

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 18 July 2018
1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the LGA Leadership Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

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LGA Leadership Board
18 July 2018

There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 18 July 2018**
Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be served in advance of the meeting from 12.30pm.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Paul Goodchild
0207 664 3005 / paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.83 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Kent County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Alden (Deputy Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
Labour (5)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Lib Peck (Deputy Chair)	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Agenda

LGA Leadership Board

Wednesday 18 July 2018

1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 12 September 2018, 1.00 pm, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Membership, Terms of Reference and 2018/19 Meeting Cycle

Purpose of report

To agree the Terms of Reference, and note the membership and meeting dates for 2018/19.

Summary

The Leadership Board's Membership (**Appendix A**) and future meeting dates of the Leadership Board, Councillors' Forum and LGA Executive (**Appendix C**) are before the Board to note.

The Board's Terms of Reference (**Appendix B**) are for Members agreement.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

1. Notes its Membership and agrees its Terms of Reference for 2018/2019; and
2. Notes the dates of meetings of the LGA Leadership Board, Councillors' Forum and LGA Executive in 2018/19.

Action

No further action necessary.

Contact officer: Paul Goodchild
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LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2018/2019

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Conservative (6)	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
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Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

LGA Leadership Board: Terms of Reference

The purpose of the LGA Leadership Board is to develop the strategic priorities of the Association in consultation with member councils and the LGA Boards and make recommendations to the LGA Executive. It will direct the activities and business of the LGA in line with those priorities and will be responsible for:

1. Building and maintaining positive relationships with member councils and maximising LGA membership levels.
2. Maintaining a forward programme of forthcoming legislation and events, identifying and discussing emerging and key issues and highlighting them to the LGA Executive.
3. Developing and overseeing the delivery of the LGA business plan.
4. Managing and maintaining relationships with other local government representative bodies, the Civil Service, Government, the legislature and other partners.
5. Undertaking representational activity on behalf of the LGA and providing the principal spokespersons.
6. Overseeing the management of the resources of the LGA and its associated companies and recommending the annual budget and policies on resource management. (*Appendix A sets out the specific responsibilities of the Board in this regard*).
7. Maintaining the LGA Constitution under review and recommending any amendments to the General Assembly.
8. Agreeing the format of the LGA General Assembly Annual Meeting, in line with the Constitution.
9. Agreeing the programme and format of the Annual Conference.
10. Agreeing the LGA approach to the annual political balance.
11. Ensuring activity across the LGA is coordinated and integrated.

The LGA Leadership Board may allocate responsibility for areas within its remit to one or more of its members.

Quorum

One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

Political Composition

Conservative group:	6 members
Labour group:	5 members
Liberal Democrat group:	2 members
Independent group:	2 members

Frequency per year

Eight meetings to be held per year.

Reporting Accountabilities

The LGA Leadership Board directs the LGA's activities and business, in accordance with the strategic priorities and direction set by the LGA Executive. It reports and makes recommendations to the Executive on the LGA's activities and to the General Assembly on Constitutional matters.

Appendix A: Managing the Resources of the Association and its associated companies

The LGA Leadership Board will be responsible for overseeing the management of the resources of the LGA and its associated companies and for formulating and agreeing the annual budget and policies on resource management. In that regard:

The LGA Leadership Board will:

1. Develop the overall medium-term financial strategy for the LGA and its associated companies as the basis for the effective management of resources.
2. Agree and oversee delivery of the LGA's Commercial Strategy.
3. Formulate and agree the annual budget and make recommendations to the respective company boards.
4. Formulate and agree subscription levels for the LGA.
5. Monitor budget arrangements and overall financial performance.
6. Ensure that proper records are kept which disclose the financial position; and approve the LGA's consolidated financial statements for each financial year, along with those of the LGA itself, and present these to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.
7. Oversee the approach to MHCLG grant funding.
8. Formulate policies relating to staffing, including structure, appointments, terms and conditions of service, recruitment and severance procedures.
9. Be responsible for matters relating to member structures and members' allowances schemes.
10. Be responsible for the proper safeguarding and management of investments and other assets, including treasury management arrangements, and also borrowings.
11. Be responsible for the accommodation strategy for Local Government House and Layden House on the advice of LGA(Properties) and LGMB Boards.

**Dates of Meetings of the LGA Leadership Board, Councillors' Forum & LGA Executive
2018/2019**

Structure	Meeting date	Time	Venue
2018			
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 12 September 2018	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Members' Briefing Day	Thursday 13 September 2018	11.00am	Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		2.15pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 17 October 2018	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 18 October 2018	12.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Thursday 6 December 2018	11.00am	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
There is no Councillors' Forum meeting in December			

2019

LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 23 January 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 24 January 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 6 March 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 7 March 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 3 April 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
There are no Councillors' Forum or LGA Executive in April due to local government elections in May.			
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 5 June 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 6 June 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 17 July 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 18 July 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Suite, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	



LGA Leadership Board – Review of the Year 2017/18

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

The 2012 audit of the LGA's corporate governance arrangements recommended the introduction of an annual self-appraisal by the Boards to "reflect upon the preceding twelve months in terms of what has been achieved, progress against plan, what went well and lessons learnt".

This report summarises the work that the Leadership Board has undertaken in the twelve months from July 2017 to July 2018.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board reviews its work and programme of meetings over the past year, considers lessons learned and highlights any changes or new approaches it would wish to see.

Action

Officers to take action in line with the Board's recommendations.

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Position: Member Services Manager
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LGA Leadership Board – Review of the Year 2016/17

Background

1. Under its terms of reference, the LGA Leadership Board's purpose is to develop the strategic priorities of the Association in consultation with member councils and LGA Boards, and make recommendations to the LGA Executive.
2. The LGA's seven priorities are set out in the 2017/18 Business Plan: Britain's exit from the EU; Devolution and Funding for local government; Inclusive growth, jobs and housing; Children, education and schools; Adult Social Care and Health; Supporting Councils; and being a Single Voice for Local Government.
3. The LGA Leadership Board directs the LGA's business and holds the LGA to account on its performance against these priorities.

Business Plan

4. Over the summer 2017, Leadership Board contributed to the development of an updated set of priorities for inclusion in the 2017/18 Business Plan. Members requested a greater emphasis on devolution which should sit alongside the Brexit work, housing and homelessness, and additional infrastructure. Members also suggested that Board chairs have a greater involvement with monitoring performance against the Business plan.
5. Alongside performance monitoring reports, the monthly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against the business plan priorities and key corporate indicators, including membership and communications, enabling the Board to hold the Chief Executive to account against the delivery of the business plan. It also updates the Board on any emerging work or issues.

Autumn Budget 2017

6. The Leadership Board considered the LGA's formal submission to the 2017 Autumn Budget and made a series of recommendations for the LGA's lobbying lines prior to the Government's announcement. The key announcement was a package of proposals to improve the UK's housing situation, but the statement lacked any announcement for social care.

Local Government Finance Settlement, Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention

7. The Leadership Board spent a high proportion of time working on local government finance throughout the year. The Board reviewed the LGA's response to the Government's technical consultation on the 2018/19 local government finance settlement, and through the Chief Executives report kept oversight over the LGA's lobbying lines. Key positive announcements included: an increase in the general council tax referendum limit; a consultation on options to address the negative revenue support grant; and ten new 100 per cent business rates retention pilots for 2018/19. It was also announced that 75 per cent business rate retention would be introduced for all councils from April 2020.
8. The Board's work on this priority included keeping oversight of the Business Rates Task and Finish Group and the Fair Funding Review Working Group's work, alongside the LGA's own workplan.
9. The Board reviewed emergent propositions for the basis of fair funding review; discussed and procured the development of two LGA technical models to help authorities analyse the implications of approaches to reflecting council tax in the Fair Funding Review and how future funding shares might work in a number of scenarios; heard updates on the business rates retention timescales and implications; and heard updates on the development of a new Children's Social Care Formula.

Britain's exit from the EU

10. The Leadership Board oversaw the LGA's work on Brexit, including monitoring the LGA's Brexit Task and Finish Group and developing the LGA's 'asks', particularly around local government's role in law making when the UK leaves the EU, structural funding, and councils' involvement with air and sea ports post-Brexit.

Fire Governance

11. The Leadership Board steered the LGA's work on how the LGA should respond to changes in fire governance resulting from the Policing and Crime Act 2017, particularly regarding the transfer of fire governance from some Fire and Rescue Authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners.
12. The Leadership Board heard an update on the changing landscape for fire governance, the LGA's position as the single English stakeholder on the Employers' side of the UK-wide National Joint Council (NJC), and the potential impact on the relationship between the LGA and individual Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who assumed responsibility for fire and rescue services.

Commercial Activity

13. The Leadership Board continued to note reports from the Commercial Advisory Board and hear updates on the progress of the development of a joint venture to deliver an insurance mutual.
14. The Leadership Board oversaw the start-up of a new company within the LGA Group, LGA Commercial Services Ltd, which was created to allow the LGA to form a Joint Venture with Regis and to support future commercial activities, and approved the company's funding.

LGA structure and governance

15. The Leadership Board reviewed, contributed to and agreed the agenda for the LGA's General Assembly 2018, and endorsed the nomination of Lord Kerslake as President of the LGA for a further year. The President was formally elected at the LGA's General Assembly on 3 July 2018.
16. The Leadership Board endorsed the Annual Report of the Audit Committee and recommended it to General Assembly where it was approved.
17. The Leadership Board received an update on the LGA's Associate members and agreed the inclusion of a broad provision for Associate schemes in the supporting Governance Framework to the Articles of Association of the new company.
18. The Leadership Board approved an application from the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels to form an LGA Special Interest Group (SIG).

Membership

19. The Leadership Board received regular updates on membership via the Chief Executive's report and in October 2017 agreed that subscriptions would not change for the coming year.

LGA Political Balance

20. Following the local government elections on the 3 May 2018, the Leadership Board reviewed the process for agreeing the new political balance and the balance itself, which forms the basis of the proportionality for the LGA's governance structures for 2018/19. At the point of calculation the Conservatives were the largest group, retaining the Chairmanship of the Association for the 2018/19.

Finance reporting and Budget Framework

21. The Leadership Board retained oversight of internal and external financial decisions, the LGA Group's budget framework and received regular reports on the LGA's financial performance. The Board also formally agreed the consolidated financial statements for 2017/18 prior to their adoption at the LGA General Assembly on 3 July 2018.

22. The Leadership Board also noted a report on the LGA's Treasury Management investment performance for the year to 31 December 2018.

Property Boards

23. The Leadership Board continued to receive regular updates from the work of the two property boards: LGMB and LGA (Properties).
24. The Leadership Board continued to oversee the completion of the 18 Smith Square refurbishment, and the building handback process to the LGA, in addition to the marketing strategy for letting the remaining floors.
25. The Leadership Board continued to oversee the refurbishment of Layden House throughout the year, including the appointment of the main contractor Gilbert Ash, and kept oversight on project milestones despite delays in Transport for London's response to the LGA's licence application, London Borough of Islington's final planning approvals, and the discovery of vaults underneath Turks Head Yard.

LGA Annual Conference

26. The Leadership Board continued to take on feedback from past LGA Annual Conferences, specifically the 2017 Conference, and focused on potential options for preferred venues for 2021 and beyond looking at costs and benefits to geographical spread.
27. The Leadership Board received drafts and contributed to the final programme for the 2018 Conference.

Communications and Public Affairs

28. The Leadership Board commented on and approved the communications strategy for 2017/18 to 2019/20, and heard performance to date against targets for the previous period, as well as priorities and work for the next three years. The Board also continued to note updates on the LGA's communications activity and progress on corporate campaigns regularly throughout the year.
29. The Leadership Board approved a list of members of the House of Commons, House of Lords, and European Parliament that the LGA would be inviting to be honorary Vice-Presidents for the 2018/19 parliamentary session.
30. The Leadership Board reviewed the annual Perceptions Survey, noted the general positive trajectory of the results, and endorsed an action plan which included increased efforts to keep the membership informed.

LGA Forward Plan

31. The Leadership Board continued to review the Forward Plan of the LGA Executive, Leadership Board and Councillor's Forum on a regular basis to ensure that their respective programmes continued to reflect the main priorities for the LGA and address the biggest issues for the sector.

Partnerships: Local Partnerships and Centre for Public Scrutiny

32. The Leadership Board continued to receive the Local Partnerships' Annual Report which gave an overview into the benefits the organisation has towards local government. Members continued to think about and discuss the ways in which the LGA could continue working with Local Partnerships to mutual benefit.
33. The Leadership Board continued to receive the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Annual Report which gave an overview of the charity's key areas of focus, the work delivered and outcomes achieved. Particular attention was paid to their activity around scrutiny of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and their implications for local authorities, as well as work generally on health scrutiny, housing, and the role of local government in Brexit.

Other activity

34. The Leadership Board heard updates about the performance and support received by certain councils following financial difficulties, and post the failure of Carillion.
35. The Leadership Board also heard and approved changes to the LGA's Pay Policy Statement. Amendments for 2018 included updates to the pension contribution rates; clarification of policy on non-standard grades and spot salaries; amendment to how senior salaries were published; and clarification of the process for temporary appointments.
36. The Leadership Board steered the LGA's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of local government ethical standards.
37. The Leadership Board steered the high level messaging the LGA is adopting for its 2019 Spending Review work.

