

# LGA Executive

## Agenda

**Thursday, 18 July 2019**  
**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

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This meeting is



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## **LGA Executive**

18 July 2019

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There will be a meeting of the LGA Executive at: **1.45 pm on Thursday, 18 July 2019 in Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.**

### **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**

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<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk">Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

### **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
<b>Conservative 9</b>	
Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Robert Alden (Deputy Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE (Deputy Chairman)**	South Norfolk District 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
<b>Labour 10</b>	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Deputy Chair and Board Chair)*	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Board Chair)	Blackpool 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
<b>Liberal Democrat 4</b>	
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
<b>Independent 3</b>	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Vacancy (Balancing Member)	

<b>Regional Representatives 10</b>	
Cllr David Finch	CON East of England LGA (EELGA)
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	LAB North East
Cllr John Hart	CON South West Councils
Cllr Peter John OBE	LAB London Councils'
Cllr Barry Lewis	CON East Midlands Councils
Cllr Terry O'Neill	LAB North West Regional Leaders Board
Vacancy	Yorkshire and Humber
Cllr Roy Perry	CON South East England Councils (SEEC)
Cllr Michael Wilcox	CON West Midlands LGA
Cllr Debbie Wilcox	LAB Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Ralph Bagge	CON South East England Councils (SEEC)

### 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 OBE**	CON District Councils Network
Alderman Sir David Wootton	INDE Local Partnerships

\*Eligible for two votes by virtue of holding two roles.

\*\*Has two roles but only eligible for one vote as Conservative Deputy Chairman

## LGA Executive Attendance 2018-2019

Councillors	13/9/18	18/10/18	06/12/18	24/1/19	07/03/19	06/06/19
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
Lord Gary Porter CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
James Jamieson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Alden	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Carter CBE	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Izzi Seccombe OBE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
David Simmonds CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Fleming OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mark Hawthorne MBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ian Hudspeth	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Martin Tett	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Nick Forbes CBE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Peter Box CBE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Michael Payne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lib Peck	No	No	Yes	No	N/a	N/a
Simon Blackburn	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anntoinette Bramble	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richard Watts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anne Western CBE	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Rishi Shori	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
Howard Sykes MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ruth Dombey OBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lucy Nethsingha	N/a	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Independent</b>						
Marianne Overton MBE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clive Woodbridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robert Bucke	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a
<b>Regional Representatives</b>						
David Finch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Simon Henig CBE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Hart	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Peter John OBE	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Barry Lewis	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Terry O'Neill	No	No	No	No	No	No
Stephen Parnaby OBE	No	No	No	No	No	N/a
Roy Perry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mike Wilcox	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Debbie Wilcox	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Non Voting Members</b>						
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	No	No	No	No	No	No
Philip Atkins OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
John Fuller	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alderman Sir David Wootton	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Substitutes / In attendance</b>						
Lucy Nethsingha	Yes					
Paulette Hamilton	Yes					
Kate Haigh	Yes			Yes		
Vince Maple	Yes	Yes				
Tudor Evans	Yes					
Amy Cross		Yes				
Nick Rushton		Yes				
Richard Henry				Yes		
John Mery				Yes		
Helen Holland				Yes		
James Dawson				Yes		



## Agenda

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### **LGA Executive**

Thursday 18 July 2019

1.45 pm

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

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 12 September 2019, 1.45 pm,  
Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



## **The UN Sustainable Development Goals**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

Following the amended motion on the UN Sustainable Development Goals agreed at General Assembly, this paper sets out the work being undertaken to develop a draft LGA work programme.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Executive comment on the actions proposed in this paper, and commission a full report to be brought to its September meeting.

### **Action**

Officers to review the LGA's Business Plan and work programme as directed by the Board.

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<b>Position:</b>	Head of Policy
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## The UN Sustainable Development Goals

### Background

1. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030 and covering the three different domains of sustainability: environmental, economic and social.



2. These Goals are underpinned by 169 targets, with progress measured by 241 indicators. For example, Sustainable Development Goal 8 – *promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all* - has 10 targets and 15 indicators.
3. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals started in 2016. This process is referred to as *Localising the SDGs* and it is here that local government, alongside other civic and commercial actors, has a role in turning the global Goals into legislation, action and funding priorities.
4. Progress against these Goals is reported annually on a thematic and country-specific basis to the UN's High Level Political Forum. In 2019, 6 goals<sup>1</sup> will be reviewed in depth and 47 countries, including the UK, have volunteered to undertake and present a Voluntary National Review.
5. The UK's Voluntary National Review was published in June this year<sup>2</sup> and the findings will be presented to the UN at the High Level Political Forum held in New York between 9 July and 15 July 2019. We will update members on any further details emerging at this Forum.

<sup>1</sup> SDG4 Quality Education, SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG17 Partnerships for the Goals

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uks-voluntary-national-review-of-the-sustainable-development-goals>

6. The Review notes that while progress had been made, more remains to be done, particularly in the areas of climate change and an ageing population. On the matter of local involvement in delivering the SDGs, it states:

6.1. "It is estimated that 65 per cent of the 169 Global Targets need local stakeholders to be involved if they are to be achieved."

6.2. "Local authorities are often responsible for many of the services and environments people interact with daily. From providing social care (Goal 3) to safe education (Goal 4) to effective transport planning (Goal 11), local authorities are vital to the domestic delivery of the Goals. In return, the Goals offer an effective framework to support local authorities with developing plans, strategies and supporting overall progress on sustainable development. Local authorities are well placed to provide the vital link between local communities and businesses and the Goals by connecting local priorities with the Goals and raising awareness of their importance amongst stakeholders. They can also reflect the needs and unique circumstances of their residents and communities to ensure resources are directed in the most effective ways."

