

LGA Executive

Agenda

Thursday, 18 October 2018
1.45 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



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LGA Executive
18 October 2018

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Apologies

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Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: Lewis.addlington-lee@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

Alexander Saul
Alexander.Saul@local.gov.uk / 020 7664 3232

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LGA Executive – Membership 2018/19

Councillor and Role	Authority
Conservative 10	
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Robert Alden (Deputy Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Kent County Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Board Chair)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE (Board Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth (Board Chair)	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Martin Tett (Board Chair)	Buckinghamshire County Council
Labour 10	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Lib Peck (Deputy Chair)	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Board Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Board Chair)	Hackney London Borough Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE (Board Chair)	Manchester City Council and City Regions Board
Cllr Richard Watts (Board Chair)	Islington Council
Cllr Rishi Shori (Balancing Member)	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Liberal Democrat 4	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Board Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Balancing Member)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Independent 3	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Robert Bucke (Balancing Member)	Tendring District Council

Regional Representatives 10	
Cllr David Finch	CON Essex County Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	LAB Durham County Council
Cllr John Hart	CON South West Councils
Cllr Peter John OBE	LAB Southwark Council
Cllr Barry Lewis	CON Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Terry O'Neill	LAB North West Regional Leaders Board
Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	CON Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH)
Cllr Roy Perry	CON Hampshire County Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox	CON West Midlands LGA
Cllr Debbie Wilcox	LAB Newport City Council
Named Substitutes	
Cllr Ralph Bagge	CON South Bucks District Council

Non-voting Members of LGA Executive

Councillor	Representing
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	LAB SIGOMA
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	CON County Councils Network (CCN)
Cllr John Fuller	CON District Councils Network
Alderman Sir David Wootton	INDE Local Partnerships

LGA Executive Attendance 2018-2019

Councillors	13/9/18
Conservative Group	
Lord Gary Porter	Yes
James Jamieson	Yes
Robert Alden	Yes
Paul Carter CBE	No
Izzi Seccombe OBE	No
David Simmonds CBE	Yes
Peter Fleming OBE	Yes
Mark Hawthorne MBE	Yes
Ian Hudspeth	Yes
Martin Tett	Yes
Labour Group	
Nick Forbes	No
Peter Box CBE	No
Michael Payne	Yes
Lib Peck	No
Simon Blackburn	Yes
Anntoinette Bramble	No
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Yes
Richard Watts	Yes
Anne Western CBE	Yes
Rishi Shori	No
Lib Dem Group	
Howard Sykes MBE	Yes
Ruth Dombey OBE	Yes
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	No
Independent	
Marianne Overton MBE	No
Clive Woodbridge	Yes
Robert Bucke	No
Regional Representatives	
David Finch	Yes
Simon Henig CBE	Yes
John Hart	Yes
Peter John OBE	Yes
Barry Lewis	No
Terry O'Neill	No
Stephen Parnaby OBE	No
Roy Perry	Yes
Mike Wilcox	Yes

Debbie Wilcox	Yes
Non Voting Members	
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	No
Philip Atkins OBE	Yes
John Fuller	No
Alderman Sir David Wootton	No
Substitutes / In attendance	
Lucy Nethsingha	Yes
Paulette Hamilton	Yes
Kate Haigh	Yes
Vince Maple	Yes
Tudor Evans	Yes

Agenda

LGA Executive

Thursday 18 October 2018

1.45 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 6 December 2018, 1.45 pm,
Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Housing Revenue Account caps

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

On 3 October the Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap will be lifted.

This is a significant victory for the LGA. The removal of the borrowing cap has been an LGA priority and a focus of sustained lobbying since it was introduced as part of the self-financing agreements in 2012. The majority of councils are close to their cap and the decision to lift it will allow them to build more of the quality affordable homes that local communities need.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government officials have confirmed that the Ministry will look to lift the caps as soon as possible, so that councils can borrow prudentially to build more homes. The legislation requires it to consult with councils before it can revoke existing determinations specifying the current borrowing caps.

It is important that the Treasury listen to councils and partners and move quickly to fully implement the scrapping of the cap.

Recommendation

The LGA Executive to note the report and determine next steps.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

Contact officer:	Nick Porter
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2018 Review of Members' Allowances

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

The Independent Remuneration Panel was last convened in 2012. Since then there have been some minor changes to the LGA's governance arrangements but the overall structure has remained broadly unchanged.

In 2017, the Constitution Review Task and Finish Group recommended that a review of Members' allowances should be undertaken every 4 years and following General Assembly agreement the Constitution was amended to reflect this.

In 2018, Lord Best was invited to reconvene the Independent Remuneration Panel that he has chaired since 2009. The Panel's report, its conclusions and recommendations are set out at **Appendix 1**. The current scheme for reimbursement of Workforce Employer Bodies, which is annexed at the LGA main Scheme of Members' Allowances, is attached at **Appendix 2**.

Recommendations

That the LGA Executive;

1. Thanks the Independent Review Panel for their work and accepts the conclusions set out in the report at **Appendix 1**.
2. Agrees the five recommendations of the Panel – that the LGA;
 - 2.1 Amends its Member role descriptions to show the anticipated weekly time commitment in hours rather than in days.
 - 2.2 Amends the role descriptions of vice chairs to specify that vice chairs are expected to “provide peer support and mentoring to individual councillors and groups of councillors” as part of their core responsibilities. Up to 10 further formal peer days may be paid at the standard day rate. (**Appendix 3**)
 - 2.3 Adds the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee to the list of positions for which travel expenses are reimbursed.
 - 2.4 Replaces the special responsibility allowance paid to members of the Workforce Employer Bodies with the Members' Day Rate and brings those appointments into the main LGA scheme of allowances.
 - 2.5 Replaces the current carers' allowance of £7.83 per hour (equivalent to the national minimum wage) with the Living Wage and London Living Wage.



LGA Executive
18 October 2018

Contact officer: Claire Holloway
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Appendix 1

Independent review of Members' Allowances 2018

Conclusion & Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Introduction

Earlier this year I was pleased to accept the LGA's invitation to reconvene the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a further review of the LGA's current scheme of Members' allowances and expenses. This paper presents our findings.