Conclusion

38. The LGA Leadership Board has worked on a wide range of issues over the past 12 months. Members are invited to consider any lessons to build into the forward planning and any new ways of working for the Board from 1 September 2018.

LGA Business Plan 2018/19

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA's Business Plan, is updated in September each year to align with the LGA's political calendar and to inform the work programmes of the policy boards and Leadership Board.

The current Business Plan contains six external priorities and one internal:-

- *Britain's exit from the EU*
- *Devolution and funding for local government*
- *Inclusive growth, jobs and housing*
- *Children, education and schools*
- *Adult social care and health*
- *Supporting councils*
- *A single voice for local government (internal)*

Based on Leadership Board's discussion, issues arising from Annual Conference, priorities highlighted by the Policy Boards and government announcements, a draft Business Plan will be developed setting out the LGA's priorities and key campaigns for the next 12 months.

The first draft will be presented to Leadership Board on 12 September 2018 and final 2018/19 Business Plan to Leadership Board and Executive for approval and endorsement on 17 and 18 October 2018 respectively.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board provides a steer on the LGA's priorities and campaigns for the next 12 months for inclusion in the 2018/2019 Business Plan.

Action

Initial draft Business Plan to be presented to Leadership Board on 12 September 2018.

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LGA Leadership Board

18 July 2018

Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This report updates members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reform since the June meeting of the Leadership Board.

Recommendation

That members of Leadership Board note this update.

Action

Officers to proceed with delivery of the LGA work programme on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review as directed by the LGA Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group.

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Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update

Introduction

1. This report updates members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and further Business Rates Retention, since the June 2018 meeting of Leadership Board.

Fair Funding Review – delivery of the LGA Fair Funding Review work programme

2. In November 2017 the LGA's Executive and Leadership Board agreed a LGA work programme on the Fair Funding Review. A high level update on this work programme is attached as Appendix A and the following paragraphs provide more detail.
3. As per the previous update, work on evaluation criteria and divergence of relative needs over time is now complete.

Relative needs assessment and council tax adjustment models

4. As agreed at Leadership Board the LGA has commissioned two separate models:
 - 4.1. A needs distribution model to allow local authorities to see the impact of different cost drivers and differential weightings within needs formulae;
 - 4.2. A council tax equalisation model to identify the impact of adjustments for council tax and council tax support on individual authorities.
5. These models provide member authorities with a set of tools to evaluate the impact of future proposals or to enable them to build proposals of their own. The LGA will also use these tools to see if we can reach agreement on some of these issues.
6. The models were cleared through the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review, and Group Leaders.

Transition options appraisal

7. As agreed at previous meetings of the LGA's Leadership Board and Executive, officers have started the commissioning process for an analysis of ways in which transition from the current pattern of funding to the one following the Fair Funding Review and introduction of 75 per cent retention could work.
8. An appointment is expected to be made on the week commencing 16 July, with a delivery deadline of early September.

Fair Funding Review technical working group update

9. The officer-led Fair Funding Review Technical Working Group, attended by officers from all types of local authorities covering all regions and co-chaired by LGA and MHCLG

officials, was due to meet on 10 July. Over the course of the meeting the group is due to discuss:

- 9.1. The Area Cost Adjustment, its role in future relative needs adjustment formulae and ways to update the analysis;
- 9.2. Principles for future transitional arrangements from one pattern of funding to another;
- 9.3. Treatment of historic supported capital borrowing which predates the 2003 prudential borrowing system. There used to be a specific formula to take this into account in the pre-2013 formula grant system.

The next steps of the Fair Funding Review

10. As previously reported to Leadership Board, the Government's work is building towards a wider consultation on the Fair Funding Review, expected in autumn 2018. The consultation is likely to cover:
 - 10.1. The Government's preferred options for the relative needs assessment, in particular the foundation formula and the number and types of service-specific formulae including the cost drivers being explored for each of the formulae.
 - 10.2. The Government's emergent thinking on adjusting for relative resources.
 - 10.3. Potentially, initial thoughts on the transition mechanism.
11. This is in line with the LGA's work programme on the Fair Funding Review, with the core LGA work programme and meetings of the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group all helping explore policy options ahead of the publication of the consultation document.

Business Rates Retention

Commissioning a Business Rates Retention model

12. As previously agreed by Leadership Board and Executive, officers have commissioned a model on business rates retention, which should allow the modelling of features of the system such as setting business rates baseline, reset periods, treatment of losses due to appeals, the level of the safety net and how it is funded, and any levy. Such a model would allow LGA officers to evaluate emerging proposals on the design of further Business Rates Retention as well as provide more informed analysis to the Task and Finish Group, Leadership Board and Executive when considering the LGA's own position. It will also be shared with member authorities.
13. LG Futures have been appointed to produce this model which we expect to be completed by the end of August.

Other Business Rates Retention updates

14. The prospectus for inviting bids for pilots in 2019/20 is still awaited. At this stage no further details are known. Officers have continued to press MHCLG colleagues to provide feedback to areas which were unsuccessful in their bids to become a 2018/19 pilot.
15. As reported to your last meeting, MHCLG was seeking views on a paper on dealing with the impact of appeals centrally. We encouraged authorities to respond to the MHCLG request for comments, and submitted an [LGA response](#) which was cleared by the Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding and Resources Board. The LGA reiterated its support for a centrally managed appeals system as it would reduce the need of authorities to hold provisions to cover appeals. We also stressed the importance of dealing with the impact of appeals on local authorities despite any complexity this creates.
16. The joint MHCLG / LGA officer level Systems Design Working Group met on 27 June to consider the following:
 - 16.1. A paper on different options for resets, including consideration of how to balance desirable criteria such as simplicity, rewarding growth and allowing for needs;
 - 16.2. A paper on options for pooling from MHCLG, looking at how pools can be incentivised in the absence of a levy. Options include allowing pools to carry over more at resets than authorities not in a pool, allowing areas within pools to keep all business rates (along the lines of the previous policy of local growth zones). Local authority representatives felt that fiscal freedoms, such as the ability to change the conditions of grants and to vary the capital and revenue split, would be the most powerful.
 - 16.3. A paper on the criteria for placing non-domestic properties on the local or central list. Proposed criteria would include; the nature and use of the property, its size and geographical spread and its suitability for inclusion on local lists. MHCLG are also considering the possibility of a further criterion, which could be used to transfer properties which are volatile and where the optimal operational solution is for that hereditament to be listed in the central list. They are working on this with a group of authorities particularly affected.

Implications for Wales

17. There are no direct implications for Wales arising from this report as business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review apply to England. The distribution of funding to Welsh local authorities is a devolved matter in Wales.

Financial implications

18. Members of Leadership Board have previously approved spending of LGA reserves on the LGA work programme on the Fair Funding Review and a Business Rates Retention model.



19. Other work outlined in the paper above is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in the 2018/19 budget.

Appendix A. High-level progress update on the LGA Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programme

Project	Purpose and description	Quick update
Criteria for assessing proposed distribution models and methodologies	To give the LGA a structured and consistent way to assess new distribution models.	Complete
Formula grant: update the data	Update the data in the current distribution model (where updated data is available) to see the impact of this on individual allocations separate to any methodology changes. In effect this would provide an updated baseline to inform a discussion on how long the formulae remain 'future proof' without any review of weightings. To help the LGA and member authorities form policy on the data used in the formulae and the frequency of distribution resets, or other ways to 'future proof' the mechanism.	Complete
Distribution model: develop a distribution model	A model to allow local authorities to see the impact of different key cost drivers and differential weightings. To help the LGA and member councils evaluate the impact of various Government and stakeholder proposals on their council and to allow them to put forward their own proposals	Clearance Completed
Council tax equalisation: develop an equalisation model	A model to identify the impact of adjustments for council tax and council tax support on individual authorities. To inform LGA policy and to help individual member councils evaluate Government proposals.	Clearance Completed
Damping /transition mechanisms	An analysis of historic damping / transition mechanisms and a model to inform discussions on the guiding principles of transition. To inform LGA and member authorities' policy.	Suppliers to be appointed w/c 16 July
Business Rates Retention model	A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of system design choices in areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting of business rates baselines; • The extent and frequency of business rates resets; • Dealing with losses due to appeals; • The level of the safety net and how it is funded; and • The split of business rates income in two-tier areas. 	Suppliers appointed; work expected to be delivered by Autumn 2018

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2018 Annual Reports

Purpose

For information and decision.

Summary

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are required, under the LGA Constitution, to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year.

Copies of the SIG Annual Reports received to date are included at **Appendix B**.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

1. considers if it has any future requirements in respect of Special Interest Groups;
2. indicates if it wishes to invite any Special Interest Groups to a future meeting to discuss their work.

Action

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Leadership Board's views.

Contact officer: Paul Goodchild
Position: Member Services Manager
Phone no: 020 7664 3005
Email: paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2018 Annual Reports

Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for member authorities with common characteristics or interests to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The LGA's Statement for Special Interest Groups is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Currently there are nineteen SIGs which have been approved by the LGA Leadership Board. A list of current groupings can be found at **Appendix B**.

2018 Annual Reports

3. All SIGs are required to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year outlining: the aims and objectives of the group; its current membership and lead authority; and key activities and outcomes of any work undertaken during the past year.
4. Sixteen SIGs have submitted an annual reports this year. The remaining SIGs who have not yet submitted reports are:
 - 4.1. Shared Chief Executives SIG (*This SIG became dormant as of January 2016, however do not wish to disband*);
 - 4.2. Co-operative Councils Network; and
 - 4.3. National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels (*This SIG is exempt from submitting a report this year having only been established in June 2018*).

Financial Implications

5. SIGs are encouraged to raise their own resources from their membership and administer these resources themselves. The LGA does not pay any allowances or travel and subsistence costs to members attending SIG meetings.
6. The LGA does however offer limited administrative support and the use of certain meeting rooms, free of charge up to a certain limit, set out in the Statement for SIGs.
7. As a result of the refurbishment of 18 Smith Square, and given the overall reduction in meeting rooms in the refurbished building and the stronger commercial emphasis, SIGs have been offered a reduced selection of rooms available free of charge, with other rooms being available at a reduced rate.

Statement on Special Interest Groups

Introduction

1. The LGA Constitution provides for 10 or more full member authorities with common features, interests or concerns to form a Special Interest Group (SIG). Under exceptional circumstances, the LGA Leadership Board may agree for smaller groups of councils to establish a SIG.

LGA Constitution – clause 15

- 15.1 *If ten or more full member authorities with common features, interests or concerns so request by formal notice to the Chief Executive, the Association, acting through the LGA Leadership Board, may establish a Special Interest Group (SIG) for such authorities. Membership shall be open to all member authorities with such common features.*
- 15.2 *In any case of doubt as to whether an authority is eligible for membership of a SIG, the LGA Leadership Board shall determine the matter.*
- 15.3 *The Association may provide secretarial services to SIGs, having regard to the overall level of resources available to the Association, provided it is satisfied that the SIG's activities accord with the strategic direction and interests of the Association as a whole. SIGs may provide their own, or augment Association support, through resources raised from member authorities.*
- 15.4 *Special Interest Groups shall develop their own rules of procedure subject to the approval of the LGA Leadership Board. Each Special Interest Group shall report annually on its activities to the LGA Leadership Board.*

Rules of Operation of SIGs

2. If requested, and subject to the availability of resources, the LGA will provide:
 - ✓ secretarial support to Special Interest Groups for up to a maximum of 3 meetings per year in London;
 - ✓ free use of commercial meeting rooms on floor seven of 18 Smith Square for up to 6 meetings a year (any additional bookings or rooms on other floors will be charged at LGA membership discounted rate);
 - ✓ catering at normal LGA rates.

The LGA is a paperless organisation, therefore printing and hardcopy mailing will not be supported in line with the LGA's internal policies.

3. The LGA will not make any payments to members attending SIGs, including:
 - × Attendance allowances
 - × SRAs
 - × Subsistence

These expenses remain the responsibility of member authorities.

4. SIGs are permitted to raise any resources they might need to support their activities and running costs from their member authorities.
5. SIGs are able to make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest, and to obtain LGA assistance in doing so. However those representations must not conflict with or undermine LGA policy as a whole or damage the interests of other member authorities. The LGA has agreed protocols relating to local government finance and other distributional issues.
6. All SIGs are required to submit a full report at the end of April each year to the LGA Leadership Board covering such matters as their dealings with Government Departments. The Leadership Board reserves the right to invite the Chairman of a SIG to discuss an Annual Report or issues arising from it.
7. SIGs may also be required to report to the appropriate board, whose remit covers the SIG's particular area of interest.
8. The LGA will review support for SIGs annually.

Application to set up a SIG

9. Applications to establish a SIG should be made in writing and sent to:

Chief Executive or memberservices@local.gov.uk
LGA
18 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

10. Applications should:

10.1. define the purpose of the SIG and the nature of the common feature or interest

10.2. include the names of at least 10 authorities in full membership who have committed to join the SIG

10.3. undertake to admit to membership all authorities who share that interest ¹

¹ In case of any dispute over whether an authority is eligible for membership of a particular SIG, the LGA Leadership Board will decide.