### **The SDGs and the LGA**

7. The LGA has been engaged with the SDGs and the development of the Review at an officer and member level. This has included attending engagement events, including an 'emerging findings' session in the House of Lords. This event was chaired by the DfID Secretary of State, and we were represented by Lord Porter, who subsequently asked a written question on the Government's support to local partners.<sup>3</sup>
8. We have sought to publicise the Review and raise awareness amongst councils through contributions to the LGA Chief Executive's Bulletin and in an article in First Magazine.<sup>4</sup> We have also worked with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to advise on progress within an international context and to inform domestic lobbying work such as a submission to the Environment Audit Committee.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-02/HL15013/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.lgafirst.co.uk/features/global-goals-local-solutions/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/environmental-audit-committee/sustainable-development-goals-in-the-uk/written/38341.pdf>

9. This month, the LGA's General Assembly voted in favour of a motion (included at **Appendix 1**) raising awareness of the SDGs and committing the LGA to:
  - 9.1. Call upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area;
  - 9.2. Encourage councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs; and
  - 9.3. Declare a 'Climate Emergency', and commit to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.
10. These proposals, in combination with the need for local engagement set out in the Review, provide a framework for the LGA's future activity. The SDGs touch on many, if not all, of the LGA's priorities. A thorough review is required to understand the alignment of the SDGs with our current work programme; areas of opportunity for further development, and those elements that are less relevant to the LGA and local government in England. We would need to be clear that the language of 'targets' is not interpreted as imposing a centralised reporting structure on councils, but an opportunity to coordinate international ambitions with local priorities, backed by local data.
11. For example, Goal 5 – *Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls* – includes the following target: 5.3) Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. The LGA has an established position in supporting the work of the National FGM Centre and it would be relatively straight forward to include a reference to the relevant SDG to underline the importance and global relevance of this work. However, not all elements will be so clear cut.
12. To best understand how we might align our work programme, officers propose to review the SDGs and their indicators over the summer. The results of this work would be brought together into a comprehensive paper to Leadership Board in September that includes recommendations for areas of focus and next steps. In some cases, we could choose to use the SDGs to bolster the case for greater localisation of powers and resources to support communities.
13. As part of this process, officers will review the LGA's Business Plan and bring a draft amended version to the same meeting. This will ensure that the LGA's priorities complement the SDGs and councils' role in ensuring successful delivery of the UK's ambitions.

14. Alongside the LGA's review of its own work, it is proposed that officers consider ways to share good practice between councils. Where relevant, they will also consider any specific improvement needs arising from meeting the individual SDGs. These proposals will be included in the paper for discussion by Leadership Board.

### **Environmental protection and the climate emergency**

15. Protection and improvement of the environment is an issue which councils have an important role in addressing. As well as working with government to shape the national agenda, councils are uniquely placed to address the environmental, social and economic aspects of this agenda in a coherent way. Climate change is an increasing priority. Many councils together with the LGA have acknowledged the urgency of the issue by declaring a climate emergency; with some agreeing a target date for achieving zero net carbon emissions.
16. The LGA has an important role in supporting councils to achieve their ambitions on environmental protection and improvement. We are working with councils and Government on the emerging Environment Bill which will give legislative underpinning to the Government's 25 year Environment Strategy.
17. The LGA's Environment Economy Housing and Transport Board (EEHT) has discussed this issue at its recent meetings. An LGA summit is now planned for October, bringing together councils, Government and other partners to consider the challenges in this agenda, including achieving zero net carbon by 2050 or sooner. The summit will be an opportunity to understand current good practice and the additional powers and resources that councils will need to meet the carbon and biodiversity challenges. The EEHT Board recognises that this agenda will be a significant priority for the LGA that will require senior political leadership, and the research undertaken to inform discussions at the summit (including the powers and resources needed by councils) will be presented to Leadership Board in September.

### **Implications for Wales**

18. The LGA continues to work with all UK local government associations on this issue. While many of the policy areas covered by the SDGs will be devolved to Wales, we will work with the WLGA over the summer to understand areas of shared concern. In particular, to learn from their work developed under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015), which imposes a statutory duty on public bodies to take into account the needs of future generations when making decisions.



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**Financial Implications**

19. Any budget implications above and beyond resources already set aside for the LGA's work programme will be highlighted in the September report.

**Next steps**

20. Officers to undertake a review of the Business Plan and work programme in line with members' comments.





## Appendix 1 – Motion (as amended) and LGA Response

**Motion Proposer:** Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council.

**Motion Seconders:** Cllr Judith Blake, Leader, Leeds City Council.  
Mayor Joe Anderson, Liverpool City Council.

**Amendment Proposer:** Cllr Peter Box CBE, Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council

**Amendment Second:** Cllr Nick Forbes CBE, Newcastle upon Tyne City Council

### Propose that:

The Association values the importance of the [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) that address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation and prosperity. We welcome the work being done ahead of the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July that will consider how the UK's programmes and policies are contributing to achieving these Global Goals. The Association also welcomes the importance placed by HM Government that all levels of government work together and that its partnership with local government is a key component to successful domestic implementation of the SDGs.

Local government has a vital role to play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, work that will be key in delivering the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

SDG Goal 13 calls on partners to take urgent action to combat climate change. The Association recognises that a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions with cross-party support, in recognition of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warning that urgent action is required in order to avoid runaway global warming and climate breakdown.

If implemented properly, each of the SDGs has the potential to be transformative in moving our areas toward a more sustainable society with many of the Goals best supported by local co-ordination and delivery through local government and its partners. Our role can also help raise awareness of these challenges by engaging our areas through local partnerships and with our citizens.

Whilst the Association agrees with Government that such partnerships are a vital component and members have supported work on developing models that engage local stakeholders as effectively as possible, this engagement needs sustainable funding and support in order for councils to effectively share research and engagement with our networks, partners and citizens, particularly given our sector's continuing funding pressures.



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The benefits of exploring SDG partnership co-ordinators would be to provide a focal point for activity in our areas and demonstrate the need for local perspectives to be embedded in the delivery of the SDGs, as well as improve the capacity for councils to deliver on the Goals. Supporting such positions would also provide a common language and common roles across different areas, would facilitate the sharing of best practice and further enable the delivery of global and local priorities at the same time.

This Association therefore:

- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area;
- Encourages councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs; and
- Declares a 'Climate Emergency', and commits to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.

## **LGA Response**

The LGA would like to pay tribute to Mayor Rees, Councillor Blake and Mayor Anderson for bringing this motion forward and thank Members who have contributed to this timely and helpful debate.

The LGA supports this motion and is committed to playing its part in enabling local government to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. If the Government is committed to delivering on our commitments to improving economic, social and environmental sustainability, it must be embraced across all Whitehall departments. Councils have a crucial role to play in shaping more prosperous and inclusive places, but they must be empowered and funded sustainably if we are to achieve our shared ambitions for the country, whether that is putting funding back into preventative services or enabling a more devolved employment and skills service.

We will set out to the new Prime Minister how councils can be a powerful ally in delivering on our shared priorities, and will use the upcoming Spending Review and all other opportunities to do so. We will also work with our member councils to share the excellent work that is already taking place around the Sustainable Development Goals and help other councils develop their activity.