I must begin with sincere thanks to my three fellow Panel members – Lord Filkin, Crossbencher and Chair of the Centre for Better Ageing, formerly a government minister and Chief Executive of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities; Katrine Sporle, the Property Ombudsman and former Chief Executive of Basingstoke and Deane and Chief Planning Officer at the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol; and Ted Cantle CBE, former Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, now Professor at the Institute of Community Cohesion - for their expertise and time, freely given; and to Claire Holloway and colleagues on the LGA staff for their invaluable help and support.

Background

The Independent Remuneration Panel was last convened in 2011 and again in 2012, when we had looked in depth at the various roles and remuneration of Members at the LGA. Our work led to the introduction of job descriptions for Members and clarification of the expectations on them.

In the intervening years some elements of the LGA's governance structure have changed, but the overall structure remains the same as that previously considered by the Panel. In 2017, as part of a review of the Constitution, the LGA agreed that a review of Members' allowances should be undertaken every 4 years and the Panel support and welcome this.

In preparation for our review, the Panel was provided with the current LGA Scheme of Members' Allowances, job descriptions of roles in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA), and our 2011 and 2012 reports for reference. In addition, the LGA highlighted a number of areas we might wish to consider as part of our review:

- The overall levels of remuneration for Members;
- The requirement for home authorities to pay travel expenses for Members attending LGA meetings, excluding those Members who were paid travel expenses as part of their role;
- The possibility of a parental pay policy for elected members;
- The levels of remuneration for the various Vice-Chairs / Political Group Leaders of the LGA;
- Provision of travel expenses for the Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and remuneration level of the role; and
- Whether the current Day Rate allowance was appropriate, and whether the roles which qualified for a Day Rate were appropriate.

The Panel met on two occasions – on 22 February 2018 and again virtually on 15 May 2018. As chair of the Panel, I also met with LGA chairman, Lord Porter, to review the chairman's

remuneration in line with one of the recommendations of the 2012 Review. The LGA Chairman and Group Leaders commented on the Panel's draft report and our response to those comments are included in our final recommendations.

Key Conclusions

Overall Remuneration

The current level of Member remuneration was considered appropriate, and the Panel concluded that levels were reasonable given the work and responsibilities involved. We felt that it was appropriate for any increase in Members' allowances to be in line with the nationally negotiated rate for staff pay.

Chairman of the LGA

The minimum time requirement for the role of LGA chairman is 3.5 days per week but individuals can opt to increase this to 4.5 days per week, with a corresponding increase in allowance, if the demands of the role support and their other commitments allow. The Panel felt this was appropriate but restated the recommendation of the 2012 review – that the chair of the Independent Review Panel should meet annually with the LGA chairman independently to review the appropriate level of remuneration.

I subsequently met with Lord Porter and was satisfied that he was able to devote the equivalent of 4.5 days per week to his LGA responsibilities and that his 2018/19 allowance should reflect that. The Panel supported his view that given the demands of the role, and in particular the many evening engagements, it was more appropriate to express the time commitment in hours than days. The Panel felt that increasingly this was true of all LGA roles and that members' job descriptions should be amended to reflect this.

Vice-Chairs of the LGA

The Panel considered the SRAs paid to the four vice-chairs/political group leaders to be appropriate given the relative sizes of the four groups, their levels of complex political interaction and the additional role of the Leader of the second largest group to deputise for the chairman in his/her absence.

We noted however that whilst vice chairs' core responsibilities included participating in peer challenges, with the option to undertake further paid peer work to a maximum of 10 days per year, the number of core peer days was not specified. The Panel felt that this required clarification and concluded that, as peer work covers a broad range of activities, it was reasonable to specify that vice chairs are expected to provide "peer support and mentoring to individual councillors and groups of councillors" within their core allowance, with the option to undertake further formal peer work to a maximum of 10 days.

Member Peers

The Panel concluded that current levels of remuneration for national, regional and other member peers was appropriate, as was the mechanism for formal review of member peers.

Members' Travel Expenses

The Panel considered that it was appropriate that home authorities should continue to pay travel expenses for Members attending LGA meetings given the potential benefits to those authorities of representation on national bodies. However for more senior LGA roles, which demanded higher levels of attendance in Westminster and at other engagements around the country, the Panel supported the current policy of reimbursing expenses, as set out in the Members' Scheme of Allowances.

Fire Services Management Committee

The Panel agreed that, as the workload of the Fire Services Management Committee is comparable with some Boards, the Chair of the Committee should receive travel expenses in line with the policy for chairs of LGA policy boards. However as FSMC is a sub-Committee of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, and has a smaller remit than LGA policy Boards, we considered that the current level of remuneration for Members appointed to the FSMC is appropriate.

Members' Parental Pay Policy

The Panel considered the possibility of introducing a parental pay policy for Members but did not see evidence that it was common practice. We felt that given the demands of the LGA's roles, the current LGA carers' allowance, which covered costs of securing care for dependants, incurred as a result of attending meetings or other LGA engagements, provided adequate support to those with caring responsibilities.

Carers' allowance

The Panel acknowledged the Group Leaders' view that the current carers' allowance of £7.83 per hour (equivalent to the national minimum wage) was not sufficient to cover costs in many areas of the country. We see a case for using the Living Wage and the London Living Wage as an alternative. These are currently £8.75 and £10.20 per hour respectively and due to go up in November 2018.

Members' Day Rate

The Panel considered the current Day Rate level of £300 per day as appropriate and in line with other organisations. The Panel noted that the rate had remained the same for 15 years and felt that during a time of highly constrained budgets, the freeze had been an admirable display of restraint by the LGA Leadership. However if austerity is becoming less of an issue, an inflation-linked uplift might be appropriate at the next review.

Workforce Employer Bodies

The Panel noted that reimbursement of members on Workforce Employer Bodies currently falls outside the main LGA Scheme of Member Allowances. We understand that increasingly these bodies meet infrequently or irregularly – for example where multi-year pay deals have been negotiated - and that a concern has been raised by one member that this can mean SRAs are paid in a year where no meetings are held.

In view of this, we felt that a sensible and more equitable approach would be to reimburse members

on those bodies through the Member day rate. This would bring them in line with other bodies that met infrequently such as the Audit Committee and Commercial Advisory Board. We understand that this would be unlikely to impact adversely on the relevant budget.