County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	County Councils Network (CCN)
Lead Member:	Cllr Paul Carter, CCN Chairman
Lead Officer:	Simon Edwards, Director

Overview

Vision

To ensure CCN is an influential and respected network, advocating innovative policy solutions on the challenges facing local government and the wider public sector.

Aim

Ensure Counties have the powers and resources to meet the needs and aspirations of their residents on issues of particular importance to our councils and their communities.

CCN Core Functions

The 2018/19 business plan set out the 'core business' and activity that CCN delivers on behalf of our member councils as a special interest group (SIG) of the LGA, including;

National Advocacy & Representation

Our network acts as the informed and representative voice for County Councils and Unitary Counties in England. We represent and advocate on behalf our members within the LGA; make direct representations to Whitehall departments; and collaborate closely with national stakeholders.

Research & Policy Development

Combining our national level expertise and our members' frontline policy experience we produce and commission sector-based, forward thinking, research on behalf of our members and the wider public sector to provide innovative policy solutions to key challenges facing our residents.

Sharing & Promoting Best Practice

Through various platforms, including an Annual Conference, workshops, seminars, publications, research and reports we identify and share best practice across our network to enable our members, and wider public sector, to tackle the economic and social problems faced by local communities.

National Collaboration and Commissioning

The CCN works with a wide network of industry stakeholders. This includes the LGA, ACCE, SCT, ADASS, DCN and Professional Associations, as well as think-tanks, private and public sector local government partners. We seek to commission work to support our research, policy and advocacy to supplement key skills of the CCN team.

Communications & Public Affairs

CCN acts to raise the profile of the network and represent County and County Unitary Councils in the broadcast, online and print media; articulating members' views, showcasing best practice, neutralising general threats to our members' reputation. CCN seeks to influence national stakeholders through a comprehensive public affairs strategy - engaging civil servants, Ministers and other key influencers.

Political Leadership

Each Council in CCN membership nominates four elected members to serve on the **CCN Council**, and the Leader of each member council sits on the **CCN Executive Committee**. Top up places are used to ensure political proportionality on both CCN Council and Executive Committees.

The CCN Council AGM elects the **CCN Management Committee** which comprises the Chairman and a Vice Chairmen from each of the political groups. The members of the CCN Management Committee elected at the AGM September 2016 are:

- **Chairman**
Cllr Paul Carter (Kent County Council)
- **Vice Chairmen**
Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire County Council)
Cllr Simon Henig (Durham County Council)
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Wiltshire Council)

CCN also has eight Spokesmen who have been appointed to lead on specific issues in relation to the CCN work programme.

CCN Officer Team

The work of the network is supported by a small core team based in Local Government House in Westminster.

Director	Simon Edwards
Head of Policy & Communications	James Maker
Senior Policy Officer	Michael Chard
Senior Policy Officer	Peter French
Senior Policy Officer	James Holden
Media & Communications Officer	Ian Burbidge
Public Affairs Officer	Victoria Moloney
Executive Assistant	Phoebe Ward

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Over the past 12 months CCN has succeeded in delivering the core objectives set out in our Business Plan and Work Programme, continuing our progress as an effective membership, research and policy development organisation and delivering real, tangible changes in government policy.

CCN has increased our national profile and enhanced our position as the leading voice for county and county unitary authorities. Our profile and engagement across Whitehall, Parliament and third-party stakeholders has been significantly improved, with CCN extending its reach within Government Departments, including MHCLG, the Treasury, Departments for Education, Health, and Business.

CCN has seen a significant increase in our media profile, with an exponential rise in national and trade media hits.

CCN has undertaken a range of major research and policy projects, leading to the delivery of several highly influential and respected reports by;

- Localis – [*In Place of Work: Influencing Local Care Markets*](#)
- LaingBuisson – [*County Care Markets Update 2017*](#)
- Republica – [*Devo 2.0: The Case for Counties*](#)
- Oxford Economics - [*Understanding County Economies*](#)
- Pixel Financial Management – [*100% Business Rates Retention Modelling*](#)

Key activities/outcomes over the last 12 months include:-

Local Government Settlement: This year, CCN's targeted advocacy was directly responsible for delivering £166m additional funding, £78.4m of which went to our member councils. This was delivered through a measured campaign, working closely with County MPs and County Leaders, focusing on the unique financial pressures facing county authorities and rural areas.

• **Adult Social Care:** With sector stakeholders, CCN's lobbying for specific resources for adult social care helped deliver £2bn additional funding over three years. We have maintained our pressure since the announcement to ensure that councils have maximum flexibility in investing resources. We have continually raised concerns over centrally imposed, disproportionate delayed discharge targets, and our opposition to any reduction in funding as a consequence.

• **Fairer Funding:** CCN has mainstreamed the debate on fair funding through our concerted national advocacy and support for member councils' local campaigns. Our advocacy has helped ensure that the Government adopted a 'cost drivers' approach to measuring relative need in the recently published consultation, and secured a much stronger focus on rurality and elderly populations, with both now proposed as cost drivers. Our advocacy also resulted in a small, but still significant, uplift in schools funding following revisions to the schools funding formula.

• **Business Rates Retention:** We are shaping the way councils will be funded in the future as part of the Joint LGA/MHCLG Steering Group and have published new research to make the case for a system that works for counties. CCN are leading calls for the Government to devolve 100% of business rates resources to local areas to meet the £2.54bn funding gap facing our member councils. As part of our work on business rates retention, CCN actively supported member councils in making the case for an extension of

business rates pilots to rural areas, helping to secure eight pilots for 2018/19. Our lobbying also ensured that all pilots contained a 'no detriment clause'.

- **Devolution:** In 2017, our calls to drop the devolution requirement of Directly Elected Mayors for county areas were heeded. Alongside this change, CCN's call for a more open, transparent and structured approach to devolution through the publication of a 'common framework' was officially adopted as Government policy. CCN's recent report with Respublica has been cited by the Secretary of State as part of the evidence informing the development of the framework.

- **Reform:** CCN continued to shape the national narrative on local government reorganisation. We have published ground-breaking independent research and provided direct policy development to support those member councils who wish to pursue reform. This helped secure a unitary decision in Dorset and supported Buckinghamshire County Council to receive a 'minded to' decision. More widely, our research and policy development provides analysis to inform and defend member councils where proposals by district councils to split up county areas are not supported by County Councils.

- **County Elections:** In partnership with the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU), CCN ran the 'Out for Count' campaign during local elections in May 2017. Our two month project profiled the county elections on a national stage to encourage democratic participation, utilising the platform as part of Your County Matters campaign to showcase the vital services our member councils provide in a difficult financial climate. The campaign received input from across all our member councils on social media in the lead up to, and during, the elections and received national media coverage.



LGA Coastal SIG Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	LGA Coastal SIG
Lead Member:	Cllr Andy Smith
Lead Officer:	Bill Parker

Aim /

LGA Coastal SIG Mission Statement (<https://lgacoastalsig.com/about/mission-statement/>) The LGA Coastal SIG will champion and take forward the coastal strategy and represent the collective interests of all maritime local authorities by:

- a. bringing pressure on the Government to achieve a step change in the level of funding to overcome present and future problems;
- b. use every opportunity to secure full involvement of local Government at all levels of policy formulation concerning the coast;
- c. strongly oppose any changes which take responsibility and decision-making powers out of the hands of local democratic leaders.

(ToR agreed 11 December 2007. Available at <https://lgacoastalsig.com/about/terms-of-reference/>)

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Funding A critical issue for Maritime LAs is the loss of Formula funding for their responsibilities for Coast Protection against Erosion, specifically for asset maintenance and project development. EA flood protection assets and project development are funded by DEFRA, but LAs' erosion assets are not. The SIG are directly involved in formative discussions with senior officials in the Treasury, DEFRA and the EA on this issue through the fair funding review.

Similarly, the core DEFRA funding regime for Flood and Coastal Erosion is now under review ahead of the completion of the current 6 year programme. Fundamental change is needed at the conceptual level, to expand the concept from protection of individual homes to a much wider view encompassing infrastructure, the Growth Agenda and adaptation to climate change. Again the SIG are involved at the core of Treasury / DEFRA / EA policy making for this area. The SIG has a major joint work stream with Coastal Partnership East on Innovative Funding techniques whereby commercial large scale funding from the City could become feasible.

Skills and capacity This is again a critical matter for Coastal LAs, with the loss by retirement of many of the few remaining Coastal Engineers. Recruiting appropriately trained individuals and retaining skill sets continues to be very problematic particularly for engineers, where LAs compete with consultancies and banks for those leaving university. The more forward looking LAs are successfully addressing this issue by forming multi-LA partnerships, and the SIG are strongly promoting this approach to all member LAs.

Consultations The SIG has during the past year been fortunate to further position itself whereby a range of different Government Departments now see the SIG as the first port of call for advice or input on many topics, notably FCERM issues, but also more widely on coastal safety, Resort Regeneration, infrastructure protection and others. In particular, at ministerial level in DEFRA and Chairman, Board and Senior Director level in the EA we have many ongoing discussions, both formal and informal on both funding and process issues. Very recently we have been invited by the new House of Lords Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Resorts to submit both written evidence and oral evidence at a Committee Hearing in July, and to organise an autumn meeting of relevant Resort LA Leaders and Chief Executives.

All of this is outwith responses to formal consultations:

4 consultation responses this year

MHCLG Draft revised National Planning Policy Framework.

National Infrastructure Commission. The SIG highlighted that coastal assets did not appear to be considered as infrastructure.

Fair Funding Review, SIG responded and particularly highlighted the issues around change from Revenue Support Grant to Business Rates.

Defra consultation on microbeads.

Adaptation A workshop was held to better understand the problems that exist around moving villages and communities away from land eroding into the sea. This work was collated into a document for Defra and was subsequently signed by Floods minister Dr Thérèse Coffey. The SIG continue to apply pressure on this challenging topic.

HMG's 25 Year Environmental Plan will be at the core of much policy making affecting coastal LAs, around the core concept of Natural Capital. The Chairman created a document of extracts of the relevant sections of the 25YEP which relate to the coast, available [here](#). The 25YEP states that the [Coastal Concordat](#) will be rolled out to all LAs by 2020. The Concordat was developed by the MMO, the Chairman and others 5 years ago to reduce barriers and bureaucracy for applicant for developments in the inter-tidal area, but implementation has been hindered by lack of commitment by MHCLG to enshrine this in the terrestrial Planning system. The SIG commenced work to use the 25YEP context to make fresh progress on this.

Sharing good practice The SIG continues many work streams on this, including work ongoing to provide standard format for collecting LA coastal asset data to match that of the Environment Agency, our annual study tour, in 2017 hosted by Maldon District Council, work with Trinity House, the Crown Estate, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and Partnership Working in a disparate variety of contexts. The SIG supported and exhibited at the Flood and Coast Conference 2018, presented a Workshop on this topic, and made many valuable new contacts, The SIG promoted a Sandmotor study tour in the Netherlands in April 2018, when 28 coastal reps from LAs learned much about their innovative and high quality coastal management.

Councils with ALMOs SIG Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Councils with ALMOs Group
Lead Member:	Manchester City Council
Lead Officer:	Rob Main- Newark and Sherwood District Council (CWAG Chair)

Aim
 CWAG is the representative body of stock owning authorities where the housing stock is managed by Arm's Length Management Organisations (ALMOs).

CWAG aims to have an active role in influencing the national policy agenda, particularly in respect of ALMOs.

As a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), CWAG is keen to work with the LGA to inform and influence policy activity on housing so it reflects the needs and concerns of Councils with ALMOs.

The Group aims to provide an effective link between member authorities, government departments and others with a national policy and operational remit affecting councils with ALMOs.

CWAG aims to develop positive partnerships with ALMOs, the National Federation of ALMOs and others to ensure best outcome for tenants / leaseholders.

The Group is also a forum for member authorities; providing mutual support, facilitating the exchange of ideas and sharing best practice between members.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken
 During the past year the CWAG Work Programme has focussed on the following key priorities:

Responding to the National Policy Agenda

The Grenfell Fire and forthcoming Social Housing Green Paper have dominated the policy landscape over past year.

CWAG has been working closely with the LGA, Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) and the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) to develop a shared understanding and response across the council sector.

As a group we met MHCLG officials working on the Green Paper and sent representatives to the Department's Local Authority Roundtable consultations on the Green Paper.

We are also jointly investigating the potential to evidence examples of good practice in the key areas covered by the review. Overall, we aim to develop a more aligned approach so as to be well placed to respond once the Green Paper is published.

Regular policy updates and analysis are provided for CWAG members through the programme of General Meetings and email / online news updates.

Providing support for CWAG Members – Networking and Sharing Good Practice

CWAG continues to provide opportunities for members to network and share information with other councils with ALMOs who face similar issues.

The CWAG website (<http://www.councilswithalmos.org.uk>) includes a ‘members’ area with noticeboard, discussion forum, document library and topic areas where information, case studies and other material from member authorities can be shared.