This morning we have declared a climate emergency and the LGA will work to support councils taking this step, and in some cases committing to specific timescales for achieving net zero carbon. Councils are already mitigating and helping communities to adapt to climate change on matters such as air quality, flooding, transport and energy. The LGA will work with our membership and Government to understand the additional powers and resources that councils will need to achieve their ambitions. We will keep Members informed as this work progresses.

## **Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

This report provides a summary of progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes since the last meeting.

#### **Recommendations**

That members approve the LGA policy position regarding the fire and rescue services' relative needs formula (paragraphs 8-10).

#### **Action**

Officers will proceed with the delivery of the LGA work programme on Further 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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<b>Position:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive
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## **Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update**

### **Background**

1. This report provides a summary of progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes since the last meeting.
2. In particular, this paper covers the following:
  - 2.1. Discussions at the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review;
  - 2.2. Discussions at the recent meetings of LGA/MHCLG technical working groups; and
  - 2.3. Progress on the alternative administration model of business rates retention.
3. Members of Leadership Board and Executive have previously agreed deliverables of an expanded LGA work programme on business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review as set out in **Appendix A**. The programme is now complete but will be kept under review as MHCLG work on these policies progress.

### **Fair Funding Review: fire and rescue services formula**

4. In its 6 June meeting, members of the LGA Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review discussed the various options for the treatment of the fire and rescue services relative needs formula as part of the Fair Funding Review.
5. Fire and rescue services are proposed by the Government to be assessed under a service specific formula, as part of the overall relative needs assessment of individual local authorities.
6. The December 2018 consultation document said that the Government is considering three options on the shape of the fire and rescue services formula:
  - 6.1. Retaining the existing formula, but update the data wherever possible (eg population numbers) to arrive at refreshed values for each council;
  - 6.2. Replacing the current formula with a simple formula based on total population (with an extra weight for population aged 65+) and deprivation; or
  - 6.3. Replacing the current formula with a new formula, developed by looking at patterns between spending, need and local characteristics at ward level or smaller ('multi-level modelling').
7. A table which summarises each option is attached as **Appendix B**.

8. The Task and Finish Group discussed the paper, and noted that:
  - 8.1. The simplified formula (option 2) would be too simplistic for a service that is based on assessed risk rather than traditional concepts of 'demand'.
  - 8.2. Option 3 was preferred, but it was noted that it was probably not possible to deliver such a complex project in time for April 2020. Multi-level modelling exercises usually involve extensive additional research and data collection, with the whole process normally taking well over a year.
9. As a result, the Task and Finish Group proposed that LGA should support the combined option of:
  - 9.1. In the short term, using the current formula with updated data (option 1); and
  - 9.2. Calling on the Government to start work immediately on a completely refreshed formula using multi-level modelling techniques (option 3), with results to be introduced at the next possible opportunity.
10. This matches what officers understand to be the preferred position of the Chief Fire Officers' Association.
11. **Members are asked to approve this to be the official LGA policy position.**

#### **Technical working group on needs and redistribution**

12. This working group, co-chaired by LGA and MHCLG and consisting of senior local authority finance officers, acts as a sounding board for the Government's work on the Fair Funding Review.
13. This group has been reconvened after a pause (last meeting was in late 2018), and the following items were discussed at the 25 June meeting:
  - 13.1. Summary of consultation responses received by the Government (already shared with Leadership Board and Executive);
  - 13.2. Progress on the development of a new children and young people's services formula which will be peer reviewed;
  - 13.3. Progress on the development of new Area Cost Adjustments; and
  - 13.4. The impact of higher or lower levels of notional council tax used in the council tax adjustment.
14. In the meeting, members requested further information be provided on the children and young people's formula and the area costs adjustments and suggested that the results

should be sense checked. On notional council tax members asked for a future discussion on how this will be set.

15. These issues will be discussed in more detail at the July meeting of the LGA's Task and Finish Group before bringing their policy recommendations to a future meeting of Leadership Board and Executive.

#### **Business rates retention systems design working group**

16. Discussions with MHCLG on the development of the alternative administration model of business rates retention have been continuing in joint meetings of the Systems Design and Implementation Working Groups. The groups are meeting monthly and have met once since the last meeting of Leadership Board and Executive. A further meeting is scheduled for 18 July. Papers can be found on the [LGA website](#).
17. The groups discussed how the alternative model, which will adjust for the effect of provisions and appeals on local authorities, could be operationalised and what this would mean for local authority budgeting, resourcing and operating systems. The groups also discussed how the levy and safety net would operate under the alternative model.
18. The alternative model will be a substantive item on the agenda of the July meeting of the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review. A summary of the key issues discussed and any policy recommendations will be brought to future meetings of Leadership Board and Executive.

#### **Illustrative model of the Alternative administration model for business rates retention**

19. The LGA commissioned a further modelling tool from LGFutures, comparing an illustrative version of the alternative administration model of business rates retention with the existing system. Unlike the previous business rates retention excel tool, this is backward rather than forward looking and covers the years from 2013/14 to 2019/20. For each authority, it enables users to see how they did under the existing system and how they might have done had a version of the alternative model, which adjusts for provisions for appeals, been adopted. It is not possible at this stage to build a model that removes the effect of appeals on local authorities although it is possible for authorities to enter their own information on appeals.
20. The model, which will be placed on the LGA website shortly, was cleared by the LGA Chairman and Group Leaders as per the procedure for the previous Business Rates Retention model and the Fair Funding Review models, having previously been agreed with the LGA's Task and Finish Group.
21. As highlighted above, MHCLG is still exploring how the alternative model of business rates retention could work and as this progresses we will explore what enhancements and improvements can be made to the modelling tool.

### **Next steps**

22. Members are asked to approve the LGA policy position regarding the shape of the fire and rescue services' relative needs formula (paragraphs 8-10).
23. Officers will 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.

### **Implications for Wales**

24. Local government funding is a devolved matter and business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review policies are limited to English local authorities.

