

Members of the Balance of Funding Review Steering Group

Nick Raynsford (Chair)	Minister for Local Government, the Regions and Fire
Sir Jeremy Beecham	Chair of the Local Government Association
Sir Howard Bernstein	Chief Executive, Manchester City Council
Sir Brian Briscoe	Chief Executive of the LGA
Peter Chalke	Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, LGA
Chris Clarke	Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, LGA
Andrew Dilnot	Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford
Steve Freer	Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
John Healey	Economic Secretary, HM Treasury
Chris Leslie	Parliamentary Under Secretary for Local Government, the Regions and Fire
Bob Linnard	Director of Local Government Finance, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Alasdair McGowan	Local Government Adviser, No.10 Policy Unit.
Elizabeth Meehan	Director of the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research, Queen's University, Belfast.
Lucy Neville-Rolfe	Group Director of Corporate Affairs, Tesco plc.
Jeffrey Owens	Head of Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD.
Darra Singh	Chief Executive, Luton Borough Council
David Smith	Director of Finance and IT, Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council.
Gerry Stoker	Professor of Politics, University of Manchester and Chair, New Local Government Network.
Heather Wakefield	Local Government National Secretary, Unison.

Milner Whiteman	Leader of the Independent Group, LGA
Stewart Wood	Economic Adviser on Local Government, HM Treasury
Andrew Morrison (Secretary)	Divisional Manager of Taxation, Valuation and General Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Biographical Details

Sir Jeremy Beecham

Sir Jeremy Beecham, a Newcastle upon Tyne City Councillor, is the first Chair of the Local Government Association.

Born in 1944, Sir Jeremy Beecham was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne and University College, Oxford, where he obtained a first class honours degree in law.

Having become a member of the Labour Party in 1959, he stood as Parliamentary Candidate for Tynemouth in 1970.

He was elected to Benwell Ward, Newcastle City Council, in 1967, was Chairman of the Social Services Committee from 1973 to 1977 and was Leader of Newcastle from 1977 to 1994, chairing the Finance Committee from 1979 to 1984. Sir Jeremy was Vice Chairman of Northern Regional Councils Association from 1985 to 1991, Chairman of Newcastle City Challenge from 1991 to 1996 and the City's Development Committee from 1995 to 1997.

In 1991 he was elected Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, until the organisation was merged with the Association of District Councils and the Association of County Councils to form the LGA on 1 April 1997. He was elected Chairman of the Local Government Association in its shadow form in 1995, and has been re-elected since.

Sir Jeremy has been President of the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA) since 1995 and served as a member of the President of the Board of Trade's Working Party on Competitiveness. He was a member of the Cabinet Sub Committee on Modernising Local Government. He has been a member of the Labour Party National Executive Committee since 1998. He is Honorary President of Newcastle Age Concern, Newcastle Choral Society and Tyneside People-to-People Week, and Vice President of the Newcastle Council of Voluntary Service and of the Tyne and Wear Community Foundation. He is a Director of the Theatre Royal in Newcastle and a Trustee of the Tyneside Film Theatre. He has served as a member of the President's Committee of Business in the Community and is a council member of Common Purpose.

He became a Knight Bachelor in HM Queen's Birthday Honours in 1994 and was made a Freeman of the City of Newcastle in 1995. He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Northumbria University and an Honorary DCL by Newcastle University. He is Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Tyne and Wear.

Sir Jeremy's occupation is as a Solicitor. He is a Senior Partner and specialises in industrial injury claims.

His special interests include local and regional government and social policy. He enjoys reading, music and the Arts.

Sir Brian Briscoe

Brian Briscoe is the Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, which became the single voice of local government in England and Wales when the three former associations finally merged as the LGA in April 1997.

Until April 1996 he was Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council, one of the largest local authorities in England, and before that (1988-1990) was County Planning Officer of Kent. His earlier career as a planner included periods in Hertfordshire, West Yorkshire, Herefordshire and Derbyshire.

Born and educated in Newcastle upon Tyne, he read geography at Cambridge and is a chartered town planner and chartered surveyor. He is married with three sons. He was knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 2002.