In the autumn last year we launched the ‘CWAG News Update’ which aims to keep members up to date with important policy developments, briefings and relevant housing news.

The members’ survey and other feedback provide the basis for planning events and setting the priorities within the work programme.

We have introduced Executive Member Champions who will lead for the Group on particular topics and specialisms.

CWAG Meetings and Events

The programme of General Meetings and workshops is a key part of the CWAG “offer” to its members. Attendance at these events is included in the annual subscription fee and meeting topics are identified from member feedback and suggestions.

In the past year the programme has covered a range of topics, with presentations and input from a range of guest speakers and sector experts.

Examples

- The Housing White Paper – Implications for councils with ALMOs – Catherine Hand, Trowers and Hamlins
- Flexible / Fixed term tenancies – overview of proposals and case studies from CWAG members
- ALMO relationships with councils – how these are changing – Maggie Rafalowicz, Campbell Tickell

- LGA Policy Briefing – Nick Porter
- Showing of the film ‘Dispossession – the great social housing swindle’ a challenging examination of the current approaches to estate regeneration and the way these are impacting on the communities affected.
- Finance and Business Planning Workshop – facilitated by Simon Smith, HQN



District Councils Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	District Councils Network
Lead Member:	Cllr John Fuller
Lead Officer:	Matthew Hamilton – DCN Director (Paul Shevlin is the DCN Chief Executive Group Chair)

Aim

The District Councils' Network (DCN) aim is to be the national voice of District Councils, working with our authorities, partners and government to deliver national growth and prosperity at a scale that resonates and reflects how local communities live their lives.

The DCN have four core themes which the priorities of our workstreams are guided by:

1. Stronger Economies

Districts are integral to the UK's future prosperity as the Planning, Housing and Growth Authorities, growing the national economy, one local economy at a time.

2. Better Lives

Districts ensure that no one gets left behind by tackling the complex needs of today whilst preventing the social challenges of tomorrow. We act at a scale where it is possible to solve problems rather than simply manage caseloads.

3. Enhancing Quality of Life

Districts play a crucial role as local leaders who are on the side of residents. Our priorities are shaped by our understanding of and engagement with local communities. Districts protect and enhance quality of life by safeguarding our environment, promoting public health and leisure and creating attractive places to live, work and raise families

Core issues/existing workstreams.

4. Sustainable Finance and Workforce

Districts must work within a financial framework that incentivises and rewards local growth, whilst supporting those areas in greatest need

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

This year the DCN has worked hard to promote the interests of our members and ensure their voice is heard even louder on a national platform. We have increased our

parliamentary engagement and facilitated meetings with over 25 different ministers and members of parliament.

As a small team of 3, we have continued to work with our members, the LGA and other outside bodies to deliver for our members. The DCN arranges 6 meetings of both its Executive Member Board and its Chief Executive Group. Particularly of note are the following partnership projects:

- Launching the first report of the All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils on collaboration and devolution. The report attracted the previous minister for local government, Marcus Jones MP, as its champion and was also the subject of an adjournment debate which further raised the profile of the importance of district councils in the current local government landscape. The report can be found here:

<http://districtcouncils.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Collaboration-and-devolution-inquiry-final-version.pdf>

- Launching the new 'transformation in localities' toolkit with Grant Thornton. This unique piece of work was designed to help our members understand collaborative opportunities and enable them to navigate their economic, health and labour geographies effectively in order to inform truly localised service delivery and partnerships. The toolkit included examples of best practise and distilled lessons which could be shared amongst all our members. The toolkit has been formally recognised by Minister for local government, Rishi Sunak MP as a "wonderful document which showcases ground-breaking work". The report can be found here: <http://districtcouncils.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-05-16-GT.1260-District-Councils-Network-toolkit-.pdf>

- Following the success of our first annual conference in 2017, the DCN hosted its second National Conference on the 8-9 February entitled 'Better Lives and Stronger Economies'. The LGA worked with the DCN on the event management which was absolutely key in achieving the highly professional level it was delivered at. We were delighted that over 200 people attended this high profile and successful two day event which featured the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local government, Sajid Javid MP, as well as Rishi Sunak MP and Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell and Duncan Selbie. The event was a resounding success with excellent feedback from delegates, strong endorsement of the work and importance of district councils by Ministers and the opportunity to reach a wider audience.

The DCN also arranges 3 further meetings of the wider assembly alongside a bespoke Chief Executives Conference as well as a staff development programme for 70 aspiring district council staff.

Our membership engagement has further increased, with over 83% of our member attending at least one event in the past year. This is a significant increase from our 2016/17 level of approximately 50%.

We have also had success in influencing government on the following items:

- the ability for districts to increase in planning fees by 20%
- no further increase of the New Homes Bonus baseline
- Additional £42 million Disabled Facilities Grant funding, which came directly to Districts.
- Specific recognition from Sir Oliver Letwin of the need to give greater powers to councils to rebalance contractual relationship once land is allocated
- Pressed for a commitment to review negative RSG which affects three quarters of our members, the consultation is due to be published in the upcoming weeks.
- continue to call for the flexibility to increase council tax up to £7.50 per annum in district areas.

The DCN will continue making the forceful argument to government about the value district councils deliver to those that they serve which we will do throughout the coming year.

F40 Campaign for Fair School Funding Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	F40 campaign for fair school funding
Lead Member:	Cllr Ivan Ould, Leicestershire County Council
Lead Officer:	Doug Allan, Secretary

Aim

To organise an all-party campaign for fairer funding for schools in the worst funded authorities in England.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

f40's central aim over more than 20 years has been to influence a significant change in the way the government allocates funding to local authorities and schools. The allocations for primary and secondary pupils in the authorities in the f40 group are among the lowest in the country. A major breakthrough occurred when the government recognised that a new, fairer and more transparent school funding system should be introduced and a two-part consultation was launched in 2016 (the principles) and 2017 (proposals for changing the funding formula).

f40 was concerned that the initial formula proposals did not give enough to basic entitlement and allowed too much for add-ons. We were further concerned that the proposals locked in existing inequalities. However, we particularly welcomed the £1.3billion funding reallocated within the education budget to help finance our schools in 2018-19 and 2019-20, the guarantee of minimum funding that each primary and secondary school will attract and the potential for fast gains in per pupil funding for the very lowest funded schools.

Although f40 viewed the overall outcome as another step towards fairer funding and the removal of significant inequities in the funding allocation system, the group continues to have fundamental concerns about the new formula, In a survey of members there was unanimous recognition that there is still more work to do to tackle remaining locked-in inequalities.

The group has now set its new goals for a continuing campaign:

Schools

- f40 wants a significant increase in the amount invested in education funding to meet the cost pressures facing all schools (f40 is awaiting access to Department of Education datasets in order to be able to calculate the shortfall).
- f40 continues to argue for an index-linked activity led formula which can be used for ensuring sufficient funding in the system and to define what the proportion for additional educational needs should be and can be used to support policy changes in the system to enable schools to meet post-Brexit needs.
- f40 wants one National Funding Formula (NFF) without the need for Minimum Funding Levels (MFL) and long-term locked in protections. If the MFL is to stay, then it should take

account of the additional educational needs (AEN) of schools and be fairly applied to support the different levels of AEN.

- f40 wants continued flexibility to move funding to support specific local issues or organisational requirements.
- f40 wants to see the setting out of plans for the funding formula from 2020 onwards. Schools need to know whether there will be sufficient funding in the education budget to achieve the aims of the formula and when the government will move to a system of direct funding to schools rather than via local authorities.
- f40 wants the establishment of rolling three to four-year budget settlements for schools which are inflation-proofed and include funding for cost-of-living increases.

High Needs

- f40 seeks an appropriate quantum of funding for the high needs block (which should be index-linked). This needs to take into account the increasing demands of higher needs as medical improvements take place. It also needs to retrospectively support the increase in post-19 demand for education.
- f40 seeks an increase in capital funding to meet the additional demand for local specialist places at an affordable price.
- f40 would like to see the promotion of inclusive behaviours in schools, to stop schools passing a problem on. This would include national support for making cultural change, with change to legislation where necessary.

Early Years

- f40 seeks a review of the early years national formula to make it fit for future use.
- f40 wants an appropriate quantum of funding for early years providers to take account of the pressures of the living wage and the impact of 30 hours.

Central Schools Services Block

- f40 seeks clarity on the way that the block will work and be increased in future.

f40 has undertaken significant work on updating its own formula proposals which are based on a 'bottom up' construction of the real costs of running a school. Although this work was presented to the Department for Education, they failed to accept it as a way forward. We continue to believe in its validity for future adjustment of the NFF.

Over the last few years MPs representing f40 constituencies have increasingly been supportive and we have worked harder than ever to develop our campaign through links with the LGA, CCN, individual local authorities, schools, governors, schools forums and education professional organisations including the NAHT, ASCL and NGA.

We have maintained our media relations at both national and regional levels. There has been extensive coverage of our activities on television and in the press.

Key Cities Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Key Cities
Lead Member:	Cllr Peter Box CBE (Leader, Wakefield Council)
Lead Officer:	Merran McRae (Chief Executive, Wakefield Council)

Aims

The Key Cities Group aims to provide focus, collaboration of learning and a unified voice to ensure that those cities within the group are more visible and are consistently represented in policy-making at a national level. We are working to lobby Government and engage with critical Government Ministers based on a clear and consistent set of key asks and messages which are unique to our group – in order to influence sufficient influence over the national agenda.

WHAT IS THE GROUP'S PURPOSE?

- To provide a united voice for mid-sized cities
- To make the case for greater investment in our cities
- To share expertise and promote collaboration between cities, sectors and industries to seize post-Brexit opportunities
- Develop policy to strengthen resilience, and improve economic performance and social cohesion in our cities

WHAT MAKES KEY CITIES UNIQUE?

- Available land with room to expand
- Diversifying economies
- Reduced dependence on single industries
- Targeted and sophisticated strategies to support economic development
- Major strengths in manufacturing and exports
- The Key Cities represent the urban Brexit 'Leave' vote. As such, we are working to understand how we ensure Brexit becomes a benefit to the UK, our places and our citizens.

WHAT DO KEY CITIES OFFER?

- Strong returns on public investment to boost productivity
- 'Test beds' for innovative government policies
- Agility to respond quickly to new opportunities
- A strong partnership with central Government

Key Activities / Outcomes of work

Group Meetings

The Key Cities Executive Group meet on average 6 times a year, with Full Group meetings taking place quarterly.

APPG

We are supported by an All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster. We work with MPs across the political spectrum to raise the profile and voice of the Key Cities and make the case for greater investment in our cities. Our APPG was re-launched on the 28th April 2018.

Meetings with Ministers

Productive meetings and engagement with Ministers, including;

- Jake Berry - Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Housing, Communities and Local Government) – to discuss the role of mid-sized cities in the UK economy and in the Northern Powerhouse
- Rishi Sunak MP – the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government – to discuss the Fair Funding Review and broader interests of the Key Cities Group.
- Lord Henley - Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - to discuss the Industrial Strategy and broader interests of the Key Cities Group.

Vision / Policy Brochures

- Developing a two part brochure outlining our vision, asks and offers to government, and policy positions across a range of themes relevant to Local Government and aligned to the Key Cities portfolios.
- Part 1 of the brochure is being launched on 27th June in Parliament, (an initial visioning document) with Part 2 of the brochure (containing more detailed asks and offers) being launched in Parliament in the Autumn.

Conferences and Events

- Young People's Conference held in Huddersfield (hosted by Kirklees Council) on the 25th July 2018
- Fringe event at the LGA's annual conference in Birmingham, 6-7pm on the 4th July
- Beyond Brexit conference planned for the Autumn

Media activity

- Significant press coverage and media activity/commentary across a range of issues effecting local government from the perspective of the medium sized city – coverage across trade and national and local press – including the Guardian, LGC, MJ, and Citymetric.

Collaborative partnerships

- Developing relationships and linkages with think tanks and universities to develop policy positions on a range of issues relevant to local government.
- Working in collaboration with other local government networks including the Core Cities, County Council's Network, SIGOMA, and the Industrial Communities Alliance.

Government consultation responses

- Recent responses include the Autumn Statement, Fair Funding Review, and Integrated Communities.

Other projects

- Co-sponsored the National 'Cultural Cities Enquiry' with the Arts Council and the Core Cities – a National Enquiry focusing on the economic benefits of cultural activity and assets within local city economies
- Memorandum of Understanding developed with the Business Services Alliance – to further develop relationships with the Business Services sector to support communities to develop the skills needed for the future.

Local Authority Pension Fund Forum Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Local Authority Pension Fund Forum
Lead Member:	LAPFF Executive Committee
Lead Officer:	Ian Greenwood, LAPFF Acting Chair

Aim

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is the UK's leading collaborative shareholder engagement group. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together 75 public sector pension funds from across the UK with combined assets of over £230 billion, representing a majority of funds under management by local authorities.

LAPFF exists to promote the investment interests of local authority pension funds in the UK, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.