### **Financial Implications**

25. This is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in core work programme budgets.

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

Project	Purpose and description	Quick update
<b>Criteria for assessing proposed distribution models and methodologies</b>	To give the LGA a structured and consistent way to assess new distribution models.	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Formula grant: update the data</b>	<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>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Distribution model: develop a distribution model</b>	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	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Council tax equalisation: develop a model</b>	<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>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Damping /transition mechanisms</b>	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.	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Business Rates Retention model</b>	<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"> <li>• The setting of business rates baselines;</li> <li>• The extent and frequency of business rates resets;</li> <li>• Dealing with losses due to appeals;</li> <li>• The level of the safety net and how it is funded; and</li> <li>• The split of business rates income in two-tier areas.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Alternative Administration Model of Business Rates Retention</b>	A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of the alternative administration of Business Rates Retention.	Complete – published shortly



**Appendix B. Proposed options for assessing relative needs for fire and rescue services**

Option	Short description	Factors	Comments
<b>Use the existing formula but update the data  (option 1)</b>	This would mean that the review only updates the values of the factors used in the formula (eg population) but does not review the weightings of those factors.	<p>Total population</p> <p>Coastline</p> <p>Population density</p> <p>Population sparsity</p> <p>Risk index (working age adults with no qualification, working age adults with no employment, standardised mortality ratio &lt;75 years, recipients of income support, income based Jobseekers' Allowance or the Guarantee element of pension credit)</p> <p>Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites per person</p> <p>Property and societal risk top-up (estimated by the Secretary of State, based on buildings information derived from the Valuation Office Agency and property and societal risk frequency for other buildings information from the 2006 Fire Services Emergency Cover [FSEC] Toolkit)</p> <p>Community fire safety top-up (consisting of factors such as pupils aged 5-10, residents living in areas with a greater need for fire safety education, population aged 65+)</p> <p>Area cost adjustment</p>	<p>The simplest and quickest approach.</p> <p>However,</p> <p>It does not assess whether the formula is still reflective of spending/demand patterns.</p> <p>Not all of the data can be updated</p>

Option	Short description	Factors	Comments
<b>Build a new simple formula</b> <b>(option 2)</b>	This would focus on a smaller number of factors, with weightings decided through the use of past expenditure-based regression which tries to produce a 'best fit line' between variables and past spending at council level.	To be determined but the current shortlist (as included in the Government's December 2018 consultation document) includes:  Total population  Deprivation  Proportion of residents aged 65 and over  Area Cost Adjustment	Would lead to a simplified formula, and is a quick exercise.  However,  The indicator set does not include a wider range of factors that are considered to be related to risk
<b>Build a new formula using multi-level modelling</b> <b>(option 3)</b>	This would include a robust analysis of spending and risk at 'lower super output area' (up to approx. 10,000 residents).	To be determined by the analysis  (to include an area cost adjustment)	A statistically robust approach which is capable of including wider set of 'risk' factors assuming they are statistically significant.  However,  Takes time and is expensive – unlikely to be deliverable in time for implementation from April 2020

## **LGA Boards Annual Review of the Year**

### **Purpose**

For information and discussion.

### **Summary**

Each LGA Board produces an annual report reviewing the work they have overseen during the previous meeting cycle and setting out their key achievements. As part of its terms of reference, the LGA Executive is responsible for holding the policy Boards to account. The LGA Boards' annual reports from the September 2018 to July 2019 meeting cycle are included as listed below for the Executive's consideration.

- a. Children & Young People
- b. City Regions
- c. Community Wellbeing
- d. Culture, Tourism & Sport
- e. Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport
- f. Improvement & Innovation
- g. People and Places
- h. Resources
- i. Safer & Stronger Communities

### **Recommendation**

That the Executive notes the Boards' achievements on the 2018/19 meeting year.

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

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## **Children and Young People Board - End of Year Report**

### **Background**

1. The Children and Young People Board provides strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to education and schools, children's social care, children's health and early years in line with the LGA priorities as they relate to this activity. This report sets out the Board's achievements over the past year.

### **Early Years**

2. Following extensive lobbying by the LGA, the Government agreed to extend supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools to the end of the academic year 2019-20. An additional £24 million was provided, giving councils and nursery schools the certainty they needed to remain open for the full school year, providing much-needed spaces for children, particularly those in deprived areas and those with special educational needs.
3. We published a resource pack for councillors on early education and childcare, highlighting key issues and lines of enquiry for all councillors to ensure local areas are providing the best possible services for young children and their families.

### **Children's Social Care**

4. As a result of sustained lobbying by the LGA and its partners, councils were awarded an additional £410 million in the 2018 Budget for children's and adult's social care. £84 million was also announced to support up to 20 local authorities to implement new programmes to reduce the number of children coming into care.
5. We published two new resource packs on children's social care, focussing on permanency and early help. The early help pack was produced in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and aims to support councillors to look at how evidence is used to inform local early help offers. We also produced a document entitled "Your first ten days as a lead member for children's services" which supports new lead members through their first few days in office. This has received excellent feedback.
6. We commissioned the Isos Partnership to carry out research into the enablers of an effective local early help offer. The Partnership visited eight local authorities to carry out "deep dive" exercises and published their final report in March 2019. A launch event was held with member councils in London, and a series of regional workshops has been arranged to share the learning further.
7. We held a conference in July 2018 on county lines to support local authorities in developing their responses to this. The conference was fully booked, and received excellent feedback from councils.



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8. We have updated our “must know” guides for children and young people services, including guides on what to do if your children’s services are found to be inadequate, and a guide for chief executives.

### **Youth services**

9. Following feedback from councils and partners, we commissioned the Centre for Youth Impact (CYI) to produce a Framework of Outcomes for Young People, to support commissioners and providers to ensure local youth services were designed to deliver the right outcomes. A draft framework was launched in November 2018, and this has been consulted on through a series of workshops with both practitioners and commissioners facilitated by CYI and the National Youth Agency. A final framework, with accompanying training guides, will be published in the Summer.
10. We have continued our work, alongside sector partners, to raise the profile of youth services and the impact of cuts to these. As a result, the Government has committed to reviewing the statutory guidance for the youth services duty on councils, and will be developing a Youth Charter to set out the government’s ambitions for young people as we called for in our Vision for Youth Services. The NCS Trust, which oversees the National Citizen Service, has also committed to improving links with local authorities through its new delivery model.

### **Grant funding for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**

11. Following sustained lobbying from the LGA, councils and partners, Government [announced](#) that more funding for councils supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). From 1 April 2019, the grant will be uplifted to £114 per child per night from the current rates of at £71, £91 and £95. We welcomed this increase in our [response](#) but restated our call for Government to ensure all costs for children and children leaving care are fully funded, particularly as councils have seen an increase of more than 50 per cent in two years in unaccompanied children leaving care.