In Conclusion

The Panel was pleased to undertake this review for the LGA and subject to our four detailed recommendations below, has concluded that current arrangements should give no grounds for public disquiet. Once again we take away a sense that the organisation is conducting its affairs sensibly and openly, with a willingness to make improvements. We commend the LGA's approach and hope our recommendations will be of some value.

Recommendations

Overall the Independent Remuneration Panel recommends that the LGA

1. Amends its Member role descriptions to show the anticipated weekly time commitment in hours rather than in days.
2. Amends the role descriptions of vice chairs to specify that vice chairs are expected to “provide peer support and mentoring to individual councillors and groups of councillors” as part of their core responsibilities. Up to 10 further formal peer days may be paid at the standard day rate.
3. Adds the chair of the Fire Services Management Committee to the list of positions for which travel expenses are reimbursed.
4. Replaces the special responsibility allowance paid to members of the Workforce Employer Bodies with the Members’ Day Rate and brings those appointments into the main LGA scheme of allowances.
5. Replaces the current carers’ allowance of £7.83 per hour (equivalent to the national minimum wage) with the Living Wage and London Living Wage.

Richard Best

Chair, LGA Independent Remuneration Panel

October 2018

Appendix 2: Employer Side Bodies

Role profiles

Role profiles for each of the employer side bodies are available from the LGA's Workforce team.

Remuneration

Member remuneration for employer side duties will be determined according to the following provisions:

- ◆ Where members are paid an annual allowance, this reflects the expected time commitment, and the level of responsibility involved, as set out in the respective role profile.
- ◆ The lump sum is paid by way of twelve equal monthly payments.
- ◆ Councillors appointed to a role for which an annual allowance is paid, are expected to fulfil the role in line with the role profile including regular attendance at meetings either in person or via a telephone/video link.
- ◆ LGA will deduct any tax and National Insurance contributions which are due and will account for these to the Inland Revenue.
- ◆ Allowances are index-linked to the local government services pay settlement.

National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers Fire and Rescue Services National Joint Council Employers* Local Government Services National Joint Council Employers

Allowances (LGA and WLGA members only)

Chairmen and negotiating team **£5,564**

Core members nominated by the LGA to all three bodies **£5,564** in total.

Other members **£2,786**.

(members may have multiple appointments but no member will receive more than **£5,564** in allowances in this category)

Travel and subsistence (all members)

Travel and subsistence for National Joint Council, employer and similar regular meetings will be the responsibility of members' own authorities. Where a member is representing the Employers (including at negotiations taking place when the Employers are not meeting) they should claim from the LGA on the appropriate form.

Local Government Pensions Committee

Allowances (all members)

Chairman **£2,786**

Other Members **£1,393**

Travel and subsistence (all members)

Travel and subsistence for committee meetings is the responsibility of members' own authorities, Where a member is representing the committee they should claim from LGA on the appropriate form.

Europe Employer bodies:

CEEP

CEMR – Employers’ Platform

European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE)

Travel and subsistence (all LGA/WLGA members)

Travel and subsistence for authorised meetings will be paid by LG Employers.

Travel, subsistence and other expenses

Travel, subsistence and other expenses will be paid in accordance with the LGA scheme as set out in paragraphs 23 – 36 above.

Appendix C



ROLE DESCRIPTIONS FOR LGA VICE CHAIRS

2018/19 Meeting Year

Context

The Local Government Association (LGA) is a politically led cross-party organisation, representing local authorities across England and Wales. Its membership includes English councils, fire and rescue authorities, national parks authorities and the 22 Welsh councils in corporate membership through the Welsh LGA. The Association seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups.

Each year the LGA General Assembly elects a chairman, vice and deputy chairs. The chairman of the Association is elected from the largest group and the senior vice chair from the second largest group. The vice chairs are the group leaders of the LGA's four political groups – Conservative, Labour, Independent and Liberal Democrat – and the deputy chairs are nominated by the groups in order to achieve political proportionality. Together, the chairman, vice and deputy chairs make up the LGA Leadership Board and the Office Holders of the Association.

None of these roles has executive responsibilities but together they provide political leadership and direction to the LGA and, with and through the LGA Executive, to the wider LGA central bodies. Whilst one of the founding principles of the Association is the recognition of the right of each group to establish its own position, the role of its office holders is to seek to work to a consensus wherever possible.

The chairman and vice chairs have agreed to ensure their availability to enable the proper conduct of the Association's business, including responding promptly to reasonable requests for clearance and comment on draft positions and papers. They are responsible for appointments to the most senior positions and the chief executive is accountable to them.

Vice Chairs of the Association

Accountabilities

- As a member of the LGA Leadership Board and LGA Executive, to contribute to the development of the strategic direction of the LGA and the LGA central bodies in consultation with the other office holders, Executive members and the chief executive, taking into account the best use of resources.
- To work with, and if appropriate deputise for, the Chairman as principal representative of the LGA.

Appendix C

- As an office holder of the Association, to be active with the other office holders in advancing the interests and policies of the Association through public comment, debate and participation in meetings, conferences and other events.
- To clear and comment on draft positions, papers and media releases.
- To develop and maintain effective relations with the political party at national, regional and member authority level.
- To provide leadership to the political group and be responsible for progressing LGA policies within the group and for the activities of the political group office.
- To ensure positions on LGA structures and external bodies are filled in line with proportionality requirements and to liaise with the group's appointments on those structures to ensure the proper conduct of the LGA's affairs.
- To attend and contribute at meetings of the General Assembly, LGA Executive, LGA Leadership Board and the Councillors' Forum.
- To undertake a range of activities, including regular visits to councils and groupings of councils, writing articles and making speeches on the work of the LGA, **participating in peer challenges** **providing peer support and mentoring to individual councillors and groups of councillors** and ensuring the role is visible and recognised in the group and in the sector as a whole.
- To lead political engagement with member councils under the control of the relevant group to ensure that they understand the benefits of, and remain in, membership.
- To encourage councils in membership to undertake a peer challenge.

Travel and expenses

The roles will require attendance at meetings in London and in other parts of the country. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs incurred by the Vice-Chairs of the Association in the discharge of their duties will be paid by the LGA.