Forum members meet quarterly to discuss and debate a broad range of investment issues concerned with shareholder responsibilities and engagement activities. During the year, members discuss papers on a wide range of topics, with meetings being serviced by PIRC Limited, as the appointed research and engagement partner to the Forum. Keith Bray, formerly County Treasurer at South Glamorgan County Council and Director of Finance at the City of Cardiff Council, is the Forum officer with the role of promoting the work of LAPFF generally and amongst existing and prospective members.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

LAPFF provides a unique opportunity for discussion of investment issues and shareholder engagement by for local authority pension funds. Member fund investment policies have important implications for beneficiaries, local communities, council tax payers and the wider economy.

- During the year under review, LAPFF has participated in over one hundred company engagements. This has included sending at least 36 letters to companies and attending over 40 meetings with companies. This engagement has taken place across eight domiciles. LAPFF also actively engaged in the 2017 AGM season, attending 12 AGMs and issuing 14 voting alerts. These alerts were primarily related to remuneration and climate resilience. LAPFF's work has also been covered by a wide variety of different UK and global media outlets during the past year.

- LAPFF's involvement in the policy sphere was maintained through responses to consultations ranging from ethnic diversity and gender imbalance to climate-related disclosure and financial reporting standards
- Through the media coverage, regulators, parliamentarians and companies, LAPFF continued to challenge the FRC on its position on the 'true and fair view' required of accounts by Company Law and raise awareness of the issue. LAPFF also met with FRC representatives to voice the Forum's concerns.
- LAPFF further developed its low carbon transition engagement strategy with Carbon Tracker and partnered with the 50/50 Climate Project. The Forum issued voting recommendations for resolutions at PPL, Chevron and Exxon Mobil, in support of analysis and reports evaluating the impact of a two-degree scenario on the business. The resolutions at Exxon and PPL received majority backing of shareholders.
- The Forum engaged with a number of companies over employment standards and practices. Of LAPFF's 38 engagements on social risk during the year, 21 such engagements covered employment standards. One of these companies was Sports Direct. A LAPFF Executive member attended the AGM and annual financial review Q&A. LAPFF also issued two voting alerts opposing the Chairman, CEO and Senior Independent Director, and calling for an independent review of work practices.
- To enhance the Forum's understanding of best practice in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) LAPFF published a trustee guide 'The Case for Engaging on M&A: Raising Standards of Corporate Governance by Asking the Right Questions'. LAPFF also met with a number of company Chairs on M&A including Shire, Tesco, Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life.
- LAPFF continued its membership of the 30% Club Investor Group promoting greater female representation at management and board level. The Forum engaged on gender diversity with several companies from the real estate sector.
- As cyber security ranks as one of the biggest concerns for investors, LAPFF has sought further detail and assurances from companies about how they are mitigating the risks posed.
- The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Local Authority Pension Funds, set up by LAPFF, continued to meet throughout the year. The APPG is chaired by Clive Betts MP, chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. LAPFF has also continued running fringe meeting events during the party political conference season at the Labour, Conservative and Scottish Nationalist Party conferences.
- Growing support for LAPFF's work has been evidenced by membership growing to 75 funds during the year.

National Association of British Market Authorities Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA)
Lead Member:	
Lead Officer:	Mr Graham Wilson OBE, Chief Executive

Aim

To facilitate communication between Members and others, and between the Association and Departments of the Government and other public bodies on matters of common interest affecting the administration of markets and matters incidental thereto ((a) in promoting or opposing new legislation; (b) in amending existing legislation; (c) in regard to the administration of legislation, relating to markets and matters incidental thereto.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

2017/18 was another successful year for NABMA. Engagement with Government was via our Love Your Local Market programme and we continued to assess the economic impact of markets on towns throughout the UK. We continue to work with partners in WUWM that enabled the concept of Love Your Local Market to go global.

NABMA had an increasing membership and the Conferences and other events attracted a large number of delegates.

Our annual conference at Stratford Upon Avon and the one day seminar at Birmingham again attracted a large number of delegates.

The Great British Market Awards, promoted by NABMA, provided a wide range of entries for each category and that demonstrated the quality and innovation clearly evident at many markets across the UK. In 2018 there was a high media interest in this competition.

NABMA continues to emphasise that markets should not be seen in isolation and the organisation has always appreciated its link with the LGA and would like to develop this in the year ahead.

NABMA, as a Special Interest Group, can only operate successfully if there continues to be a structure within the LGA which enables the LGA and Special Interest Groups to work together within a proper structure where the flow of information is effective and meaningful. These discussions did not take place in 2017/18 and we would hope that they can be put into the diary for 2018/19.

In the months ahead, NABMA is looking to appoint a new Chief Executive and to re-evaluate the structure of the organisation. It now also operates as a separate company in terms of trading but its aims, objectives, and work programme remain consistent with its heritage. Finally, in 2019 NABMA will celebrate its 100th anniversary. This is a very

important year and, as such, dialogue with the LGA to promote markets in a wider forum would be appreciated.

New Nuclear Local Authorities Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group
Lead Member:	Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal District Council
Lead Officer:	Lisa Chandler, Suffolk Coastal District Council

Aim

NNLAG's primary aim remains to share knowledge, information and best practice regarding new nuclear, and to provide a mechanism for local authorities, as elected representatives of local areas, to discuss and make representations direct to Government regarding the development of new nuclear and of nuclear-related connection / transmission projects.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Key activities / outcomes of work undertaken:

1. In the absence of a willing deputy stepping forward and no volunteer for replacing the existing Chairman, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft will remain the elected Chairman of NNLAG. A Deputy is likely to come forward in the next few months who would then take the Chair at the 2019 NNLAG conference. The next Chair would be expected to serve for a period of 2 years.
2. During 2017-18 officer meetings were held in June 2017, November 2017, January 2018 and March 2018. These take forward the sharing of knowledge and information as the new nuclear build picture emerges nationally, we also seek NNLAG view on certain issues raised by government including consultations.
3. In addition to the officer meetings, there was an NNLAG visit to the construction site at Hinkley Point C in June 2017 where the construction site was viewed as well as a tour of associated developments (authorised and unauthorised) in the vicinity.
4. The NNLAG conference was held in March 2018 and was hosted by Maldon District Council and Essex County Council in Maldon District. Councillors, officers and invited guests, including promoters from new nuclear development sites, heard from a wide range of speakers and panels and from a senior official at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
5. The co-ordination of the group remains with Suffolk Coastal District Council. There is an annual charge to members to cover the costs of organising and administering the group. The fee for 2017-18 was £500. Additional costs such as delegate rates

for meeting attendance and conference attendance are charged at cost to the appropriate attending authority.

6. There are work streams established in the group and these have been focussed and directed during the last year and have engaged where appropriate with each other as well as government. The workstreams include Community Benefit, Resourcing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Generic Design Assessment, Housing, Accommodation and Policy. This information is shared amongst members through the KHub website.
7. The group have written to central Government, most recently in relation to infrastructure pressures in new nuclear local authorities and opportunities to maximise growth potential arising from new nuclear proposals.

Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (NuLeAF) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	NuLeAF
Lead Member:	Chairman – Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow in Furness Borough Council
Lead Officer:	Executive Director – Philip Matthews

Aims

NuLeAF's **Aims** are set out in the **Terms of Reference** document

"The Aims are:

- to seek to ensure that all nuclear, waste management and decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards
- to raise the profile of debate within local government on any issue with very significant implications for any area affected by future proposed radioactive waste development
- to increase and aid 'capacity building' within local government and enable informed responses to Government and the NDA from a broader based local government grouping
- to be an interface with government and the NDA on future strategic radioactive waste policy, decommissioning and liabilities management issues
- to confer greater democratic legitimacy on Government and NDA engagement processes in the decommissioning and legacy management sphere
- to add weight and credibility to the current local government input into the radioactive waste, decommissioning and liabilities engagement processes now in hand
- to effectively utilise the democratic legitimacy of local government and increase influence over policy and strategy proposals that will be critical to national progress on nuclear industry legacy issues
- to provide representatives on Government and NDA consultation, stakeholder and advisory bodies reporting back to local government through the SIG mechanism
- to lever resources, in addition to those conferred through the establishment of a SIG, to enable 'capacity building' within local government so that Government policy can develop with broad based democratic consent."

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

General

- Held 4 Steering Group meetings including AGM and 4 meetings of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Meeting topics included: proposal for accelerated decommissioning of Magnox reactors; the work of CoRWM (Committee on Radioactive Waste Management); government review of radioactive waste policy and infrastructure; proposals for a single over-arching radioactive waste strategy for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) estate, and the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Published 5 newsletters for contributing member authorities and 4 e-bulletins issued to full mailing list.
- Responded to 4 consultations, circulating draft responses to members both for comment and as a resource for their own responses, and holding a workshop with BEIS and Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) in support of the Geological Disposal Facility consultations.
- Carried out a survey of NuLeAF members to review the delivery of our services.

Geological Disposal Facility

- Supported RWM at LGA Conference 2017 to raise awareness amongst local authorities of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Gave feedback to RWM on outputs from the national geological screening exercise.
- Provided briefing to LGA planning officer on the Geological Disposal Facility consultations.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- Provided input to NDA on their work on an overarching radioactive waste strategy for the NDA estate. Publication of the proposed strategy is expected in 2018-19.
- Engaged with NDA on their proposals to accelerated decommissioning at Magnox reactor sites. Further engagement on this topic will take place in 2018-19.
- Assisted NDA in attracting a local authority audience to their Stakeholder Summit in West Cumbria in September 2017.
- Liaised with DCN, CCN, and ADEPT over the potential for the Geological Disposal Facility siting process to affect their members and the possibility for participation in the process.

Attended and participated in the following meetings

- 2 plenary meetings of the Committee of Radioactive Waste Management as observer.
- 4 liaison and 3 teleconference meetings with BEIS/NDA/RWM regarding the Geological Disposal Facility and other work streams; plus 4 meetings and 2

teleconferences with RWM to discuss specific issues. Also met with senior staff of RWM to discuss work proposals, and participated in BEIS consultations workshops.

- 8 NDA Theme Overview Group meetings on Site Restoration, Integrated Waste Management and Critical Enablers.
- 4 Low Level Waste Regulatory Group meetings.
- European Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities at their AGM in Madrid, of which NuLeAF is now a member.
- In liaison with BEIS, represented UK at a conference organised by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on experience of communities with radioactive waste facilities.

2 meetings of the Nuclear Industry Association Decommissioning Group including giving a presentation on NuLeAF and its work.

Public Transport Consortium Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Public Transport Consortium
Lead Member:	Cllr Harold Davenport
Lead Officer:	John Pope

The Consortium aims to:

- act as a forum for discussion and promotion of public transport issues affecting local authorities outside metropolitan areas;
- promote the exchange of experience and good practice between member authorities and in liaison with other bodies;
- advise appropriate committees or other executive bodies of the LGA on public transport issues; and
- represent interests of member authorities to Government, the Local Government Association, operators and other organisations involved in public transport
- provide advice and guidance to member authorities concerning Passenger Transport policy and operations

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Responded to the following consultations:

- a. *DCLG Fair Funding review*
- b. *Accessibility Action Plan consultation*
- c. *Community Rail consultation*
- d. *East Midlands Rail franchise*
- e. *Freight Network study consultation*
- f. *South Eastern rail franchise*
- g. *InterCity West Coast franchise*
- h. *Wales & Borders franchise enquiry*
- i. *Freight Network Study*

Considered the following:

HS2, rail franchising, Transport Focus research, Greener Journeys research, Campaign for Better Transport research, Great Western electrification, Government response to Welsh Affairs committee, Government response to Transport Committee on Rail franchising, air quality, pollution and congestion, Urban Transport Group research, use of Section 19 & 22 permits, security issues outside rail, bus and coach stations and on public transport.

Liaised with LGA transport policy officers

Provided a representative on the Board of Transport Knowledge Hub

Regional meeting & study tour held in Bristol

Organised workshops on Bus Services Act 2017 for Consortium members and ATCO officers

Regional meeting held in Birmingham

Speakers at Plenary meetings included representatives from Department for Transport (Bus Services Bill & Rail Fares), Greener Journeys, Network Rail (digital railway/ review of Network Rail structure), ATCO Community Transport SIG, West Norfolk Community Transport, TAS partnership

Regular meetings with DfT regarding content of Bus Services Bill

The Consortium is also a member of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Bus & Rail

Provided regular information updates for members

Liaised with ATCO on Bus Services Act 2017 and the use of Section 19 & 22 permits and Community Transport

Rural Services Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Rural Services Network
Lead Member:	Councillor Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council)
Lead Officer:	Graham Biggs

Aim

Our main aim is to act as the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole. Our work focuses on four priorities:

- Public Sector Funding
- Barriers to Access
- Future of Rural Areas
- Health and Wellbeing

For Sparse Rural our main priority is the funding formula and working to ensure that rural areas receive fair funding to enable them to deliver their services, taking into account the additional costs of service delivery in rural areas.

For the Rural Assembly, our main priority will be to seek to influence Government and policy makers across a whole range of issues facing rural service providers and communities in line with the four priorities set out above.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The major outcome from our work this year was the increase in Rural Services Delivery Grant of £31 million, £16 million more than set out in the Provisional Settlement.

We recognise however that this is a temporary solution and more importantly have been working hard to gather evidence for rural authorities to support the Fairer Funding Review which is taking place. We have a representative that sits on key technical working groups alongside MHCLG putting across the rural perspective.

