15 April 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Correspondence to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Education, dated 15 April 2024.

Slade Gardens Community Play Association [CBE 128]

Urban Transport Group [CBE 129]

Progress on Cladding Remediation

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 27 March 2024.

Social Housing Regulation

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Housing and Faith, dated 26 March 2024.

Private Parking Code of Practice

Correspondence from the Minister for Levelling Up, dated 22 March 2024.

Government's Long Term Plan for Housing

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 9 April 2024.

Disabled People in the Housing Sector

Correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Homelessness, dated 4 April 2024.

Hannah Langford [DPH 046]

Pat Ramsey [047]

Parliamentary Scrutiny of Institutions with Devolved Powers

Correspondence from the Secretary of State, dated 4 April 2024.

Improving the home buying and selling process

Correspondence from the Minister of State, Department for Business and Trade, dated 9 April 2024.

Electoral Registration

Correspondence from the Chair of the Electoral Commission, dated 9 April 2024.

Office for Local Government

Dr James Robertson [OLG 020]

2. The Office for Local Government

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Professor Laurence Ferry, Professor in Accounting, Durham University Business School; Ed Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS); and Rob Whiteman CBE, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), gave oral evidence.

Councillor Abi Brown, Chair of Improvement and Innovation Board, Local Government Association (LGA); Trevor Holden, Chief Executive and Chair, District Councils Network (DCN) and Managing Director of South Norfolk Council and Broadland Council; and Councillor Keith Stevens, Chair, National Association of Local Councils (NALC), gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 22 April 2024 at 3.30pm

Monday 22 April 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Ian Byrne

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Mohammad Yasin

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Reforms to Social Housing Allocations

Correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Social Housing and Faith, dated 15 April 2024.

Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 17 April 2024.

Long-Term Sustainability Panel

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 17 April 2024.

2. The Office for Local Government

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Hollern declared an interest in that she employs a councillor in her office.

Bob Blackman declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and he employs councillors in his office.

Simon Hoare MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, and Catherine Frances, Director General, Local Government, Resilience and Communities, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 29 April 2024 at 3.30pm

Monday 29 April 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman
Ian Byrne
Mrs Natalie Elphicke
Andrew Lewer
Mary Robinson
Nadia Whittome

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Publication of the Intergovernmental Relations Annual Transparency Report: 1 January - 31 December 2023

Correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Homelessness, dated 23 April 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Department for Education, dated 23 April 2024.

Anonymous [CBE 130]

Phineas Harper [CBE 131]

Office for Local Government

Correspondence to the Chief Executive of the Office for Local Government, dated 29 April 2024.

Fake Signatures on EWS1 Forms

Correspondence from the CEO of the Fire Industry Association, dated 10 April 2024.

Resignation as Chair of the Office for Local Government

Correspondence to Lord Morse KCB, dated 29 April 2024.

2. The Finances and Sustainability of the Social Housing Sector

Draft Report (The Finances and Sustainability of the Social Housing Sector) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 60.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 13 May 2024 at 3.30pm

Monday 13 May 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Ian Byrne

Mrs Natalie Elphicke

Tom Hunt

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Nadia Whittome

1. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Statutory Guidance on Best Value Standards and Intervention

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 8 May 2024.

Council Tax Collection

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 2 May 2024.

Correspondence from the UK Information Commissioner, dated 2 May 2024.

Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Triennial Review 2021-24

Correspondence from the Minister for Local Government, dated 29 April 2024.

Financial Reporting and Audit in Local Authorities

Correspondence from the Comptroller and Auditor General, dated 26 April 2024.

Financial Distress in Local Authorities Report

Correspondence to the Minister for Local Government, dated 13 May 2024.

Implementation of the Government's Simpler Recycling Plan

Correspondence to the Chair of the District Councils' Network, dated 13 May 2024.

Pre-appointment Scrutiny for the role of Chair of Oflog

Correspondence to the Chair of the Liaison Committee, dated 13 May 2024.

Improving the Home Buying and Selling Process

Brian Rogers [HBS 002]

Etive [HBS 003]

Hurford Salvi Carr [HBS 004]

Andrew Hart [HBS 005]

John Sirodcar [HBS 006]

Thorn [HBS 007]

Gray [HBS 008]

Professor Stewart Brymer [HBS 009]

Residential Property Surveyors Association [HBS 011]

Neil Muirhead [HBS 012]

The Partnership [HBS 013]

Ms Edwards [HBS 014]

UKSIF [HBS 015]

Birmingham Association of Estate Agents [HBS 016]

Anonymous [HBS 017]

Open Property Data Association [HBS 018]

Dr Cathy Priestley and Halima Ali [HBS 020]

Property Lawyers Action Group [HBS 021]

Mrs Karen Stokes [HBS 022]

Fidler & Pepper Lawyers [HBS 023]

de-Wit [HBS 024]

Helen Price [HBS 025]

National Land Information Service [HBS 026]

Garrett O'Hanlon [HBS 027]