### **Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

12. We published *'Improving schools: Moving the conversation on'* at last year’s LGA Annual Conference, together with new evidence showing that councils have an excellent track record in school improvement. This called for a reset in relationships between DfE and councils and for councils to be able to set up MATs and for council maintained schools to be able to sponsor academies without having to convert to academy status themselves.
13. We published updated research in May this year on the excellent council track record in school improvement which looked at how primary and secondary schools’ Ofsted grades have fared over the past five years, comparing those which remained council-maintained to those that academised. This showed that schools that remained with their council were more likely to keep a good or outstanding Ofsted rating than those which become an academy.

14. We published action research: *Developing and sustaining effective local SEND system; a practical guide for councils and partners* to highlight the key issues facing councils in providing support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and providing case studies of best practice. This was informed and disseminated through a series of regional workshops.
15. We published research in December *Have we reached a 'tipping point'? Trends in spending for children and young people with SEND in England* report, that showed councils are facing a high needs funding shortfall of £472 million this year, which could rise to an estimated £806 million next year and between £1.2 billion and £1.6 billion in 2020/21, based on historical trends. To build on these findings we held a roundtable with DfE and MHCLG officials to discuss high needs funding pressures. The findings of this report contributed to the Department for Education announcing that an additional £250 million was being made available for council high needs budgets for the 2018-19 and 19-20 financial years, as well as £100 million for additional SEND school places.
16. We published a revised 'must know' for Lead Members for Children's Services on SEND, which was produced in conjunction with the Council for Disabled Children and National Network of Parent-Carer Forums.
17. A project looking at the demand and cost drivers for home-to-school transport is on-going looking at both mainstream and SEND home-to-school transport with the findings expected to be published before the end of the summer.
18. Following extensive lobbying, the government have published a consultation on proposals to create a register for home educated children. It includes proposals for a duty on local authorities to maintain a register and a duty on parents and providers to provide information to inform the register.

### **Children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing**

19. As part of our support for councils, we held an LGA [peer learning programme](#) on improving children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing for eight councils and published the main findings as part of national mental health awareness week in May. We have also launched a [guide](#) on leadership and accountability in children and young people's mental health and wellbeing services.
20. We have continued to champion the role of local government in children and young people's mental health through our [Bright Futures](#) Campaign. The Board has taken the decision to review our policy work around children and young people's mental health to give it more of a local government focus, and a cross-board steering group with the Community Wellbeing Board and Safer Stronger Communities Board has been established. We have also commissioned Isos to undertake research with councils to understand the spending profile on children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing; and to work with councils to develop a local government perspective on the policy changes needed to better support our children and young people.

21. We held a very successful event in January on improving the transition between children and adult mental health services and a review of the event will be launched over the summer. We also met with Government departments to discuss transition in children's mental health services as part of work on the spending review.
22. The Budget announced an additional investment of up to £250 million a year by 2023/24 into mental health, including new mental children and young people's crisis teams. As part of NHS England's Long Term Plan, we have been contributing to the development of the new schools-based mental health support.
23. We have briefed for debates in the House of Lords on the mental health of children and young adults in the UK, and debates in the House of Commons on eating disorders and mental health.

#### **First 1000 days of a child's life**

24. In September we submitted written evidence to Health Social Care Select Committee inquiry into the First 1000 Days. We highlighted the improved outcomes and innovation which councils have achieved since taking on responsibility of the Healthy Child Programme in 2015 and stressed the need for a sustainably resourced, integrated approach to early intervention.
25. In January Cllr Hudspeth and Cllr Bramble met with Andrea Leadsom, Leader of the House of Commons and Chair of the First 1001 Days cross-party working group and again stressed the leadership of local government in joining up health, care and taking a whole family approach to support within the 1000 days.
26. In line with the current Government focus on the importance of the First 1001 days of a child's life, we published 2 timely reports [A Better Start: supporting child development in the early years](#) setting out the measures being taken by local authorities to bring together health, social care and early education services to create a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young children and families and [Fit for and During Pregnancy: A key role for local government](#), demonstrating the importance of local authorities in delivering maternity and neonatal care through health visitors, family workers, midwives, social care and children's centres staff.

#### **Children and early intervention in the NHS Long Term Plan**

27. Alongside the wider LGA submission to the Long Term Plan, we submitted responses to the Children's work stream. We welcomed the greater focus on children and young people in the published plan. The LGA is now a board member on the newly created Children and Young People Transformation Board and continues to stress the need for greater partnership working and investment in prevention and early intervention through reversal of the public health budget reductions.





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### **Serious Youth Violence**

28. In April the Prime Minister opened the Serious Youth Violence Summit, bringing together partners from the health service, education sector, local government, criminal justice and the police. Councillor Hudspeth represented the LGA at the roundtable focused on health and highlighted the importance of taking a multi-agency approach, the need to invest in CAMHS and wider public health interventions to prevent children and young people becoming more vulnerable and reaching crisis points.

### **Other publications**

29. A joint publication with PHE [National Child Measurement Programme: a briefing for elected members](#) to share how councils are helping children to achieve a healthy weight and lifestyle.

30. At our Annual Public Health Conference we launched our [Health visiting](#) publication with ADPH.

31. A joint [publication](#) with PHE on supporting young parents to reach their full potential.

### **Financial Implications**

32. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.

### **Implications for Wales**

33. None – education and children's services are a devolved matter in Wales.



## **City Regions Board - End of Year Board Report**

### **Background and Context**

1. The City Regions Board was created to provide a clear voice and resource for city regions within the LGA and to advocate on behalf of English cities.
2. Members are asked to consider the achievements of the board over the last year against the use of allocated resources and to reflect on whether the board is continuing to meet its purpose in response to the emerging priorities of metropolitan areas.

### **Priorities and Achievements**

#### **Skills and Employment**

3. The Board works jointly with the People and Places Board to steer our employment and skills work through our Work Local proposals for devolved and integrated employment and skills. During the last political cycle, the Boards agreed to establish a cross LGA Skills Taskforce to forge links with skills industry experts and stakeholders on this agenda. Co-chaired by Cllrs Sir Richard Leese and Mark Hawthorne, the Taskforce convening three themed roundtables between December 2018 and March 2019. Through it, we engaged 28 leading organisations and trade bodies that are key to improving skills and employment in England. A Taskforce [webpage](#) includes video interviews from stakeholders and summaries of each roundtable meeting. We aim to strengthen these links over the next Board cycle. Already we have started to develop follow up work on apprenticeships and the National Retraining Scheme.
4. The LGA and 23 leading signatories wrote an open letter to the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education, which called for a series of reforms to support councils and combined authorities to deliver quality apprenticeships locally. This included calls on the Government to pause plans to begin clawing back unspent Apprenticeship Levy funding following delays to the standards in adult care, early years and building control against which the Levy funds must be spent. The letter was featured in the Financial Times. The LGA has welcomed a Public Accounts Committee report raising concerns about the apprenticeship programme, having previously submitted written evidence to it.
5. The Boards will launch a refreshed Work Local proposal at our annual conference in July 2019. This also includes findings from the skills taskforce roundtables.
6. The LGA hosted a skills conference in November 2018. The event was well attended with extremely positive feedback. The sessions ranged from post-16 pathways to supporting age-friendly employment with keynote address by Dr Emran Mian OBE, Acting Director General of Higher and Further Education, Department for Education. We are now planning to host a series of events to explore some of the specific topics.