In the year 2017-2018 the SPARSE-Rural and Rural Assembly collective debated:

- State of Rural Services Report 2016
- Brexit – the impact on rural communities
- Rural Vulnerability – key facts that set out elements of rural vulnerability plus discussion on impact on rural communities

- Campaign for rural weighting allowance for Rural GP's
- Local Government Finance and impact on Rural Areas
- Discussions on 100% business rate pilots in rural areas and their impact
- Sounding Board survey on outcomes of State of Rural Services Report
- Address by Neil Parish MP - Chair of EFRA Select Committee
- Urban and Rural Dementia Challenges and solutions
- Rural Conference 2017

In addition, thematic groups further explored the specific challenges facing the Economy in rural areas and Health and Social Care in rural areas. This led to discussions about the Industrial Strategy and the potential impact on rural areas.

The RSN hosted a successful conference at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham in Sept 2017 which focused on "The Infrastructure of Success – new routes to Economic Growth". This enabled the member authorities to attend and hear from expert speakers and debate key issues around rural economic growth.

We hosted free seminars for member authorities to attend at venues around England offering the opportunity for further explore and discuss key topics impacting on rural local authorities.

We provide the Secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services and have this year established the House of Lords Panel on Rural Issues. We also gave evidence to the Lords Select Committee on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act in Nov 2017.

The RSN however is not just about meetings and we provide a wide range of services to our member authorities which include:

- E-bulletins featuring rural news stories, commentary and analysis
- Rural Observatory providing a statistical view of rural life
- Neighbourhood Planning Evidence Base for Parishes of Member Authorities
- Bulletin of Funding opportunities

Further information about our work and services can be found at our comprehensive website on www.rsonline.org.uk

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Keith Artus (Chairman)
Lead Officer:	SASIG Secretariat c/o Northpoint Aviation Services

Aim

SASIG's objectives are:

- to promote the need for long-term, sustainable aviation policies that lead to a reduction in the environmental impact of aviation whilst securing appropriate social and economic benefits;
- to increase understanding of the local and global impacts of aviation on the environment and communities;
- to identify and promote the changes needed to move towards sustainable aviation practices within the industry and Government; and
- to work with other organisations and the Government on the formulation of policy advice.

SASIG Policy Principles

- i. To give the people of the UK the social and business opportunities to travel from their nearest airport where feasible.
- ii. To capture, not stifle, the social and economic benefits of aviation using robust and objective evidence.
- iii. To direct aviation growth to locations where it will assist sustainable economic regeneration.
- iv. To minimise adverse impacts – social, economic and environmental – by protecting people and non-transferable habitats.
- v. To ensure that the air transport sector rather than local communities pays the full costs of the impact of all air journeys.
- vi. To offer the aviation industry tough but realistic parameters based upon associated impacts around which to secure growth.
- vii. To ensure that good quality surface access links are provided to airports, particularly public transport links that create integrated transport hubs.
- viii. To promote better point to point air services from regional airports, with sensitive control over all impacts.
- ix. To work with Government and other bodies to ensure that noise impacts as a result of airport growth, airspace changes and flight path changes on local communities are minimised and mitigated.
- x. To support the coordination and integration of the full spectrum of national policies on issues relating to aviation. This must accord with international and regional policy-making and implementation.

- xi. To promote investigation of the impacts of the air freight industry, supporting the development of air freight infrastructure where it is the most appropriate mode.
- xii. To encourage Governments and the aviation industry to make greater efforts to reduce aviation's impacts on climate change.

SASIG strongly supports the Government's work towards a new national aviation policy that:

- Is based on the need to control the impacts rather than the aviation activity.
- Has considered in detail all options for providing capacity to meet forecast demand, and for providing for other, lower levels of demand.
- Embraces the concept of integrated transport provision.
- Audits the parameters that should be used in any forecasts of future demand.
- Adopts an assessment process for aviation developments that explicitly includes all associated costs.
- Sets effective environmental limits for the aviation industry to meet, taking the appropriate form – regulation, charges, taxes, etc.
- Considers and mitigates against the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develops the economic analysis of aviation, and in particular improves valuation of the net impact – benefits and disbenefits.
- Coordinates with other transport policies and with other associated national policies, such as climate change, and energy policies.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

National Representation: The ways in which SASIG is represented publicly emphasises the national nature of the membership and thus the sphere of interest. This has included:

Department for Transport, CAA & Defra

- SASIG continues as a member of the Department for Transport's Aviation 'External Advisory Group' (EAG). The group last met in June 2016 and SASIG attended although the date of the next meeting is yet to be advised.
- In early 2017, SASIG was invited to attend the DfT's Airspace & Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) and the CAA's Community Discussion Forum (CDF) both scheduled on the same day. The last 3 meetings were held in May and October 2017 and March 2018. SASIG attended all but the last CDF meeting in March. The next ANEG meeting is scheduled for September 2018.
- The CAA continues to seek SASIG's views on its programme of work, particularly now on how decisions on airspace change should be made and invited SASIG to attend a meeting of its Board on 15th November 2017 along with other selected industry stakeholders.
- SASIG is a member of the DEFRA Noise and Nuisance Team external stakeholder panel and attended the last meeting on 17th October 2017. Date of the next meeting tba.
- SASIG was scheduled to meet with the previous Aviation Minister, Lord Callanan in November 2017 to highlight its work and promote future mutual co-operation with Government officials. The meeting was cancelled due to Government reorganisation

and SASIG looks forward to meeting with the current Aviation Minister, Baroness Sugg in the near future.

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

SASIG's Secretariat has met with, and is continuing to liaise with, other prominent stakeholder groups including the AOA, LEP Network, COSLA, BEIS, Key Cities, Sustainable Aviation, Aviation Environment Federation and Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign.

Conferences and Public Fora

21st June 2017: A SASIG representative attended the 1st annual Airport Surface Access Conference in London where presentations were given by the AOA and DfT. Following the initial meeting (24th January 2017) of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) established following feedback from 2016 focus groups, SASIG attended further ANEG meetings in May and October 2017 and March 2018. The next meeting is in September 2018.

In May and October 2017, on the same days and at the same locations as ANEG SASIG also attended the next meetings of the CAA Community Discussion Forum (CDF). This quarterly forum aims to unite representatives from areas most impacted by aviation across the UK. Date of next meeting tba.

April 2017: SASIG representatives attended some of the Airspace Change and National Policy Statement (NPS) Consultation regional events.

17th October 2017: SASIG attended the DEFRA Noise and Nuisance Team external stakeholder meeting. Date of the next meeting tba.

SASIG Newsletter

This is a core service emailed monthly by the SASIG Secretariat to members. It contains: editorial; an events diary; 'Monthly Highlights' section; Parliamentary Q & A's on aviation matters; news articles from the month covering Parliamentary News, Government News, London and South East News, Regional News, National and Other Industry News and European News and updates to the SASIG website (publications/ industry documents, etc). It provides a valuable resource, allowing Local Authorities to remain well-informed and take an active role in the aviation debate.

SIG of Municipal Authorities (Outside London) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (Outside London) within the LGA
Lead Member:	Sir Stephen Houghton
Lead Officer:	Frances Foster

Aim

To represent the interests of our members, seeking to influence, in particular, fairer funding and better growth opportunities on their behalf. This core aim is supported by the following ongoing objectives:

- To analyse current and proposed government policy for its impact on member authorities
- To brief SIGOMA member authorities at appropriate levels, on the impact of current and proposed policy
- To obtain wherever possible the consensus views of members and represent these to the LGA, government departments and the government of the day
- To work with the LGA, government departments, authority representatives and other stakeholders to ensure that regulations and other policy initiatives are considered and effectively and efficiently implemented with regard to member interests
- To engage with members of all political parties via our parliamentary group so as to represent the particular issues facing our membership and the impact upon them of policy proposals.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Local government funding

- Involvement in the design of the local government finance systems most notably the Business Rate Retention Steering and Working Groups, ALATS and the CLIP finance group
- Continuing to analyse the unequal impact of funding cuts on different authority types, arguing that greater account should be taken of the unbalanced burden falling on high needs and low tax base authorities

- Hosting officer and leader group meetings to explore and highlight the plight of councils facing financial distress
- Responding to all funding consultations including the 2018-19 Settlement Technical Consultation, 2017-18 Local Government Finance Settlement, 2017 Autumn Budget, Changes to The Prudential Framework of Capital Finance, 2018-19 Settlement Consultation, and Fair Funding Review
- Supplying on the day briefing notes on the 2017 Spending Review, the 2017 Autumn Budget, 2017 Spring Statement and the 2018 Spring Statement to members, MPs and Chief Officers
- Engaging in national debates on funding issues.

Adult Social Care

- Publication of a booklet on the care funding issues our members face, along with supporting articles, submitted a written response to the CLG Select Committee Inquiry into Adult Social Care, and maintained active engagement on social media.

Brexit

- Publication of a booklet on the Brexit issues our members face, as well as supporting articles, and maintained active engagement on social media.

Transport

- Submission of a response to the Transport Select Committee's Rail Investment Inquiry, publication of supporting articles and issuing of letters to the Transport minister on multiple occasions to highlight concerns over the cancellation of electrification projects and to seek to clarify the apparent imbalance in transport infrastructure investment which currently appears to be working to the disadvantage of our members.

Housing

- Responding to the Funding for Supported Housing Consultation 2017.

Education

- Reporting on the DfE Settlement.

General

- Maintaining website and giving all members access to its secured private members' area and the opportunity to interact on a members comment functionality
- Maintaining and improving an active presence on social media
- Representing members' views at Business Rate Implementation Working Group

- Attitude and impact polls within SIGOMA
- Other press opinion articles and technical explanations to press
- Technical updates and information sharing to officers and Members within SIGOMA
- Hosting Regular officer meetings
- Website publications

Unitary Councils' Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	Unitary Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE – Chairman (Leader of Bracknell Forest)
Lead Officer:	Mr Stuart McKellar (Bracknell Forest)

Aim

To be the united voice of all unitary councils who are members of UCN, and to represent their common interests.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Because the Unitary Councils' Network has, to date, only had one formal meeting, UCN's achievements this far tends to be mainly organisational, and therefore somewhat unspectacular!

At the first meeting in March, at the LGA's newly refurbished offices at 18 Smith Square, Cllr Paul Bettison OBE (Leader of Bracknell Forest Council) was elected Chairman for the LGA year 2018/19 with Cllr David Renard (Leader of Swindon) elected Vice Chairman.

It was agreed that the network would meet four times per annum, with the AGM taking place at the LGA conference each year. (this year's is set for 5.00pm on Wednesday 4 July in the Concerto Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel).

21 councils have signed up as members of the network so far, and it is anticipated that this number will grow, as the network gains momentum over the coming year.

World Heritage UK Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	WORLD HERITAGE UK (WH UK)
Lead Member:	from April 2018 - Bath and NE Somerset Council
Lead Officer:	Tony Crouch

Aim

To promote and support for the benefit of the public the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the UK's World Heritage Sites, defined as those places considered by the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as having such Outstanding Universal Value that they warrant being inscribed on the World Heritage List through the powers of the international Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972.

To support for the benefit of the public the development of World Heritage Site nominations for the UK's Tentative List Sites, defined as sites on the UK Government's official Tentative List for nomination for World Heritage Status.

To advance the education of the public in general in respect of the significance and values of the UK's World Heritage Sites and Tentative List Sites, as defined above.

To undertake effective advocacy for the joint benefit of the UK's World Heritage Sites and for the WH Convention.

To facilitate and encourage networking, share good practice and exchange information between relevant organisations. Undertake joint projects and provide a platform in order to promote the UK's WH Sites to allow more people to experience access and enjoy the Sites.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

1. World Heritage UK continues the work of powerful advocate for the UK's World Heritage Sites, and as an effective forum for Local Authorities, government bodies and others such as independent trusts, involved in World Heritage matters.
2. Our meetings for the year April 2017- April 2018 were as follows:-

 In July a networking meeting was held in New Lanark, on the subject of "Running the Business of World Heritage". It was sponsored by Historic Environment Scotland and by the New Lanark Trust.

The Annual Conference took place at the Ironbridge Gorge WHS, in partnership with the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage and the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust and was supported by Historic England. The theme explored “Communicating World Heritage”, and was part of a four day event. The format attracted many students from the Institute, while the World Heritage UK conference and AGM followed the theme with various stakeholders from government, business, and the practitioners. Feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction with this event.

In March a Technical Meeting was held at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with the title “Commercial Best Practice in World Heritage”. It was sponsored by RGB Kew, Lichfields and Historic England. Representatives from 20 Sites (including Tentative Sites) attended.

3. A Review of the UK’s WH Sites is underway under the direction of our President, Chris Blandford. This focuses on the needs of Sites particularly in terms of economic sustainability, given reduced public funding. The review also has the purpose of expanding the advocacy, networking and promotion of World Heritage UK to strengthen awareness and establish partnerships.
4. A promotional mini-brochure has been published and launched at the Conference. It includes information and illustration of the 27 Sites distributed through England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the 4 Overseas Sites.