Remuneration

Leader of the second largest group (Senior Vice-Chair):	£40,683
Leader of the largest group (Vice-Chair):	£35,109
Leader of the third largest group (Vice-Chair):	£35,109
Leader of the smallest Group (Vice-Chair)	£29,536

Expected time commitment: 2-3 days per week

LGA Vice-Chairs are permitted to carry out additional paid **formal** peer work, up to a maximum of 10 days per year. They are required to complete a Register of Interest form and to update it annually, or when an individual's circumstances change.

Brexit

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report updates members on the work that the LGA is undertaking to address the opportunities and risks of Brexit for councils.

This report examines, in summary, the issues that we have raised with Government since the referendum to ensure that such opportunities and risks are on the public record and being addressed through national decisions as our exit from the EU is negotiated. The report sets out where there is clarity and where clarity is still being sought.

Recommendation

The LGA Executive are requested to consider where further LGA action is needed and the focus of future Brexit work.

Action

Officers to take forward in-line with members steer.

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Brexit

Background

1. Since the referendum of June 2016, the LGA has developed a detailed Brexit work programme, through working with councils across England and with the associations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
2. We have identified opportunities and risks to councils of Brexit and worked hard to ensure that negotiators were considering these views as a deal with the EU was developed.
3. We are still working in an extremely fluid political environment. The nature of the deal with the EU is still to be defined, with a special European summit being called in November to see if a deal can be agreed. Government is also working proactively to prepare for a “no deal” scenario (though this is not a favoured option). Should a deal be agreed with the EU in November, it will still require a “meaningful vote” in Parliament.
4. Within this uncertain context, this report summarises the opportunities and risks that we have identified and discussed with Government, where assurance has been given and where we are still seeking clarity.

Longer Term Opportunities and Risks

5. It was clear from immediately after the referendum that the onus was on the LGA and councils to illustrate a way forward which strengthened local communities.
6. Through press work, conference events with partners, publications and formal meetings with Government, we have established ideas for a debate about England post-Brexit. In many areas, we have set out tangible work plans and timelines for Government.
7. Big issues which are on-the-record through reports, submissions and evidence to Parliament include:
 - 7.1 Devolution to English communities: the opportunities of devolving powers post-Brexit to communities through local government and ensuring that Brexit does not result in a concentration of power in Whitehall.
 - 7.2 The English Question: the need to address the issue of devolution in England, as the current UK constitutional settlement only covers Holyrood, Cardiff Bay and Stormont.
 - 7.3 A major review of EU legal powers to support local service delivery (for example, procurement and food hygiene).
 - 7.4 Taking the opportunity to create a better local regeneration funding stream to succeed EU Structural Funds.

- 7.5 Ensuring that any “Brexit dividend” extends beyond the NHS to local services such as social care.
- 7.6 Utilising local government expertise in economic development to support future trade deals.
8. We have made progress and have started work with Whitehall on a number of issues. For example:
- 8.1 We have secured a Government agreement to bring local government’s role in EU law making across to the UK post-Brexit and we are awaiting a Parliamentary Statement on detail.
- 8.2 We are meeting Department of International Trade to start to scope the council role in future trading relationships.
- 8.3 Though much depends on the nature of the future trade deal with the EU, Government has taken on board our call for a review of returning EU laws, focusing in the first instance on public procurement and food hygiene laws.
9. LGA Boards have also been scoping out the opportunities and addressing the risks. For example:
- 9.1 The People and Places Board has established the Post Brexit England Commission to examine the devolved powers needed to help non-metropolitan authorities thrive.
- 9.2 The City Regions Board is developing work to bring together a number of representative urban organisations to promote a future urban devolution agenda.
- 9.3 EEHT Board is working with DEFRA on its post-Brexit policies (including a future waste policy).
10. In all these areas, the onus has been on the LGA and councils to create the public debate on the longer-term, localist agenda and to initiate the discussion in Whitehall. Parliament and Whitehall at the moment are concentrating heavily upon the immediate work of preparing for March 2019. Thus it has been difficult to gain much traction on detail when minds are concentrated on the much shorter timescales. However, our successful work on the housing shows that we need to pursue a long-term agenda to initiate changes to national debate.
11. Brexit will change the way that the UK is governed and our work has ensured that we are prepared to promote new powers and responsibilities reaching local communities. There remains a risk that without continued evidence and ideas from the LGA, partners and councils, the centralisation of powers in Whitehall post-Brexit will occur without challenge.

12. Members may wish to consider our current work in this area and any gaps. There will be a point in time when this work will be a staple of our discussion with Whitehall. It is unlikely that this will occur before a deal is agreed. However, the onus remains with the LGA to prepare for and provide the evidence for the longer-term devolution of powers.

Preparing for the Immediacy of Brexit

13. Whilst the detail of the UK's exit deal with the EU remains to be clarified, the LGA has been identifying the issues where councils needed clarity in the immediacy of exit (either in March 2019 or after a transition period in 2021).
14. Working with councils, the big issues identified have included:
 - 14.1 Providing legal certainty for councils as many councils services are underpinned by EU law (e.g. procurement and environmental services).
 - 14.2 Securing regeneration projects currently funded by EU Structural Fund, funding initiatives and the European Investment Bank.
 - 14.3 Securing the continuity of public services and local businesses that depend heavily on non-UK EU residents (for example, seven per cent of social care staff in England).
 - 14.4 Identifying the capacity needed to undertake any increased responsibilities at ports (including port health, emergency planning and transport issue) and in regulatory services (such as trading standards).
 - 14.5 Clarity on voting and standing rights in 2019 local elections.
 - 14.6 Clarity on how new council costs from any new tariff on EU goods would be funded by Government.
 - 14.7 Mitigating the risk of the unintended local consequences of national deals and ensuring enough local flex to ensure that local opportunities were ceased.
15. In these areas, we have proactively offered solutions from the local government perspective. For example, we identified all EU laws impacting on councils and provided detail to ministers of where legal certainty was needed. In addition, where we have identified those parts of the local government workforce or other sectors important to the local economy most vulnerable to change and offered a longer term solution through our Work Local proposals

16. We have been given clarity in some areas:

- 16.1 There is legal certainty as all local government laws based on EU regulations will be transferred into UK law through the Withdrawal Act. However, many statutory instruments are required to be put in place by March 2019 to provide full assurance to the sector.
- 16.2 Our lobbying has achieved a guarantee that HMT will cover the costs of projects funded by EU Structural Funds and associated initiatives, until 2021 (even under no deal).
- 16.3 Settled status provides assurance in the short-medium term for non-UK EU residents and provides legal certainty for employees in public and other local services. Under a no deal scenario, we are still awaiting advice from Government.