Propertymark [HBS 028]

Sort Group [HBS 029]

Land Data [HBS 030]

Anonymous [HBS 031]

Shared Ownership Resources [HBS 032]

Jo Leslie [HBS 033]

Society of Licensed Conveyancers [HBS 034]

Irwin Mitchell [HBS 035]

Home Buying and Selling Group [HBS 036]

ESPC [HBS 037]

Coadjudicate [HBS 038]

Consumer Code for Home Builders [HBS 039]

New Homes Quality Board [HBS 040]

Teal Legal Ltd [HBS 041]

Reapit and PayProp [HBS 042]

Anonymous [HBS 043]

Gazeal Ltd [HBS 044]

Chartered Institute of Building [HBS 045]

Conveyancing Association [HBS 046]

Home Sale Information Ltd [HBS 047]

Wilson Browne Solicitors [HBS 048]

Zahrah Aullybocus [HBS 049]

Chartered Trading Standards Institute [HBS 050]

Simplify [HBS 051]

Aster Group [HBS 052]

The Property Institute [HBS 053]

Local Land Charges Institute [HBS 054]

Drainage and Water Searches Network [HBS 055]

RICS [HBS 056]

Building Societies Association [HBS 057]

Anonymous [HBS 058]

Landmark Information Group [HBS 059]

Dan Hughes [HBS 060]

Consumer Code for New Homes [HBS 061]

DLUHC [HBS 062]

View My Chain Ltd [HBS 063]

Legal Marketing Services [HBS 064]

CILEX [HBS 067]

Property Ombudsman [HBS 068]

PEXA [HBS 069]

LSL Estate Agency Franchise Division [HBS 070]

Association of Mortgage Intermediaries [HBS 071]

ONP [HBS 072]

NTSELAT [HBS 073]

Enact and First Title [HBS 074]

Connells Group [HBS 075]

Michael D'Ambra [HBS 076]

Council for Licensed Conveyancers [HBS 077]

Richard Jones [HBS 079]

Home Builders Federation [HBS 081]

Weston Homes [HBS 082]

Law Society of England and Wales [HBS 083]

Digital Property Market Steering Group [HBS 084]

Shared Owners Network [HBS 085]

Karbon Homes [HBS 086]

HM Land Registry [HBS 087]

Housesecure [HBS 088]

Rightmove [HBS 089]

HomeOwners Alliance [HBS 090]

Sarah Keegan [HBS 091]

2. Improving the home buying and selling process

The Chair declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Mrs Natalie Elphicke declared an interest in that she is a vice-president of the Local Government Association and that she employs a councillor in her office.

Tom Hunt declared an interest in that he employs two councillors in his office.

Andrew Lewer declared an interest in that he is a vice-president of the Local Government Association.

Kate Faulkner, Chair, Home Buying and Selling Group; Paula Higgins, Chief Executive, HomeOwners Alliance; Maria Harris, Chair, Open Property Data Association, gave oral evidence.

Mairead Carroll, Senior Specialist, Property, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; Timothy Douglas, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Propertymark; Beth Rudolf, Director of Delivery, Conveyancing Association, gave oral evidence.

Adjournment

Adjourned till Monday 20 May 2024 at 3.30pm

Monday 20 May 2024

Members present

Mr Clive Betts, in the chair

Bob Blackman

Kate Hollern

Andrew Lewer

Mary Robinson

Steve Tuckwell

1. Declaration of Interests

Steve Tuckwell declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

2. Evidence reported for publication

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Office for Local Government

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Office for Local Government, dated 10 May 2024.

Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Regulator for Social Housing, dated 15 May 2024.

Fire Safety

Correspondence to the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 13 May 2024.

Government's Response to the Construction Product Testing Review

Correspondence from the Minister of State for Housing, Planning and Building Safety, dated 14 May 2024.

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Centre for Young Lives [CBE 132]

Adfree Cities [CBE 133]

Improving the Home Buying and Selling Process

Arthur Michael Robinson [HBS 092]

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Committee's past recommendations and the work of successive governments.

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Public Lavatories.

4. The Committee's past recommendations and the work of successive governments

Draft Special Report (The Committee's past recommendations and the work of successive governments), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House

5. Disabled people in the housing sector

Draft Report (Disabled people in the housing sector) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The Draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Seventh Report of the Committee, HC 63.

Friday 24 May 2024

1. Evidence reported for publication

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 23 May 2022 (Order made under the provisions of SO No 137; see Votes and Proceedings [5 September 2022]):

Office for Local Government

Correspondence to the Secretary of State and the Chief Executive of Oflog, dated 24 May

Simpler Recycling reforms

Correspondence from the District Councils Network, dated 21 May 2024

Children, Young People and the Built Environment

Room 13 Hareclive [CBE 134]

Devorah Block [CBE 135]

Playing Out [CBE 136]

Appendix: Declarations of interest by members of the Committee and specialist advisers

(i) Members of the Committee

Hunt, Tom (Ipswich)

13 December 2023

Entry in the Register for Members' Interests:

3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

Name of donor: Betting and Gaming Council

Address of donor: Kings Building, 16 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HQ

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Hospitality ticket for an England rugby match, value £1,138.80

Date received: 26 November 2022

Date accepted: 26 November 2022

Donor status: company, registration 12213577

(Registered 1 December 2022)

Name of donor: The Football League Ltd.