7. Following positive discussions last year with the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, the LGA proactively put forward a plan for LGA politicians and skills leads from councils to engage strategically with DfE on the development of post 16 skills policy and funding. The proposal was well received by DfE officials with a go-ahead to proceed. However more recent discussions with the Department suggest that while political level meetings are expected to continue, plans to engage council skills leads have been watered down. The LGA will seek clarity from DfE on this.

### **Devolution**

8. With the People and Places Board, the City Regions board continued to develop the LGAs sector led improvement offer for Combined Authorities (CAs). This included a number of key policy networks that allow CAs to share best practice and look at collective issues. A Governance and Scrutiny network and a HR network have also now been set up.
9. The housing and planning network commissioned research into the opportunities for collaboration between combined authorities and their constituent councils.

### **Industrial Strategy**

10. Work continues to engage Whitehall officials on the key issues for councils relating to the Industrial Strategy, including Local Industrial Strategies and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This follows LGA lobbying successes including the confirmation that every area will be invited to agree a Local Industrial Strategy with government and the announcement that funding for EU programmes will be guaranteed until the end of 2020 in the event of a no deal Brexit.
11. Together with the People and Places Board, the City Regions Board has overseen the LGA's joint work with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support local areas in the development of local industrial strategies. The LGA has held well-attended masterclasses on inclusive growth, effective collaboration with businesses and stakeholders, and developing a place-based narrative. It also hosted a series of action learning sets with officers from around the country. Write-ups from these events alongside learning notes and a good practice toolkit to support the creation of a robust evidence base will be available on the LGA website by late June.
12. We have continued to respond to developments arising from the Government's review of Local Enterprise Partnerships. Activity included a letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and responses to work led by the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee into LEP progress. This has included a focus on strengthening LEP accountability, particularly in light of changes to LEP board composition.

## **Trade and investment**

13. As Britain prepares to leave the EU, we have continued to work in partnership with the People and Places Board to inform the LGA's policy work on trade and international investment.
14. A survey of the LGA's membership was undertaken at the end of last year to highlight the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of sub-national government in future trade and investment activity.
15. The LGA has continued to engage with the Department for International Trade and key national stakeholders on the role for local government in future trade policy. In April, Marian Sudbury, Director of UK Regions at the Department for International Trade (DIT), attended the City Regions Board to talk about the Department's sub-national work. The Board discussed with Marian how councils could most effectively contribute to the Department's work and highlighted examples from across the country of the important role for councils in supporting exports and inward investment. This activity at the Board has been supplemented by Parliamentary activity including written questions on trade from the LGA Chairman and a meeting between Cllr Kevin Bentley and Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Investment.

## **Urban Leadership**

16. The City Regions Board agreed to assemble a coalition of interested and relevant parties (Core Cities, Key Cities, London Councils and SIGOMA) to consider and re-articulate to a national audience the distinct concerns and opportunities that unite urban authorities.
17. Consequently, the Board decided to undertake further work to advance the case for fiscal devolution, commissioning research to explore the particular cost pressures facing urban areas that might best exemplify the case for greater local autonomy.
18. This research is due to report in early July and will be used to inform the Boards lobbying and policy work over the next political cycle.

## **Programme of work and priorities 2019/20**

19. Recognising the national political context, the Board will seek to restart the English devolution debate, supporting the development of an English Devolution Bill and continuing to push on further fiscal devolution.
20. The Board will also continue to play a role in shaping LGA's work on place based growth, overseeing work on skills and employment support, inclusive economies, trade and international investment and, the creation of a place-based UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
21. Subject to discussion at the June Board, members may seek to dedicate Board capacity to pursue additional priorities over the next political cycle, such as the particular



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opportunities and challenges for urban areas arising within the context of a renewed focus on sustainable development.

### **Financial Implications**

22. All work programmes are met from existing LGA budgets and resources. Additional funding was secured from BEIS to support the LIS improvement work.

## Community Wellbeing Board – End of Year report

1. This report summarises activity on our key priorities. However, the activity of the Board covers a far wider range of policy issues. The Community Wellbeing Board has responsibility for Local Government Association's activity in the areas of the wellbeing of adults, including lifelong learning, training, health and social care and for the wellbeing of all people in the areas of community cohesion, asylum and immigration. The LGA has continued to promote the vital leadership role of local government in the health and care system.

### Achievements and Priorities

#### Public Health

##### *Transformation and Health Protection*

2. The LGA have continued to argue that reductions in councils' public health grants of more than £700 million in real terms by the end of this financial year will impact on councils' ability to continue their good work. We have argued that to take vital money away from the services which can be used to prevent illness and the need for treatment later down the line and ease the pressure on the NHS is counter-productive.
3. The publication of the Secretary of State's vision document, *Prevention is better than cure*, in 2018 signalled a very welcome and timely interest in increasing the priority given by government to the prevention of avoidable ill health. The expected publication of a Green Paper on prevention in July 2019 provides a major opportunity to lobby for tangible policy actions to improve prevention and early intervention.
4. In January, we published [Local Government Delivers](#).
5. Air quality remained at top of the public health agenda. Local authorities have a central role in achieving improvements in air quality. We have worked collaboratively with Defra and PHE to generate an updated suite of tools which will help local authorities to take action to improve air quality.
6. Childhood obesity continued to be a priority for central and local government. In July we launched the "Trailblazer" programme to help to support councils develop their existing powers is also good news. We also published [Healthy Weight, Healthy Futures](#).
7. A joint publication with PHE [National Child Measurement Programme: a briefing for elected members](#) shares how councils are helping children to achieve a healthy lifestyle.
8. In March we held our seventh Annual Public Health Conference. The event highlighted the innovative work already being undertaken by councils and public health teams, with their partners and communities, and it looked at how to build on existing best practice to identify and tackle the challenges and opportunities of the new public health landscape. We also launched our [Health visiting](#) publication with ADPH. In the same month we

published *Public health transformation six years* on showing how local authorities are making progress on improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities since public health was transferred to local authorities in 2013.