17. We are still seeking clarity in the following areas:

- 17.1 We are awaiting the detail of many Statutory Instruments which convert EU law into UK law, some of which will be vital to service delivery. These technical changes may require councils to make administrative / constitutional amendments, the full scale of which has not yet been mapped out (for example, we have been made aware that Food Standards Agency guidance on officer authorisations expects councils to list each piece of legislation they are authorised under; the majority of which are about to change).
- 17.2 The detail of the UK successor to EU regeneration funding has yet to be developed.
- 17.3 We need further details on how more vulnerable groups will be supporting in attaining settled status and we need assurance about the residency and rights of non-UK EU citizens under a “no deal” scenario.
- 17.4 We await clarity on voting and standing rights in May 2019 elections.
- 17.5 There has been no response to our concerns about new council costs from any new tariffs on EU goods.
- 17.6 The “no deal” technical papers, in general, deal with how ports and trading standards adjust its processes and systems when EU goods are treated as third party goods. However, they do not consider the detail of delivery and capacity issues for local councils. Through pressure from the LGA, a cross-departmental working group has been established in Whitehall to work through these issues with port towns. We are closely monitoring progress.

17.7 We have advised that Government “no deal” technical papers are needed to address the impact across all services at a local level. These are unlikely to be delivered.

18. One issue of concern that we raised immediately after the referendum in 2016 was that Government preparation for exit was based on departmental plans. As most Government departments dealt with local government’s issues, the sector was likely to have to deal with and coordinate the work of all departments in order to understand the scale of the work needed by councils. This continues to be a concern.
19. The new MHCLG Brexit Delivery Board, established by the Secretary of State, is dealing with this issue more effectively. Other Government Departments are being invited to attend. However, there is still an onus on the sector itself to join up the action plans of Whitehall. The LGA is pressing MHCLG to fill this important gap in Brexit preparedness and to provide a central hub of information for councils on Whitehall planning. This would be a vital tool to allow councils to prepare for Brexit.

No Deal Scenario

20. Whilst it has stated that “no deal” is not a preferred option, the Government is publishing a series of technical papers which help prepare citizens and businesses for leaving the EU with no deal. These have been communicated to all leaders and Chief Executives to ensure that expectations about councils’ preparedness is on their radar.
21. It should be stressed that Government expectations are that councils are making local plans for “no deal” as a result of its technical papers.
22. Some of the papers (such as changes to procurement rules) have direct impact on councils. Other papers have little impact on councils. There are other areas where no advice has been provided, including employment and residency rights and 2019 local election rules. . As such, there are still gaps where clarity can only be achieved by national advice. It should also be noted that the technical papers do not consider local capacity to deliver regulatory change.
23. The LGA has provided a detailed breakdown for all councils of the formal advice from Government to date and, importantly, has set out the expectations in other areas such as emergency planning. This should help councils prepare where advice is available.
24. This can be found [here](#).

Council Preparedness

25. The ‘No Deal’ technical papers do raise more general issues about councils’ preparedness which we should discuss with Government.

26. Under the no deal scenario, these issues are stark as preparedness is needed by March 2019 when a switch from EU rules to new UK rules becomes effective. The effective date for such change under a deal with a transition period is likely to be from Jan 2021, but these general issues are still of relevance.
27. Firstly, the technical changes advised in “no deal” papers are purely technical (for example, advising that port health databases will switching from an EU IT system to a new UK DEFRA system in March). They do not consider the training/change management needed locally nor do they consider any additional resource that might be needed. Though some detail of these issues are being addressed with councils across Whitehall, there is a more general issue that the LGA needs to make: Councils are capable to manage this change but they need new resources for new duties. Change requires training and an understanding of detail of front-line staff. Under a no deal scenario, the time and training needed for such additional capacity may not be available and “a period of grace” may be needed in which any confusion between the sudden shifts in regulatory systems will result in support rather than punishment.
28. Secondly, much of the Government’s preparations on Brexit is being undertaken through confidential meetings. While it is by no means the case that these confidential meetings will provide all the information and answers that councils need, it is clearly unhelpful that not all councils are able to access information and we are aware of a number of instances where councils have sought information but information remains confidential. This is hampering efforts by councils to prepare for Brexit and needs to be reviewed.

Local Impact

29. Since the referendum we have been aware that there would be studies analysing the economic impact of Brexit at a national level. The onus has been on the LGA to provide the evidence of local impact, where local opportunities can be supported and where risks need to be mitigated.
30. We have led this work with MHCLG through inviting councils and their partners to set out local opportunities and risk. Regional seminars have been held across the country. Regular submissions have been made to MHCLG with evidence.
31. One of the problems of collecting such evidence was the uncertainty of the detail of the Brexit, with councils working to many scenarios. It has been important to register these local issues to ensure that Government’s Brexit preparations were positively influenced by local evidence.
32. We have to work to a scenario where the detail of Brexit may not be known until the last minute and we may need to be prepared for local economic shocks or emerging local opportunities that need to be developed quickly. As such, we are raising with MHCLG the need for resources or capacity which deal with these local risks and opportunities.

For example, we have already put on record that the UK successor to EU funding needs to be a locally based fund which is not bound by national rules, but able to flexibly respond to the challenges and opportunities of local economies post-Brexit.