Chief Executive's Report – July 2018

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2018/19 centres on six external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU;
- Devolution and funding for local government;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing;
- Children, education and schools;
- Adult social care and health; and
- Supporting councils.

Part 1 of the six-weekly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against those priorities. Part two focusses on our internal priority – *a single voice for local government* - including membership and our media outreach activities.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for July 2018.

Action

As directed by members.

Contact officer: Mark Lloyd
Position: Chief Executive
Phone no: 020 7664 3213
Email: mark.lloyd@local.gov.uk

Chief Executive's Report – July 2018

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 1.1 **Cross-Whitehall Local Government Working Group:** Following continued lobbying around the need for local government's voice to be heard, the LGA has been invited to be a standing member of the Cross-Whitehall Local Government Working Group which will convene policy officials from across Government to ensure that their work is joined up and that the local impacts of EU exit are taken into account. The LGA is also working with council colleagues on an HMRC LA border planning steering group looking at the specific impacts for councils with ports of entry.
- 1.2 **EU candidates in Local Elections:** Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA Brexit Task Force, wrote to Local Government Minister Rishi Sunak MP to urge MHCLG to look into the implications of the Withdrawal Bill on EU citizens wishing to stand in local elections next year ahead of local selection processes.
- 1.3 **SIGOMA Annual meeting:** On the 4 July Cllr Bentley gave a presentation on the work of the LGA Brexit Task Force at SIGOMA's Annual meeting. Cllr Bentley updated members on the ongoing priorities of the LGA around the local impacts of Brexit.
- 1.4 **Moving on the conversation:** The LGA launched their Brexit conference paper at LGA Annual Conference. The report has been noted by key officials like Stefaan de Rynck, Senior Advisor to Michel Barnier, who specifically addressed issues raised in report within his speech on the last day of our Annual Conference.
- 1.5 **Exiting the EU Delivery Board:** Following a cross-departmental meeting between the LGA, MHCLG and DExEU, James Brokenshire announced a new Exiting the EU Delivery Board with the LGA to support the implementation of changes in the sector linked to Brexit.
- 1.6 **Place-based impacts of Brexit:** In collaboration with MHCLG the LGA has organised several regional seminars to debate the opportunities and risks that Brexit poses to local areas. The programme is ongoing with the most recent seminar on the 16 July in Leeds.
- 1.7 **EU Withdrawal Act:** we continued to lobby on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill (now an Act), providing a briefing for MPs upon its return to the House of Commons for the 'ping-pong' stage

Priority 2 – Devolution and funding for Local Government

- 2.1 At our Annual Conference, we launched our [revised financial analysis](#) which shows that local services are facing a £7.8 billion funding gap by 2025, only to maintain current levels and standards of service and support. This marks the starting point of the LGA's Spending Review work. A more detailed work programme and engagement strategy are in the process of being developed and will be discussed at a future Leadership Board.
- 2.2 Our work on **Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review** is covered under a specific item on the agenda of Leadership Board.
- 2.3 **The Post-Brexit England Commission:** the People and Places Board's Post-Brexit England Commission launched its [interim report](#) at our Annual Conference. The report outlines seven key areas in which local government must be given the powers to address local challenges in order to

support the future success of the towns, villages, rural, deeply rural and coastal communities of non-metropolitan England. The report received extensive coverage in the media including [the Daily Telegraph](#), [the Guardian](#), [The Times](#) and [the Express](#). Officers are now planning the next phase of the Commission's work including its remaining roadshows which will be held across England in the coming months.

- 2.4 **Combined Authority (CA) Chief Executives' Network:** was hosted at the at Annual Conference on 5 July with further positive steps taken towards the development of a collective CA work plan for the next twelve months. This followed the most recent meetings of the CA senior officer networks on employment and skills, housing and planning, and finance where topics covered included: adult education budget devolution, collaboration with Homes England and the development of medium-term financial strategies.
- 2.5 **In Parliament:** we briefed MPs ahead of a debate on the review of business rates, focussing on the responsiveness to local needs and the need to incentivise local growth.

Priority 3 – Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Serious Violence Taskforce:** the Chair of our Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Simon Blackburn, attended the second meeting of the Serious Violence Taskforce. The Taskforce is formed of Government Ministers, cross-party MPs, police leaders, local government and the voluntary sector, who ensure sustained, swift and decisive action is taken against serious violent crime. The meeting focused on the Offensive Weapons Bill and the use of social media to insight violent crime. The next meeting is due to take place in July.
- 3.2 **National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse:** Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, attended the Home office-led National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse. The meeting focused primarily on the police response to domestic abuse and the importance of training for frontline professionals on this important issue.
- 3.3 **Home Affairs committee evidence:** we submitted written evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee as part of their inquiry into domestic abuse. Subsequently, Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, was called to give oral evidence to the committee in July. Cllr Blackburn emphasised the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling domestic abuse and the need for greater investment in early intervention and prevention services. Our key messages are [available here](#).
- 3.4 **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) event:** we held an event with council officers who had been successful in their bids for funding as part of the Home Office's VAWG service transformation fund. The purpose of the event was for councils to share best practice and case studies, showcasing some of the innovative work being carried out across local government, which is helping to improve the lives of victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.5 **County lines event:** we hosted a conference on county lines issues and tackling child criminal exploitation. This included speakers from the Home Office, local government colleagues, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, the Children's Society and other key partners. Local government colleagues who attended to event were able to share best practice and discuss how improvements could be made in local areas when responding to county lines issues.
- 3.6 **Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper:** we submitted [our response](#) to the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. Our response supported the broad objectives of the strategy, and its acknowledgement of the importance of locally-led approaches. However it argued that the Green Paper stopped short of setting out what is needed around key areas such as education, housing, skills and growth and calls for further devolution of powers and resources to local government

in order to tackle the complex issues that undermine cohesion.

- 3.7 **Modern Slavery:** we supported the launch of the Safe Car Wash app, developed by the Clewer Initiative. It provides a list of indicators of modern slavery in hand car washes to help members of the public identify where car washes might be engaging in these criminal practices. Our modern slavery spokesperson, Cllr Alan Rhodes, also gave oral evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee as part of its inquiry into hand car washes
- 3.8 **Taking a whole council approach to tackling harmful gambling:** we have published new joint guidance with Public Health England to support authorities in developing a whole council approach to tackling harmful gambling. This was launched at an event to discuss this issue, which heard first hand experience from individuals and families who have experienced gambling addictions.
- 3.9 **High Streets:** we submitted written evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on High Streets and Town Centres in 2030. Our evidence highlighted the role of councils in local economic growth and regeneration.
- 3.10 **Tenant Fees:** Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair of our Safer and Stronger Communities Board, provided oral evidence to the Tenant Fees Public Bill Committee highlighting the need for councils' trading standards teams to be properly resourced to enforce the ban.
- 3.11 **Permitted development:** we have sent a survey on permitted development rights to heads of planning. This will enable us to develop an accurate evidence base on the impact of permitted development rights allowing change of use to housing without the need for planning permission. This will inform our lobbying and advocacy work on your behalf.
- 3.12 **Building Safety:** following lobbying by the LGA and others, MHCLG launched a consultation on banning the use of combustible materials on the external walls of high-rise residential buildings in June. MHCLG also announced that after councils have helped identify nearly 300 private high-rise residential buildings with unsafe cladding that the LGA would be invited to participate in a new taskforce to oversee remediation work on these buildings, and that the LGA and the National Fire Chiefs Council would be establishing a team to support councils in this work. Mark Norris, LGA Principal Policy Adviser, has also provided oral evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into the Independent Review of Building Safety Regulations.
- 3.13 **Digital connectivity:** the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group recently engaged Ofcom to share their concerns regarding the current level of mobile connectivity available to rural residents and explore areas where the regulator, local government and the communications sector can work in partnership to catalyse improvements. Members used the opportunity to emphasise that councils would be better placed to have more meaningful discussions with mobile operators on improving local connectivity if Ofcom supplied more accurate local coverage reports that reflect consumer mobile experience on the ground. Ofcom have agreed to maintain a dialogue with the Group in the coming months.
- 3.14 **New Minister of State:** Following the Cabinet reshuffle, the Chairman is writing to Kit Malthouse MP, the new Minister of State for Housing to welcome him to his post, set out our policy recommendations, particularly on the upcoming Social Housing Green Paper and offer our support in engaging with local government.
- 3.15 **New Secretary of State:** Following the Cabinet reshuffle, the Chairman is writing to Jeremy Wright MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to welcome him to his post, set out our policy recommendations and offer our support in engaging with local government.

Priority 4 – Children, education and schools

- 4.1 **Children’s Services financial gap:** We continue to call for new funding for our children’s services, particularly in light of our refreshed funding analysis which finds councils will face a funding gap of £3 billion by 2025 just to keep services running at current levels.
- 4.2 **Children’s Services survey:** we recently sent a survey to all children’s services authorities to get a greater understanding of the impact of recent policy and funding changes in relation to early years provision.
- 4.3 **Cost variation in Children’s Services:** We have published new research from Newton Europe, examining why councils appear to spend significantly different amounts on children’s services while achieving broadly similar outcomes. This variation is often used as an argument against providing additional funding, with the suggestion that higher spenders should be able to match their budgets to those of lower spending areas elsewhere. The Newton research examines a range of areas, including the impact of factors such as deprivation, variations in looked after children practice and spending on other areas of children’s services. The report concludes that spend variation is an inevitable result of the specific circumstances facing individual councils, highlighting that over half the variation is caused by five economic and geographic factors largely outside council control.
- 4.4 **In Parliament:** we briefed MPs ahead of the Estimates Day Debate in the House of Commons on the spending of the Department of Education and Cllr Lucy Nethsingha gave oral evidence to the APPG on Youth Affairs this month on Youth Work, alongside the Children’s Commissioner Anne Longfield. This followed written evidence that we submitted earlier in the month.

Priority 5 – Adult Social Care and health

- 5.1 **Darzi Review:** throughout May and June, Cllr Izzi Seccombe and I served on the Expert Advisory Panel to Lord Darzi, who was commissioned by the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) to undertake an inquiry into the future of health and social care. The final report was published on 15 June and Cllr Seccombe took part in a panel discussion at the IPPR launch event on 19 June.
- 5.2 **Member events:** Over the last month senior members and officers of the LGA have been very active in keeping adult social care in the spotlight. In particular members of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board took part in several panel discussions and plenary sessions at events throughout June, including the King’s Fund Personalised, Care Programme at the King’s Fund Personalised Care Conference on 5 June, the NHS Confederation conference on 13 June, and the Health+Care Conference on 28 June. Cllr Richard Kemp spoke at the Social Enterprise UK Social Care conference on 12 July on the crucial role of adult social care services in providing joined up, person-centred care.
- 5.3 **Adult Social Care Funding Survey:** our survey on funding for adult social care drew widespread media coverage. The poll of leaders and adult social care cabinet members in all 152 councils providing social care in England found that 96 per cent believe there is a major national funding problem in adult social care.
- 5.4 **LGA Social Care Green Paper:** health and social care was a major theme of our Annual Conference, with delegates strongly supporting the announcement that the LGA will be publishing our own green paper for adult social care later in the summer to stimulate public debate and engagement on this vital issue.
- 5.5 **New Secretary of State:** Following the Cabinet reshuffle, the Chairman is writing to Matt Hancock MP,

the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to welcome him to his post, set out our policy recommendations, particularly on the upcoming Adult Social Care Green Paper and offer our support in engaging with local government.

- 5.6 **In Parliament:** we briefed Peers ahead of a debate on the support available to carers and the ‘Carers Action Plan 2018-2020’ in the House of Lords, briefed MPs ahead of the Estimates Day Debate on spending on health and social care, briefed Peers ahead of a debate on the 70th anniversary of the NHS and the need for integration, highlighting the important contribution adult social care makes to the health and care system and briefed Peers ahead of a debate on ensuring social care is adequately funded in the House of Lords.

Priority 6 – Supporting Councils

- 6.1 **Innovation Zone:** we ran our sixth successful Innovation Zone at our Annual Conference this year involving at least 46 speakers, representing innovative work from 40 organisations including many councils. Improvement and Innovation Board members compered the Zone programme, which commenced with an engaging session from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and their sociable humanoid robot Pepper. The final day’s programme included how the National FGM Centre and councils are tackling female genital mutilation to improve the lives of children, and how councils are working with Nesta to explore the use of drones in public services.
- 6.2 **Research and Information:** Colleagues from the LGA Research and Information team also demonstrated LG Inform, providing ‘hands-on’ assistance to delegates, and promoted LG Inform Plus and the new LG Inform Value for Money profiles, which brings together data about the costs, performance and activity of local councils and fire and rescue authorities.
- 6.3 **National Procurement Strategy:** we have launched our [National Procurement Strategy](#). Local government currently spends some £55b each year on bought in goods, works and services. Reduction in funding to councils highlights the importance of achieving best value, including social value, from every pound we spend.
- 6.4 **Shared Service Map:** the latest refresh of the LGA [Shared Services Map](#) shows that there are now 555 shared service arrangements (up from 486) across the country, resulting in £840 million (up from £640m) of cumulative efficiency savings. The map shows once again that when it comes to making efficiency savings there is no sector better than local government.
- 6.5 **Cyber security:** we have asked member councils to nominate a lead contact to coordinate their organisation’s response to our [“stocktake”](#) of existing cyber security arrangements within all councils in England. This will help establish good practice and identify those councils that could benefit from additional support including funding.
- 6.6 **Free, online data maturity self-assessment tool:** we recently launched this [new free tool](#) through which local authorities can complete a questionnaire to highlight their capabilities, be compared with others, and receive suggested next steps.
- 6.7 **Women councillors:** a new development day for women councillors was held on 22 June. The event focussed on creating a network for female politicians and empowering women to develop in their political careers. The event was a success and a two-day programme will be launched in the winter. Following the Fawcett Society report “Does Local Government Work for Women?” we are also in discussion with MHCLG and Fawcett Society about a new campaign to help enable councils to assess the way that they support councillors and promote family friendly policies. This would include highlighting the best practice from those councils who have achieved high levels of diversity and attracted councillors from all walks of life.