9. Finally, following a lengthy DHSC review of public health commissioning, the LGA successfully lobbied for public health services to remain with local government. The Secretary of State described the LGA's evidence as "comprehensive, compelling and clear". We are delighted that has accepted the LGA's powerful case for councils to keep their vital role and responsibilities for providing public health services.

#### *Children and young people's health*

10. In September we submitted written evidence to Health Social Care Select Committee inquiry into the First 1000 days. We highlighted the improved outcomes and innovation which councils have achieved and stressed the need for a sustainably resourced, integrated approach to early intervention.
11. In line with the current Government focus on the importance of the First 1001 days of a child's life, we published two timely reports [A Better Start](#) setting out the measures being taken by local authorities to bring together health, social care and early education services to create a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young children and families and [Fit for and During Pregnancy](#), demonstrating the importance of local authorities in delivering maternity and neonatal care through health visitors, family workers, midwives, social care and children's centres staff.
12. On the 25 March we launched a [joint publication](#) with PHE on supporting young parents to reach their full potential.

#### *Serious Youth Violence*

13. In April the Prime Minister opened the Serious Youth Violence Summit, bringing together partners from across the sector. Councillor Hudspeth represented the LGA at the roundtable focused on health and highlighted the importance of taking a multi-agency approach, the need to invest in CAMHS and wider public health interventions to prevent children and young people becoming more vulnerable and reaching crisis points.

### **Adult social care and support**

#### *LGA Green Paper*

14. Following further delays 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.
15. The LGA green paper, [The lives we want to lead](#), was published on 31 July 2018 and received extensive national media coverage. Board Lead Members and senior officers within the LGA have spoken about our green paper at numerous parliamentary and sector events and conferences.



16. Videos we produced to accompany the green paper have been watched more than 83,500 times. The Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than four million people.
17. We received 548 submissions to our consultation, which exceeded our expectations. We established a Sounding Board of more than 30 partners to help inform our thinking. This met once in August and once in September. We also commissioned public polling of 1,741 members of the public and a series of five focus groups across the country.
18. Our response to our green paper was launched on 14 November 2018 at the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference. As part of the launch, LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, sent copies of the report to the Secretary of State of Health and Social Care, opposition spokespeople and LGA Vice Presidents.
19. Green Paper stats from **1 July 2018 - 10 June 2019**; over 83,194 webpage views, the Green paper had 10,954 page views and the summary green paper - 11,039 page views. The main paper had over 5,259 downloads. Response downloads in total achieved, 2,911 downloads. Further to this the main paper over 1,332 downloads, the summary document over 1,110 downloads and the easy read over 469 downloads.

#### *Integration*

20. We published *Shifting the centre of gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality*: <https://www.local.gov.uk/shifting-centre-gravity-making-place-based-person-centred-health-and-care-reality> at the National Children and Adults Services Conference in November 2018. It was developed in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Association of Directors of Public Health, NHS Clinical Commissioners, the NHS Confederation and NHS Providers to set out our refreshed shared vision for transforming health, care and wellbeing and the key actions that national and local organisations should take to successfully integrate health and care. The refreshed vision is based on a wide-ranging review of integration including case studies on six localities and an evidence review of good practice, which includes many case examples.

#### *The NHS Long Term Plan*

21. A major focus of our work in 2018/19 has been the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) , which was published in January 2019. In January, we published a comprehensive briefing for local government on the key proposals of the LTP and the LGA's clear policy positions: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/nhs-long-term-plan> . The Board's key priority is to ensure that local government is seen as an equal partner in the implementation of the LTP. In particular, that adult social care and public health are vital components of the wider health and wellbeing landscape and which require urgent investment.
22. In April, the LGA submitted evidence to an NHS consultation on legal reforms to the NHS to implement the LTP : <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-response-legislative-proposals-nhs-long-term-plan> and gave oral evidence to the Commons Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the proposed legal reforms. In both, we urged the NHS to consider the impact of the reforms on existing partnership

with local government and to build on existing good practice, especially in relation to the role of health and wellbeing boards in driving forward the change agenda locally.

### *Personalisation*

23. Throughout this year, we have continued to work with NHS England to promote personalisation within the NHS. The Integrated Personal Commissioning Programme Board, which is co-chaired by Sarah Pickup, the LGA Deputy Chief Executive, has overseen and led the introduction of personalisation within the NHS. The LGA has over worked with NHSE to establish a new Personalised Care Advisory Board with a wider and more inclusive membership and a wider role within NHSE to champion the mainstreaming of the personalisation agenda.

### *The impact of health and wellbeing boards*

24. The Community Wellbeing Board has constantly championed the place-based leadership role of health and wellbeing boards and their contribution to achieving the objectives of the NHS LTP. The LGA commissioned case studies of 23 areas where health and wellbeing boards are having a significant impact on health and wellbeing planning and services. A new report, highlighting the many examples of good practice, will be published at the LGA Annual Conference in July 2019.

### **Vulnerable People**

25. The LGA is a member of the Prime Ministers challenge on dementia 2020 Programme Board. The Board is currently looking at the post 2020 commitments of the LGA in the challenge Implementation Plan.
26. In August 2018, the LGA made [a joint submission](#) to the Office of Civil Society Consultation on a National Strategy for Loneliness. A number of our recommendations were reflected in the final strategy.
27. In November 2018, the final report of the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act was published. The LGA made a submission to the review. The final report strongly emphasised the role of Councils in delivering mental health care in the community.
28. In December 2018, we published '[Supporting carers](#)' a case study guide.
29. In January 2019, we made a submission to the Defence Committee inquiry into the Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report 2018. We expressed concern that the MOD Covenant funding is coming to an end. In May 2019 we published a new suite of [case studies](#) that showcase local authority projects supported by the Covenant Fund.
30. In May 2019, we made a submission to the national Autism strategy consultation. The submission outlined local governments vital role in improving the lives of people with autism and ensuring participation and partnership at a local level.
31. In response to widespread concerns from local government and others, the Government decided that Housing Benefit will be kept in place for all types of supported housing. This announcement gave councils and housing providers the certainty to sustain and invest in supported housing for people in vulnerable circumstances. A sustainable funding model for supported housing is critical to ensuring councils can reduce homelessness

and help older and people in vulnerable circumstances. We continue to work with MHCLG and DWP to ensure that councils have the leading role in overseeing and ensuring the provision of supported housing is good quality, value for money, and fits in with the wider local services offered in places.