Going Forward over Next Few Months

33. The biggest unknown is of course the detail of any deal which could be agreed between the UK and the EU. The technical detail will impact on council services, possibly from April 2019. We will continue to monitor developments, analyse the impact on councils and provide briefings for the sector.
34. The timetable below does imply that any deal may not be finalised until the last month of our notice to leave the EU. Thus the Government's planning for "no deal" and the expectations of planning by the sector may continue until exit day.
35. These are the important milestones to consider:
 - 35.1 18 October - UK/EU Negotiations: This meeting of the European Council was expected to agree the UK/EU exit deal. This is now unlikely but more detail might emerge on the likelihood of a deal. A special European Council meeting is being planned for Nov at which it is hoped a deal will be finalised.
 - 35.2 13 November - UK/EU Negotiations: This is the anticipated date for the special meeting when it is hoped a deal will be agreed.
 - 35.3 13 December: There is scheduled meeting of the EU Councils in December. This is possibly the final meeting at which a deal can be agreed.
 - 35.4 From December: UK Parliament discussion on exit: If there is a deal, Parliament will vote on the Government's motion to approve the withdrawal agreement and future framework.
36. There are three "no deal" scenarios for Parliament.
 - 36.1 If Parliament has decided not to pass the Government's motion to approve the withdrawal agreement and future framework.
 - 36.2 If, before 21 January 2019, the Government tells Parliament that no agreement can be reached.
 - 36.3 If after 21 January 2019, no agreement has been reached.
37. Under these scenarios, the Government would have to make a statement to Parliament setting out what it intended to do next. Parliament would then have an opportunity to vote on those plans.

38. From Dec: The European Parliament needs to agree the deal.

Implications of Wales

39. Members and officers are working closely COSLA, the Northern Ireland LGA and the Welsh LGA. The other UK associations are members of the LGA Brexit Task Group where we coordinate our work.



LGA Executive

18 October 2018

Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update

Purpose

For information and agreement.

Summary

This report updates members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reform since the September meeting of the LGA Executive.

Recommendation

That members of the LGA Executive 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 September 2018 meeting of the LGA Executive.
2. The work on further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review is being considered by the LGA's Task and Finish Group prior to, or alongside, consideration by Leadership Board and Executive.

Fair Funding Review

Delivery of the LGA Fair Funding Review work programme

3. 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.
4. As per the previous updates, work on the [relative needs and resources models](#), [the evaluation criteria](#), and the [divergence of relative needs over time](#) is now complete.

Transition work

5. LG Futures was appointed to deliver a summary of potential mechanisms for transition from the current pattern of funding to one that will result from the Fair Funding Review. As the latter will not be clear until 2019 at the earliest, this work will allow the building of hypothetical scenarios to help with the review of potential transition options.
6. Members of the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group discussed the progress of this work and the early draft of the underlying model in their September meeting. The final model will be signed off the Chairman and Group Leaders as agreed at their September meetings. The summary of the potential transition options will be discussed at a future meeting of the Task and Finish Group, Leadership Board and Executive. The work will be published as soon as possible after sign off has been completed.

The Government's next steps for the Fair Funding Review

7. The MHCLG/LGA co-led finance officer technical working group on the Fair Funding Review had a regular meeting on 21 September. The meeting focussed on four main topics – density, rural pressures, Concessionary Travel, and the use of ONS forward population projections. The first three papers were items from local authority groups. The population paper was a MHCLG item.
8. There was general agreement about the use of population projections in future formulae a position which was agreed by Leadership and Executive earlier this year. MHCLG will

reflect on the discussions on the four papers and take account of them in drafting a forthcoming consultation paper which is yet to be cleared by Ministers.

9. As reported at previous meetings, the Government's work is building towards a wider consultation on the Fair Funding Review, expected in autumn 2018. Government officials have elaborated on the issues the consultation might explore as part of papers to the July 2018 officer-led Steering Group.
10. The following is subject to Ministerial decision on the scope of the consultation, including the extent to which the Government would identify preferred options at this stage.
11. On the relative needs assessment, the consultation might cover;
 - 11.1. the structure of the assessment, including options for tier-specific foundation formulae and formulae to assess specific services. The Government might express a preferred option on this;
 - 11.2. the leading cost drivers for inclusion in the above, and a description of proposed analytical techniques to weight them against one another; and
 - 11.3. commentary on the area cost adjustment.
12. On the relative resources assessment, the consultation might cover high level approaches to;
 - 12.1. measuring the council tax base, in particular treatment of mandatory and discretionary council tax discounts. This includes local council tax support schemes;
 - 12.2. the choice of notional or actual council tax levels to be used when calculating the adjustment; and
 - 12.3. treatment of other income, such as sales, fees and charges.
13. On transition, the consultation might cover;
 - 13.1. high level principles that could underpin the choices of transition mechanism, such as stability, speed, transparency and time limits; and
 - 13.2. the definition and measurement of 'baseline' and 'target' between which the transition mechanism would be applied to.
14. 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.

15. In particular, the Task and Finish Group has recently had a number of detailed discussions on the issues set out in paragraph 12. The report to the December meetings of Leadership Board and Executive will provide a summary of the emerging consensus proposed for adoption as LGA policy.

Business Rates Retention

Commissioning a Business Rates Retention model

16. In April 2018 Leadership Board agreed to the LGA commissioning a Business Rates Retention model to enable the effect of possible systems design changes to be estimated. Following a tendering exercise LGFutures were commissioned to produce the model. A working version was demonstrated at the meeting of the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group on 12 September and their comments have been fed back to the suppliers.
17. Officers are now able to recommend that the Chairman and Group Leaders sign off the Business Rates Retention model this month. Following this, the model will be shared with member authorities and placed on the LGA Business Rates Retention Hub alongside the other models commissioned by the LGA. Further updates will be given to your Board at a future meeting.

2019/20 further Business Rates Retention pilots

18. As reported at your previous meeting, the prospectus inviting areas to bid to become a further business rates retention pilot in 2019/20 was published on 24 July 2018 and closed on 25 September 2018. The five 2017/18 devolution pilots will continue at 100 per cent and there will be separate discussions covering London. Non-London 2018/19 pilots needed to reapply if they wished to be a pilot in 2019/20. Unlike in 2017/18 and 2018/19 there is no no-detriment clause. The outcome of the 2019/20 round is expected to be known later in the year.

