

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Board

SIG Name:	Unitary Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE – Leader of Bracknell Forest Council
Lead Officer:	Stuart McKellar – Borough Treasurer of Bracknell Forest Council

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Membership

Bath & North East Somerset; BCP; Bracknell Forest; Cheshire East; Leicester City; Medway; North Lincolnshire; North Somerset; Plymouth City; Portsmouth City; Rutland County; Slough Borough; South Gloucestershire; Swindon Borough; Telford & Wrekin; Torbay; West Berkshire; Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough; Wokingham Borough.

Aim

To promote, support and represent the aims and ambitions of the Unitary Councils of England.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

During the past year the network published a 21, A4 page full colour book of unitary authority best practice, entitled "It's All About Place", demonstrating the advantages of having all levers of governance in the hands of one tier of local government, that is by its size and nature, fleet of foot.

Since lockdown began, the network has been meeting weekly, via Teams, to discuss the challenges of the pandemic, and to share best practice. The chairman of the network, in common with other network chairmen, attends regular virtual briefings given by MHCLG Ministers and the Secretary of State, and by the Chairman and senior officers of the LGA, and then cascades information to UCN member authorities. The chairman of the LGA attended our most recent weekly meeting, to brief us all on the current situation, and he undertook a very informative Q&A session.



Paul Bettison

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