Sir Howard Bernstein

Sir Howard Bernstein joined Manchester City Council as Junior Clerk, rising to become the Council's Chief Executive in 1998.

Following the terrorist bombing of the City Centre in 1996 he was appointed Chief Executive of Manchester Millennium Limited, the public/private sector Task Force set up by the Government and the City Council to oversee the redesign and rebuilding of the City Centre, a task successfully delivered to critical acclaim on time and on budget.

Sir Howard is known for his business acumen; for forging partnerships with the City's key players; and for successfully attracting millions of pounds into the City. He played a key role in the regeneration of Hulme, the first area in the UK to attract City Challenge status, and subsequent area regeneration initiatives, most recently in East Manchester; in major projects including The Bridgewater Hall, the Velodrome and the Arena, and the new International Convention Centre; the City of Manchester Stadium and SportCity Complex and City Art Gallery.

Since the mid 1980's, he has been Clerk to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority and took a lead in introducing Metrolink, the UK's first on-street public

transport system which will see three major new extensions constructed across the conurbation shortly.

He was involved in the establishment of Manchester Airport as a plc in the mid-1980's and has driven the expansion of the company into the next stage of commercial and physical development. He currently chairs Manchester Airport Developments Ltd, the property arm of the company.

Sir Howard was instrumental in securing Manchester as Host City for the XVII Commonwealth Games in 2002, which was the largest multi-sport event ever hosted by the UK and the most successful Games ever.

A business survey in 2001 of the top 100 financial figures in the North West rated him the most influential. Sir Howard was knighted for his services to Manchester in the New Year's Honours 2003.

Peter Chalke

Peter Chalke CBE is Leader of Wiltshire County Council. He was for many years the Managing Director of a family timber manufacturing business. He has been a County Councillor since 1982 and Leader of the Conservative Group on Wiltshire County Council since 1986. Peter is also Deputy Leader of the Local Government Association Conservative Group and the LGA Conservative Education Spokesman. He is a past and the founder Chairman of the County Councils Network and a Board member of the South West Regional Development Agency and of the Standards Board for England.

Chris Clarke

Chris Clarke is currently Leader of the Liberal Democrats on the Local Government Association and Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association, he is also Vice Chair of the South West Regional Assembly. He was a member of Mendip District Council from 1991 to 1995, was Deputy Leader from 1991- 1992 and Leader from 1992 - 1993, after which he took over the County Leadership. Chris was Leader of Somerset County Council from 1993 - 2001.

Andrew Dilnot

Andrew Dilnot is Principal of St Hugh's College, Oxford. He is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's series on numbers, 'More or Less'. He was Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies from 1991 to 2002. He has served on the Social Security Advisory Committee, the Retirement Income Inquiry, the Rowntree Committee on the future costs of long term care, the Ageing Population Foresight panel, and the Councils of the Royal Economic Society and Queen Mary and Westfield College. He is an Honorary Fellow of St John's College Oxford and of the Institute of Actuaries, and holds an Honorary Doctorate from City University. His main research interests lie in government taxation and public spending policies as they affect individuals,

companies, and the wider economy. He has published widely in these areas. He was awarded a CBE in 2000 for services to economics and economic policy.

Steve Freer

Steve Freer is the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). Prior to taking up his current position in February 2000 he had pursued a successful career spanning both the public and private sectors, working in senior finance roles for three large local authorities – Birmingham City Council, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire County Councils – and as a management consultant with Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers).

Elizabeth Meehan

Elizabeth Meehan was brought up in Scotland and attended Sussex and Oxford Universities. She has been employed in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and by Bath University. She has been at Queen's University Belfast since 1991, firstly as a professor in the School of Politics and is now the Director of the Institute of Governance, Public Policy and Social Research. Her research and publications cover: women and politics; European citizenship; citizenship and participation in the UK; constitutional change in the UK; and British-Irish relations in the context of the EU with particular reference to the peace process in Northern Ireland and freedom of movement of persons between the two islands and under European arrangements. She is a life Vice-President of the Political Studies Association of the UK, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Member of the New York Academy of Sciences, a founding Academician of the Academy of the Social Sciences and Member and Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy. She serves on the Council of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and is active on various sub-groups of the UK Economic and Social Research Council. She is a Director of the Northern Ireland 'think tank', Democratic Dialogue, and served on the Fabian Commission on taxation and citizenship. She is on the Advisory Board of the Public Record Office Northern Ireland. Until recently, she chaired the Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland charity, Bryson House, and is a Trustee of the Scarman Trust.