Other Business Rates Retention updates

19. The joint MHCLG / LGA Systems Design Working Group had a further joint meeting with the Implementation Working Group, a group which has been established to work on the most technical aspects of the system, on 13 September. At the previous meeting of the groups two authorities presented a paper on how to simplify Business Rates Retention. At the September meeting, MHCLG tabled a paper on how retaining growth could work under the proposal for a simplified system.
20. The Business Rates Retention Steering Group is due to consider a MHCLG paper summarising the simplified system at its meeting on 16 October. This will also be considered by the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review on 18 October. Further updates will be brought to future meetings of Leadership Board and Executive.
21. Further discussions at the Systems Design Working Group will inform a consultation paper which is expected to consist of a proposed overall package on elements of the

system such as resets, tier splits, safety nets and treatment of appeals, and also a consideration of what long term reforms, requiring primary legislation, would be beneficial.

22. The Business Rates Retention Steering Group, at its meeting on 16 October, is due to consider papers on the work described in the previous paragraphs as well as papers on the Fair Funding Review and verbal updates on 2019/20 pilots and on the Spending Review. A verbal update will be given at this meeting.

Implications for Wales

23. 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

24. 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.
25. 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	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	Complete
Council tax equalisation: develop a model	<p>A model to identify the impact of adjustments for council tax and council tax support on individual authorities.</p> <p>To inform LGA policy and to help individual member councils evaluate Government proposals.</p>	Complete
Damping /transition mechanisms	A summary of historic damping / transition mechanisms and a model to inform discussions on the guiding principles of transition. To inform LGA and member authorities' policy.	<p>Model due to be signed off by the Chairman and Group Leaders, following which it will be placed on the LGA Business Rates Hub.</p> <p>Summary paper to be discussed and agreed at the Tanks and Finish Group before being discussed at Leadership board and Executive.</p>

Project	Purpose and description	Quick update
Business Rates Retention model	<p>A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of system design choices in areas including:</p> <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. 	<p>Model due to be signed off by the Chairman and Group Leaders, following which it will be placed on the LGA Business Rates Hub.</p>



***The lives we want to lead*, the LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing: update**

Purpose

For noting.

Summary

This paper provides an update on the LGA's adult social care and wellbeing green paper, *The lives we want to lead*. A verbal update on the key findings from the public polling and focus groups that have accompanied our consultation will be given at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board notes the update and the progress that has been made with the LGA green paper.

Action

As directed by Members.

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***The lives we want to lead*, the LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing**

Background

1. In June, shortly after the announcement of new funding for the NHS rising to £20.5 billion per year by 2023/24, the Government announced that its green paper on adult social care would be further delayed to the autumn, “around the same time” as the NHS Plan.
2. In light of this further delay to the Government’s proposals for the future of care and support, the LGA’s Chairman and Group Leaders approved plans for the LGA to develop its own green paper on adult social care and wellbeing.
3. The LGA green paper, *The lives we want to lead*, was published on 31 July and was intended to stimulate a nationwide debate about how best to fund the care we want to see in all our communities for adults of all ages and how our wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people’s wellbeing.
4. *The lives we want to lead* posed a series of 30 consultation questions across a range of topics and the deadline for responses ended on 26 September.

Publication coverage

5. As a priority campaign for the organisation, a detailed plan of launch activity was prepared to promote the green paper, raise awareness of the funding crisis facing adult social care and encourage as many people to take part in the consultation as possible. As a result, the green paper has been mentioned 78 times in total in national print, online and broadcast media.
6. This included a hugely successful launch with coverage in the Sun, Independent, Telegraph, Mail, Express, Mirror and Guardian and which saw LGA spokespeople interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Today, BBC Radio 5 Live, Sky News, BBC Victoria Derbyshire and BBC regional radio.
7. We have also targeted regional and trade coverage with spokespeople interviewed across BBC regional radio regularly and the green paper promoted in a range of regional media.
8. The LGA’s Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour group offices also placed comment pieces on the green paper on the Labour List, ConHome and Lib Dem Voice websites.

Further engagement

9. Cllr Izzi Seccombe wrote about the launch of our green paper in The Times Red Box and the Municipal Journal and Cllr Nick Forbes wrote a comment piece in The Daily Express. Carers World Radio broadcast a special programme dedicated to our green paper in September.
10. The Chairman wrote to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Secretaries of State for both Housing, Communities and Local Government and Health and Social Care to

highlight our green paper and the Political Group Offices engaged with MPs and Peers. Colleagues briefed LGA Vice Presidents and we presented on our green paper at a dedicated parliamentary event in September.

11. We engaged stakeholders about our green paper during LGA panel debates at the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat party conferences. MPs and Peers also highlighted their priorities for social care through a series of short videos which we promoted on social media.
12. There have been more than 15,500 web page views of our green paper, the 'easy read' version has been downloaded more than 400 times and our facilitators and communications packs have been downloaded more than 360 and 430 times respectively. Videos we produced to accompany the green paper have been watched more than 72,500 times. The Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than 4 million people.
13. We have received more than 500 submissions to our consultation questions, which has exceeded our expectations. As part of engaging with key sector partners, we established a Sounding Board of more than 20 partners to help inform our thinking. This has met twice – once in August and once in September. And as part of our engagement process we have also commissioned public polling of 2,000 members of the public and a series of focus groups across the country. A verbal update on the key findings from these two processes will be given at the meeting.

Next steps

14. Colleagues from the LGA's Research Team are carefully analysing all responses to the consultation. The key findings, along with the outputs of the public polling, focus groups and other linked work, will be brought together in a further publication in November. This will be the LGA's formal response to our consultation along with – subject to political agreement – our asks of Government for its green paper, which we understand may now be delayed until December.
15. This report will launch at the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference (14-16 November). A further 'easy read' will be produced alongside the main report.

Financial Implications

16. Work will continue to be done within existing campaigns and policy budgets.

Implications for Wales

17. Our green paper, and the Government's forthcoming green paper, will cover adult social care and support in England only.

Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Title:	LGA Executive
Date:	Thursday 13 September 2018
Venue:	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions
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1	Declarations of Interest
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There were no declarations of interest.

2	Brexit Update
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Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Task Force, introduced the report. He emphasised the urgent need for the Government to clarify whether EU nationals would be eligible to stand for election and/or have voting rights in the local elections in May 2019.

Confirmation had been given that, under a no deal scenario, the Government would guarantee structural funds to local government from the Treasury. The LGA had made the vital but more general point that local authorities could not take any additional burdens from new or anticipated responsibilities after Brexit without new resources.