Address of donor: EFL House, 10-12 West Cliff, Preston PR1 8HU

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Ticket and hospitality for the Carabao Cup Final at Wembley, value £350

Date received: 26 February 2023

Date accepted: 26 February 2023

Donor status: company, registration 80612

(Registered 28 February 2023)

Name of donor: Ipswich Town Football Club

Address of donor: Portman Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2DA

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Ticket to a football match, value £250

Date received: 28 January 2023

Date accepted: 28 January 2023

Donor status: company, registration 00315421

(Registered 19 April 2023)

Name of donor: Ipswich Town Football Club

Address of donor: Portman Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2DA

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets to a football match, value £698

Date received: 7 April 2023

Date accepted: 7 April 2023

Donor status: company, registration 00315421

(Registered 19 April 2023)

Name of donor: Ipswich Town Football Club

Address of donor: Portman Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2DA

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets to a football match, total value £698

Date received: 23 September 2023

Date accepted: 23 September 2023

Donor status: company, registration 00315421

(Registered 23 October 2023)

4. Visits outside the UK

Name of donor: Gulab Miah (in support of the SMR mental health project and Zi Foundation)

Address of donor: 18 South Park Drive, Ilford IG3 9AQ #

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, in-country transport, meals and accommodation, value £4,510

Destination of visit: Bangladesh

Dates of visit: 16-21 March 2023

Purpose of visit: To understand the political and economic situation in Bangladesh, meet members of parliament and government, visit Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar.

(Registered 6 April 2023)

Name of donor: HM Government of Gibraltar

Address of donor: Gibraltar House, 150 Strand, London WC2R 1JA

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights (£651), hotel accommodation for four nights (£760) and general hospitality (£200), total value £1,611

Destination of visit: Gibraltar

Dates of visit: 7-11 September 2023

Purpose of visit: Gibraltar National Day visit.

(Registered 18 September 2023)

6. Land and property portfolio: (i) value over £100,000 and/or (ii) giving rental income of over £10,000 a year

Until 14 December 2022, a flat in East Cambridgeshire: (i). (Registered 10 January 2020; updated 13 April 2023)

Tuckwell, Steve (Uxbridge and South Ruislip)

20 May 2024

1. Employment and earnings

Role, work or services: Councillor

Payer: Hillingdon Council, London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

Remuneration: £23,725.32 a year a special responsibility allowance as Chairman of the Major Applications Planning Committee. It was paid monthly.

Until: 11 October 2023.

Hours: no additional hours to those listed below.

(Registered 1 August 2023; updated 31 October 2023)

Remuneration: £12,014.04 a year paid monthly as a councillor allowance.

Hours: 5 hrs a week

(Registered 1 August 2023)

(ii) Specialist Advisers

Cole, Ian

20 November 2023

Emeritus Professor of Housing at the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University. This is an honorary position but he is engaged on occasions in research, publication and in an advisory capacity to doctoral students and early career CRESR staff. CRESR currently has a 'call-off'

research contract with DHLUC. Professor Cole is not personally engaged in any of those projects under that programme.

Previously worked on a wide range of research projects for charitable foundations and government departments. This has included research for predecessor Departments of DLHUC on leasehold reform, housing market renewal and tenant participation, for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) on local housing allowances in the private rented sector, and for the Ministry of Defence on the creation of mixed services-civilian housing estates.

Previously chaired a Ministerial advisory group in 2009 to advise Government on the regulation of the social housing sector.

Previously Chair of South Yorkshire Housing Association from 2017 to 2022.

MacDonald, Kelvin

08 November 2023

Senior Departmental Fellow: Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

Senior Teaching Associate: University of Cambridge

Principal Lecturer (part-time): University of Brighton

Chair of the Board: BHT Sussex (Housing Association)

Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences

Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute

Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing

Member of the Labour Party (I take no part in any of its activities and hold no position within it nationally or locally).

Murphie, Aileen

08 November 2023

Honorary Professor, Department of Accounting, University of Durham

Policy & Practitioner Associate, International Centre of Public Accountability, University of Durham

Chair, Practice Oversight Panel, Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Member, Adult Social Care Network, Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Fellow, Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences

Associate, Cityforum

Travers, Tony

08 November 2023

Associate Dean in the School of Public Policy at the London School of Economics.

Professor in the LSE's Government Department.

Honorary Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy.

Occasionally undertakes paid consultancy, though none on a regular basis.

Occasionally writes for the national and local government press, including a regular column for Local Government Chronicle Member of the Board of New Local [a think tank].

Occasional member/chair of commissions.

Currently a member of the London Partnership Board (non paid).