Lucy Neville-Rolfe

Lucy Neville-Rolfe is Director of Corporate Affairs at Tesco PLC where her responsibilities include Government, EU and competition issues, investor relations, corporate social responsibility, communications, community affairs and corporate affairs policy in the UK and in Tesco's 10 overseas businesses. She reports to the Chief Executive, Sir Terry Leahy.

External appointments include the CBI Economics Committee, UNICE Task Force on Enlargement and the Boards of EuroCommerce and the British Retail Consortium. She is a non-executive Director of the Foreign Office.

Lucy joined Tesco from the Cabinet Office in 1997. She was Director of the

Deregulation Unit under Michael Heseltine and with Lord Haskins who transformed it under New Labour.

From 1992 to 1994 she was a member of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street where her responsibilities included home and legal affairs and public sector reform. From 1973 to 1992 she worked at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on EU and countryside issues and was private Secretary to the late Rt Hon John Silkin MP.

Lucy read PPE at Somerville College, Oxford where she is now a Honorary Fellow. She is married with 4 boys aged 8 to 21. Her interests include racing, cricket, gardening, art and architecture.

Jeffrey Owens

Jeffrey Owens is the Head of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Centre on Tax Policy and Administration which is the focal point for the Organisation's work on tax policy and tax administration.

Dr. Owens completed his doctoral work at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom in 1973. In addition to his economic degrees, he is a qualified accountant.

As professor at the American University of Paris and international Head of the OECD's work on taxation, he has focused his attention on questions of tax policy and tax administration, with particular emphasis on international taxation and issues related to decentralisation. He also established a major taxation programme at the OECD and extensively developed the OECD contacts with non-member countries. His earlier work dealt with the development of international currency markets and the implications for monetary policies.

He has made numerous contributions to professional journals, has published a number of books and has been the author of many OECD publications on taxation. Dr Owens's position at the OECD and his frequent participation in international conferences, have provided him with a unique international perspective on tax policy.

Dr Owens is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Institute of Public Finance, the International Fiscal Association and, apart from his professional activities, is a committed sailor, gardener, cook and father of four.

Darra Singh

Darra Singh (42) has been Luton council's chief executive for two years. The Council achieved a "good" CPA rating and has seen improvements in Education and Social Services. The council has also for the first time since the eighties, set a balanced

budget for two successive years. Spurred on by the clear yet challenging goals of the *Vision 2010* statement he piloted, the authority is now working hard on achieving service improvements as well as delivering a large regeneration agenda.

A law graduate from Newcastle and a volunteer for one of the city's housing advice centres, Darra's started his career as a housing case worker on Tyneside. Moving to London, he worked for housing charity SHAC as well as the London housing unit. He quickly rose to chief executive positions at two housing associations before moving to the Audit Commission a regional director of best value inspections.

Heavily involved in the Home Office fact-finding team -led by Ted Cante - that investigated race relations in three northern towns after the riots of summer 2001, Darra chairs a national housing practitioner group reporting to the Government's influential community cohesion panel.

Born in Wolverhampton but brought up in Bradford, Darra now lives in north-west London with his wife and young daughter.

David Smith

David Smith is Director of Finance and IT at Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council and Treasurer of the Greater Manchester Fire Authority. A native of Swansea he went to Cambridge University where he gained a PhD with a thesis on Local Government Expenditure in England and Wales: Needs, Resources and Politics.

He worked for Cambridge County Council (1982-83) and Hertfordshire County Council (1983-1985) before moving to Birmingham City Council (1985-88) and then Bath City Council (1988-1995) where he became Assistant City Treasurer. He was appointed Borough Treasurer at Ellesmere Port and Neston Council in Cheshire in 1995 and joined Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council in September 1999.

