

Leader's announcements

19 July 2023

Two weeks ago, I attended the annual Local Government Association conference in Bournemouth with the Chief Executive. As always, it provided a good opportunity to share ideas with colleagues from other councils and to learn from the private sector and other partner organisations about how they can support local government in facing its challenges.

The Secretary of State, Michael Gove, announced the commencement of the Office for Local Government (Oflog) which will be a “new local government performance body”. It “will provide authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government and support its improvement”. Links to the announcement and other documents may be seen at the end of this note.

Mr Gove also announced a consultation about “Best Value Standards and Intervention: A statutory guide for best value authorities”. As drafted, the guide is a reminder that it would be timely for Wyre Forest District Council to have a corporate peer review from the LGA. I plan to invite such a review after the new corporate plan has been adopted and after Council has agreed its medium term financial strategy for 2024-27.

For its part, the LGA unveiled its “Make it Local” campaign, which seeks to persuade all parties in the run up to next year’s General Election that Government will be able to tackle challenges and achieve the ambitions of voters only if it resets the relationship between national and local government. This would mean trusting that communities, through their local councils, are best placed to take decisions on how frontline services are delivered.

Colleagues will have seen that there is already a full agenda of significant matters being dealt with by Cabinet. In light of early experience, I am minded to make some minor adjustments to provide better balance between portfolios. Colleagues will be sent details once I have reached final decisions.

It has been a busy couple of months since the elections and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to enjoy at least some time away from Council business between now and September.

[Local Government Association annual conference 2023: Secretary of State's speech - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-government-association-annual-conference-2023-secretary-of-state-s-speech)

[Office for Local Government: Understanding and supporting local government performance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/office-for-local-government-understanding-and-supporting-local-government-performance)

[Best value standards and intervention - a statutory guide for best value authorities: consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/best-value-standards-and-intervention-a-statutory-guide-for-best-value-authorities)

[Make It Local | Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk/make-it-local)