Cllr Bentley highlighted that there would be issues distinct to each local authority area and advised Council Leaders to contact their local MPs with any concerns.

Decision

The LGA Executive **noted** the update.

Action

A letter requesting clarification on the issue of EU nationals voting and standing in local elections in May 2019 be sent to the Secretary of State, and a media strategy on the issue also be considered. (**Ian Hughes**).

3 Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Governance Structures

Decision

The LGA Executive noted:

- The Executive's membership for 2018/2019.
- The Executive's Terms of Reference; and
- Appointments to the LGA's governance structures for 2018/2019.

4 LGA Business Plan

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the LGA's draft Business Plan for 2018/19 which had been updated to reflect the Associations' latest priorities and work plans. In particular he highlighted that 'Funding for Local Government' and 'Housing' were now separate priorities, whilst 'Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Devolution' had been grouped together. Mark drew to Members' attention to item 3 on the notes of the previous day's Leadership Board which summarised the Leadership Boards comments on the draft Business Plan.

In the discussion which followed the following points were raised:

- That the overall tone of the business plan should be stronger and more positive
- That there should be reference to child refugees and to children's mental health.
- That unlike the precept for adult social care there had been no additional funding for children's services and these pressures should be reflected in the business plan.
- That the importance of councils being able to raise funding locally should be included.
- That the business plan should be reordered to bring 'Adult Social Care and Health' and 'Children, Education and Schools' to the top of the agenda along with 'Funding for Local Government'.
- That the housing priority should be expanded to encompass creating great places to live, with additional objectives to cover the wider infrastructure, homelessness, the importance of a well-resourced planning system and the need for greater ability to influence the rented sector.
- That consideration be given to merging/bringing closer together the Devolution and Brexit priorities.
- That consideration be given to a new Reputation campaign to restore public trust in councils running public services.

Decision

That the LGA Business Plan 2018/19 be amended to reflect members' comments and responsibility for signing off the final version be delegated to the Chairman and Group Leaders.

Action

Business Plan to be amended to reflect comments from the Leadership Board and LGA Executive, and to be submitted for final sign off by the Chairman and Group Leaders (**Claire Holloway**).

5 LGA Draft Response to Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report which set out the key points in the Government's technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement, and presented the LGA's draft response to the consultation for comment. Following comments from the Leadership Board and the LGA Executive, the draft response to the consultation would also be considered by the Resources Board on 14 September prior to submission.

It was noted that the response had been drafted along existing policy lines and in particular drew attention to the funding gap facing local government in 2019/20 and 2025, and the lack of clarity for local authorities from April 2020, as the outcome of the Spending Review was not yet known. For councils who were impacted by negative RSG, the consultation did include a proposal to cancel the adjustment to top-ups and tariffs, meaning that negative RSG would be paid for by central government resources. However there were also proposals to increase the New Homes Bonus threshold based on levels of housing growth; the response commented that the threshold should not be increased, as this could mean that housebuilding schemes and other projects could be stalled when this was such a vital issue facing the country.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- A concern was raised regarding the Negative Revenue Support Grant being potentially cancelled, Cllr Watts confirmed that this seemed very likely at this stage;
- A concern was raised that the severe lack of clarity while the outcome of the Spending Review was not yet known would have a detrimental effect on local authorities attempting to set their budget plans ahead of 2020; and
- The Board were informed that Councils in Wales are facing a further 1 per cent cut in their total budget, which the WLGA is challenging.

Decision

Subject to members' comments, the LGA Executive **agreed** that the LGA's response to the consultation be forwarded to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Action

Officers to update the draft response to reflect comments made by the LGA Executive and Resources Board and forward the final response to MHCL.

6 Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report which provided an update on progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reform, and the LGA's work on these, since the previous meeting in July. The Fair Funding Review consultation was expected any time up until the provisional settlement. A consultation on business rates retention is expected later in the year. On Business Rates Retention, the Government had published a prospectus inviting bids to become 75 per cent retention pilots 2019/20. An event was held earlier in the month for authorities who were looking to become pilot areas.

In the discussion which followed a concerns were raised about the complexity of business rates retention and the current needs formulae.

Decision

The LGA leadership Board **noted** the update and **agreed** to the procedure for signing off the transition model and the business rates retention model, as outlined in the report.

7 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled

Decision

The LGA Executive **agreed** the minutes of the Leadership Board meeting held on 12 September 2018.

8 Note of last LGA Executive meeting

Decision

The LGA Executive **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 July 2018.

9 Spending Review update and Autumn Budget submission

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the report which provided an update on the LGA's planned activity ahead of the 2019 Spending Review and asked for Members' views regarding the outline content of the LGA's 2018 Autumn Budget submission.

Decision

The LGA Executive **noted** the report and **commented** on the 2018 Autumn Budget submission outline as set out in the report.

Action

2018 Autumn Budget submission to be updated in line with Members' comments following consideration by the Leadership Board and the LGA Executive. (**Sarah Pickup**).

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)		South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)		Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)		Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Robert Alden		Birmingham City Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE		Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE		Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE		Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth		Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Martin Tett		Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Michael Payne		Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn		Blackpool Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE		Manchester City Council and City Regions Board
Cllr Richard Watts		Islington Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE		Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE		Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge		Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr David Finch		Essex County Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE		Durham County Council
Cllr John Hart		South West Councils
Cllr Peter John OBE		Southwark Council
Cllr Roy Perry		Hampshire County Council
Cllr Michael Wilcox		West Midlands LGA
Cllr Debbie Wilcox		Newport City Council
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE		County Councils Network (CCN)
Cllr Rishi Shori		Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Robert Bucke		Tendring District Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha		Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kate Haigh		Gloucester City Council
Cllr Vince Maple		Medway Council
Cllr Tudor Evans OBE		Plymouth City Council
Cllr Paulette Hamilton		Birmingham City Council
Apologies:	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE
Cllr Barry Lewis
Cllr Terry O'Neill
Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE

Sir Stephen Houghton CBE
Cllr John Fuller
Alderman Sir David Wootton

Portsmouth City Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Derbyshire County Council
North West Regional Leaders Board
Local Government Yorkshire and Humber
(LGYH)
SIGOMA
District Councils Network
Local Partnerships

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