- 6.8 **ngdp voted 25th in the Guardian UK 300 top employers:** this ranked ngdp higher than John Lewis, Apple, Sky, HMRC, the Army, GCHQ and the RAF.
- 6.9 **Parliamentary Reception:** we hosted our annual Parliamentary reception in the House of Lords which brought together Peers, MPs, Council Leaders, Chief Executives and Councillors. The speakers on the evening were the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, the Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, Baroness Smith, Baroness Eaton, Cllr Nick Forbes and Cllr David Simmonds.
- 6.10 **Collaborative leadership on community cohesion:** we supported a SOLACE and Yorkshire and Humber Chief Executives' Network roundtable on collaborative leadership on community cohesion in June, which was attended by 12 Chief Executives and senior officers from authorities in the region. We are hoping to work with SOLACE on a further event for senior officers later this year.
- 6.11 **Digital Declaration:** In his keynote address at our Annual Conference, Rishi Sunak MP launched the Local Digital Declaration. This declaration affirms our collective ambition for local public services in the digital age, and our commitments to realising it. The Minister also announced £7.5m of funding for councils over two years.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

7. The total number of councils on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2019 is six. These are;
 - East Staffordshire Borough Council
 - London Borough of Richmond
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Southend Borough Council
 - West Sussex County Council
8. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.
9. As a result of local government reorganisation, we have been informed by a further fifteen authorities that they wish to give notice to leave LGA membership on 31 March 2019 as these councils will cease to exist. These are;
 - Poole Borough Council
 - Bournemouth Borough Council
 - Christchurch Borough Council
 - North Dorset District Council
 - West Dorset District Council
 - Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
 - Purbeck District Council
 - East Dorset District Council
 - Dorset County Council
 - Forest Heath District Council
 - St Edmundsbury Borough Council
 - Suffolk Coastal District Council
 - Waveney District Council
 - West Somerset District Council
 - Taunton Deane Borough Council
10. We have been informed that their successor authorities intend to take up LGA membership on 1 April 2019.

New LGA Company

11. Further to the meeting of the Board of Directors of the LGA Company on 7 March 2018, and the Special Resolution passed by the first General Meeting of the company on the same day, the Articles of Association were lodged with Companies House, directors' details submitted and the accounting date changed to 31 March. The new LGA came into effect on 1 April 2018.

12. All member authorities have been sent an application for admission as a member authority to the new LGA. At the time of writing, 337 completed applications have been received. We continue to work with the remaining authorities to ensure full membership. A verbal update will be provided to Leadership Board.

LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2018

13. Our Annual Conference took place from 3-5 July 2018 at the ICC in Birmingham. The Conference, Innovation Zone and Exhibition welcomed around 1500 delegates and showcased 100 exhibitors. We published [a series of papers](#), commissioned by LGA boards, which start the new thinking around building the case for long term, sustained investment in local government as well as laying out the positive outcomes this would deliver for the country.
14. We were joined by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and ministers and officials from across government and the political spectrum. This report highlights the work done at Conference under each of our priorities and a further, more detailed report on the event will come to the next Leadership Board.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

7 June – 17 July

Chief Executive	
11 June	NE Regional Chief Executives
13 June	LGA Parliamentary Reception
19 June	Barking and Dagenham Council
20 June	LGA finance workshop
21 June	District Councils Chief Executives
22 June	Dorset Chief Executives
22 June	Poole Council
23 June	London Labour Councillors Event
25 June	Waverley Borough Council
16 July	Plymouth Council
<i>Forward plan</i>	
26 July	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
31 July	Nottingham City
2 August	Craven Council
6 September	District Councils Chief Executives
6 September	London Councils
Deputy Chief Executive	
8 June	Liberal Democrat Leaders Conference
15 June	Health and Care Call
18 June/10 July	Surrey Council

28 June	ASC Lead Members Induction
11/12 July	CIPFA Conference
Head of Improvement	
12 July	Shadow MHCLG team awayday
13 July	Chief Executives London Committee

Media

Britain's Exit from the EU
Impact of losing access to the European Investment Bank after Brexit, need for equivalent lending alternatives (FT)
Housing Secretary James Brokenshire to discuss Brexit issues with councils at LGA Annual Conference (BBC Andrew Marr Show, BBC Radio 4's Westminster Hour)
Stefaan De Rynck, senior advisor to EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier, speech to Annual Conference (Mirror Online)
Call for mandatory traffic light labelling after Brexit (Mail Online, ITV Online)
Devolution and funding for local government
Funding gap facing local services will reach £8 billion by 2020 (Guardian, Mirror, i paper, Metro, Express Online)
Resources Board Vice Chairman Cllr John Fuller on Good Morning Britain, LGA Vice Chairman Cllr Marianne Overton on BBC local radio and Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on Five News about how half of all bus routes are under threat due to funding cuts to local government (ITV News, ITV Online, Express, Mirror)
Shared services with other local authorities have saved £334.1 million since 2010 (FT)
Response to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's report on destitution, calling for the restoration of funding to councils for welfare assistance schemes (Mirror, i paper, Sun)
Business rates retention will not be enough on its own to fund demographic and demand pressures on local services (BBC Radio 5 Live)
Outstanding business rates appeals from 2010 valuation and impact on councils and local services (i paper, Talk Radio)
Cost of free bus pass schemes should be fully funded (Mail)
Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
Lord Porter interviewed on Channel 4's Dispatches programme about building safety following the Hackitt Review, calling for other types of combustible cladding to be banned other than those used on Grenfell (Mirror, Independent)
People and Places Board Chairman Cllr Mark Hawthorne interviewed on Sky News Radio about councils warning that rural areas are at risk of terminal decline (Telegraph, Express, Times Online, Guardian Online)
Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed on Channel 4 News with call for councils to be allowed to keep 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts to build more homes (Channel 4 News Online)
Right to Buy scheme risks running out of home unless councils are given funding to build more (Telegraph, Guardian, Sun, Mirror, Express Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Talk Radio Online)

Grimsey Review 2 into state of British high streets, launched at Annual Conference (Telegraph, ITV Online, Mail Online, Sun Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, CityAM Online)
Crisis report on ending homelessness, need for renaissance in council house building (BBC Online, ITV Online, Mail Online)
Call for an immediate ban on desktop studies (FT)
Generation Rent report on improvement notices (Times, Express Online)
1 in 10 of new homes are former office blocks converted under permitted development rules (Telegraph, Sun Online)
Call for 2p per litre of fuel duty to be reinvested into local road maintenance (Sunday Mirror, Metro, Talk Radio)
LGA part of joint inspection team to help councils ensure swifter progress by private landlords to make buildings safe (Sun)
Number of age-friendly homes needs to increase by 400,000 by 202) (CityAM Online)
Children, education and schools
LGA analysis of figures showing councils have best track record of improving schools classed as inadequate compared to sponsored academies (BBC Online, Independent Online)
Cllr David Simmonds interviewed on LBC about Children's Commissioner report on children facing "serious risk" at home (Independent, Sky News Online)
Class sizes in secondary schools rising, need for councils to be given powers to force academies and free schools to expand (Express, Telegraph Online, Mail Online)
Rise in child protection plans started by councils (Sky News, Mirror, Huffington Post)
Children's Commissioner report on public spending on children, early years intervention (BBC Online, ITV Online, Guardian Online, Huffington Post)
Children's services facing £2 billion funding gap by 2020 (Sunday Express, Times)
Care Crisis Review report on children's services (Guardian Online)
Only 15 per cent of largest academy chains perform above national average compared with 44 per cent of council schools (Guardian)
Tighter restrictions on gambling advertising around football matches to protect children needed (Mail, Times)
Education Policy Institute report calling for some academies to be returned to council control (Independent Online)
Child Obesity Strategy response (Observer)
Action for Children report on 36,000 young people repeatedly referred to children's services (Mirror, Huffington Post)
Cllr David Simmonds on BBC Radio 4's World at One about children in care being placed out-of-area
Surge in children's social workers quitting the profession (Huffington Post)
Adult social care and health
Lord Porter's address to LGA Annual Conference, urging government to tackle social care crisis (Huffington Post, BBC Radio 5 Live)
Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Secombe interviewed on Sky News and BBC Radio 5 Live, Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes on ITV News and LGA Vice Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on BBC Breakfast and BBC News about results of LGA survey on councils' views on how to provide long-term, sustainable funding for adult social care (BBC

Radio 2, LBC, Talk Radio news bulletins, Observer, Sunday Times, Sun on Sunday, Independent Online)
LGA Vice Chairman Cllr David Simmonds interviewed live on BBC News channel on need for equivalent funding settlement for adult social care as the £20 billion extra for NHS (BBC Radio 2, Sky News, BBC Online, Guardian, Independent, i paper)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed on The People vs The NHS programme about HIV prevention drug PrEP being made available on the NHS
Poorest communities are fast food hotspots (Sun, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Metro Online, BBC Online, ITV Online)
Councils helping to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing (Telegraph, Sun, Mirror, Express)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed on LBC in response to IFS report on decline in social care spending over last decade (Times)
Help for older people and those suffering from heart and respiratory problems during the heat wave (Telegraph, Express, Star Online, Huffington Post)
Response to the ADASS annual budget survey (Express, Mirror, Guardian Online)
One in four women do not attend cervical screening programmes, call for government to reverse public health funding cuts (Buzzfeed News)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe comment piece warning of “irrefutable crisis” in social care funding (Express)
£2 billion funding gap by 2020, social care costs cap (Telegraph, Sunday Times, Mail on Sunday)
Royal College of Physicians report on treating tobacco dependency in the NHS (Mail Online, ITV Online, Talk Radio Online)
Response to joint committee report on long-term funding of adult social care (Independent Online)
Supporting councils
LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed on Sky News Radio about rise in sales of fake football memorabilia during World Cup (LBC, Talk Sport, Talk Radio, Sky News Online, LBC Online)
Effect of the World Cup on domestic violence (Talk Radio, Talk Sport, Sky News Radio, Independent Online)
Successful call for maximum stakes on FOBTs to be lowered (Guardian Online)
Response to legal ruling against Southwark Council on water rates charging of tenants (BBC Online)
Response to Sir William Worsley being appointed as tree champion, new duties on councils (Times)



LGA Forward Plan

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA Leadership Board is responsible for driving the Association's activities and business, taking a lead in developing and overseeing delivery of the business plan and identifying the emerging and key issues to highlight to the LGA Executive.

As part of this, Members are invited to consider which items they would like to see on future agendas of the LGA Leadership Board, LGA Executive and Councillors' Forum.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board endorses the Forward Plan and specifies topics and items for future meetings of the LGA Executive, Leadership Board and Councillors' Forum.

Action

Officers to brief members and officers in line with steer.

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Position: Member Services Manager
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LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

September

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 12.09.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Centre for Public Scrutiny	To submit an annual report on CfPS's activity.
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from the Annual Conference.
Autumn Budget Submission	To comment on the Autumn Budget submission to Treasury and commend to Executive for approval the following day.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.

There is no Councillors' Forum in September as the LGA's annual Councillors' Briefing (induction) day takes place instead.

LGA EXECUTIVE 13.09.18	
Summary / Purpose	
Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Governance Structures	To note membership, terms of reference and appointments
LGA Business Plan	To agree the Business Plan as recommended by the Leadership Board.
Autumn Budget Submission	To discuss and approve the Autumn Budget submission to the Treasury.
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

October

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 17.10.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA Budget	To note a proposed LGA budget framework prior to full report in January.
LGA Subscriptions	To provide a steer on the overall level of subscriptions for the following year.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity in the first and second quarters.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 18.10.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Care	To receive a presentation by the Minister of State for Care.
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report.
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE 18.10.18	
Summary / Purpose	
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

December

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 06.12.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA Outside Body appointments	To note the list of bodies to which the LGA appoints each year.
Autumn Budget	To discuss the Autumn Budget and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To endorse the response to the Finance Settlement.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.



LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year
Performance Report	To review six month performance report.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit

There is no Councillors' Forum in December.

LGA EXECUTIVE 06.12.18	
Summary / Purpose	
Autumn Budget	To discuss the Autumn Budget and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To endorse the response to the Finance Settlement.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

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LGA location map

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
Fax: 020 7664 3030
Email: info@local.gov.uk
Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