He served as an adviser to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, and Association of District Council. He is one of the two core financial advisers to the Local Government Association and is a member of the Education Funding Strategy Group. He is Senior Vice President of the Society of Municipal Treasurers. He is the Council's appointed Director on the Board of Wigan Football Company Limited (owners of the JJB Stadium home of Wigan Athletic and Wigan Warriors) and is a Wigan Warriors season ticket holder.

Gerry Stoker

Gerry Stoker is Professor of Political Science in the Department of Government, University of Manchester. His main research interests are in local government, multi-level governance, partnership, urban politics, public policy, public participation, social capital, non-profit organisations and cross-national policy transfer. Between 1992 and 1997 he was Director of the ESRC Local Governance Research Programme. He has held academic positions at Strathclyde, Essex, Wayne State (Detroit), and

Birmingham universities and Leicester Polytechnic. He has authored or edited 20 books.

In April 2002 Gerry Stoker was appointed director of the Government-funded five-year evaluation on the new constitutional and ethical arrangements that the 2000 Act established in English local government (see www.elgnce.org.uk). He is co-director of the newly established Institute for Political and Economic Governance at the University of Manchester(see www.ipeg.org.uk)

Professor Stoker is a member of the 'sounding board' advising the Minister for Local Government, Nick Raynsford. He is Chair of the New Local Government Network (NLGN). He was a member of the IPPR Commission on Public-Private Partnerships. Professor Stoker has a wide range of experience in undertaking research projects and is well practised at presenting findings to practitioners and policy makers as well as academics.

Heather Wakefield

Heather Wakefield is National Secretary for UNISON's Local Government Service Group.

She joined NUPE as a researcher in 1989, working on equality and pay issues. In 1993 she became a regional negotiator for NUPE – and subsequently UNISON – in its Greater London Region. In 1996 she moved to the Local Government Service Group as National Officer, becoming Senior National Officer in 1999. From 1980 – 1985 she was President of Lewisham and Deptford Trades Council.

Heather is Trade Union Side Secretary of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services and responsible for the Local Government Service Group's policy and campaigning activities.

Before working for UNISON, she worked as a journalist, a social worker and policy officer for the London Borough of Newham and co-ordinated Lewisham Women's Employment Project for seven years from 1979 before becoming Women's Rights Officer at NCCL (Liberty) in in 1987. She has also carried out freelance research into women's employment in Docklands and the south east. Heather jointly chaired the first women's committee in Local Government in Lewisham which began in 1979.

She has two sons, Barney and Myer, aged 16 and 10.

Milner Whiteman

Councillor Milner Whiteman OBE is Chairman of Bridgnorth District Council in Shropshire and Ward Member for Much Wenlock. He is Deputy Chair and Independent Group Leader of Local Government Association. He is a Member of the Committee of the Regions. His occupation is farming.

Press Notice on Membership

The press notice e-mailed to the specialist press on 4 April was as follows (the content of Annexes is included above):

BALANCE OF FUNDING REVIEW GROUP REVEALED

Local Government Minister, Nick Raynsford, today announced the team of experts who will investigate whether there are better ways to fund council services.

The steering group will review the current balance of funding for council services between grant from central government and money raised from local taxes.

The 22-strong team includes Ministers, senior figures from local government, the accountancy profession, academia, the business community and the union movement. Local Government Minister, Nick Raynsford, will chair the review.

Nick Raynsford said:

“I am delighted that we have been able to gather together such a distinguished and knowledgeable group of people to steer this important review. With such a wide range of experience, skills and perspectives available, I am confident that we will have an intellectually rigorous, thoughtful and productive debate on the right way forward.”

“This is the right time for a thorough review of the funding of local government in England. The review is an opportunity to consider how we can build on our long-term strategy of extending local freedoms and improving the quality of service. Recent rises in council tax raise pressing questions about the right way of financing local government that the review will need to address.”

Local Government Association Chair, Sir Jeremy Beecham said:

“The LGA is pleased to be so closely involved in this review on behalf of councils of all political persuasions. The issues the review is set to tackle go to the heart of local democracy and public service so a balance of different interests and expertise within the team is vital.”

The steering group’s first meeting will be held on 28 April 2003. Further meetings will take place every two to three months. The Government expects the review to last for about a year.