32. Secured the agreement of the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to a sector led approach to further improving local approaches to suicide prevention. We worked with ADPH to carry out a self-assessment of local suicide prevention plans, which was completed by 150 out of 152 councils with public health responsibilities. DHSC has agreed in principle to fund us and ADPH to deliver a new suicide prevention sector led improvement offer this year and we expect to finalise details within the next few weeks.

### **Sleep-ins**

33. Following our successful application to intervene in the Mencap Court of Appeal case about sleep-in payments, we have continued to provide timely advice to councils about the implications of the judgment and the subsequent Supreme Court decision to hear Unison's appeal. We have impressed upon Ministers that whatever the outcome of the Unison application to appeal, we still need to find a sustainable funding solution to attract and retain decent staff now and in the future and to enable care workers to be paid fairly for the work they carry out.

### **LGA Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group**

34. The [Task Group](#) met with the Immigration Minister in each quarter to discuss key pressures on councils. A Chief Executive [Group](#), co-chaired by the LGA and the Home Office, was established to work to the Task Group on asylum dispersal. Following our sustained lobbying from the LGA, councils and partners, Government [announced](#) that a higher rate of funding for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Whilst we welcomed this increase in our [response](#), we restated our call for Government to ensure all costs for children and those leaving care are fully funded. Resources and information to support councils were added to the LGA [website](#) and links made with related issues.

### **Leadership development**

35. Support for lead members for adult social care and HWB chairs continued with [CHIP](#), including an induction event, leadership essentials, [must knows](#) and regional networks. The National Children and Adult Services conference had sessions led by Board Members, including a closed session with the Minister.

### **Digital and Data**

36. Kate Allsop served as the Board digital and data lead. Kate represented the LGA as a member of the Department of Health and Social Care's Data Security Assurance Board which looks at progress in this area across the sector – including the [social care discovery programme](#). In this role she represented the voice of local government in areas relating to data security and information sharing between care and health.

## **Parliamentary work**

### *Social care*

37. In the last year we have hosted two roundtable briefings for Parliamentarians on our adult social care green paper consultation and consultation response. The briefing sessions presented opportunities to setting out key findings and recommendations from our consultation and build cross party support on the need for the Government's to act. Sarah Pickup also gave evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee's ongoing inquiry into social care funding. Sarah [highlighted](#) the findings from our green paper consultation response and outlined the funding options for social care, particularly in the context of wider funding reductions to local government.

### *Sexual and reproductive health*

38. Councillor Ian Hudspeth, gave evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee as part of its inquiry on sexual and reproductive health. The Committee's [report](#) made a number of recommendations we had called for, including more public health funding in the spending review and that Public Health England convene a national strategy for sexual health.

### *NHS Long Term Plan Legislation*

39. Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, gave evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee on the legislative proposals being considered by the NHS. Sarah [welcomed](#) the proposals to introduce greater collaboration within the NHS. However, she highlighted the inherent risks in creating a two tier system if local government was not adequately considered in decision making.
40. Alongside the wider LGA submission to the Long Term Plan, we submitted responses to the Children's work stream. We welcomed the greater focus on young people. The LGA is now a board member on the new Children and Young People Transformation Board.

### *Suicide prevention*

41. Cllr Richard Kemp gave [evidence](#) to the Health and Social Care Committee on suicide prevention. Cllr Kemp also attended a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention where he took part in a discussion about gambling related harm.

### *Drugs policy*

42. We [responded](#) to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry on drugs policy. We emphasised the need for well-funded, targeted and effective substance misuse services and the responsibility of local government in commissioning these services.

## **LGA website - Health, adult social care and ageing webpages**

43. The statistics below give an indication of the visits to the health, adult social care and ageing pages of the LGA website;

- 44.1. Visits: 35,810
  - 44.2. Page views: 50,165
  - 44.3. Unique visitors: 31,064
  - 44.4. Returning visitors: 2,119
45. The statistics below give an indication of the visits to our publications up to March 2019;
- 45.1. Visits: 43,563
  - 45.2. Page views: 52,788
  - 45.3. Unique visitors: 34,363
  - 45.4. Returning visitors: 4,031
46. The Statistics below give an indication of the top ten visited pages health, adult social care and ageing pages of the LGA website;
- 46.1. Adult social care. Pages views;11,306
  - 46.2. Roles and responsibilities in adult safeguarding. Pages views; 7,673
  - 46.3. Social care, health and integration. Pages views;6,800
  - 46.4. Safeguarding resources. Pages views;3,596
  - 46.5. Public health. Pages views;3,386
  - 46.6. Mental Capacity Act including DoLS. Pages views; 2,584
  - 46.7. Safeguarding adults. Pages views; 2,186
  - 46.8. Making Safeguarding Personal. Pages views; 1,402
  - 46.9. Mental health. Pages views;1,394
  - 46.10. Resources to support Making Safeguarding Personal. Pages views; 880
47. The Statistics below give an indication of the top ten visited publications up to March 2019;
- 47.1. Ordinary residence guide: determining local authority responsibilities under the Care Act and the Mental Health Act. Page visits; 8,738
  - 47.2. Standard of proficiency: Social Workers in England. Pages visits; 4,542
  - 47.3. Safeguard Adults Page visits; 3,399
  - 47.4. Integrated Commissioning for Better Outcomes: a commissioning framework 2018. Page visits; 3,246
  - 47.5. Improving the public's health: local government delivers. Page visits 2,123
  - 47.6. Health in all policies: a manual for local government. Page visits; 1,884
  - 47.7. Social Care Digital Innovation Programme 2019-2021 Prospectus. Page visits; 1,579
  - 47.8. The 'So what, what next?' project. Page visits; 1,526
  - 47.9. Shaping healthy places: exploring the district council role in health. Page visits; 1,424
  - 47.10. Fit for and during pregnancy: A key role for local government. Page visits;1,402

**Highlights of the media coverage included:**

48. There were **393** national newspaper, online and broadcast CWB mentions **during the period July 2018-June 12 2019.**

**Highlights include:**

49. The LGA's press release, highlighting the pressures on unpaid carers and referencing the LGA's adult social care green paper consultation, was reported in the **Telegraph, Independent, i paper and Express** as well as featuring on **BBC Breakfast, BBC News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Radio 2 news bulletins** and across **BBC local radio.** (20 September)
50. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Ian Hudspeth featured on **Mail Online** and **ITV Online** with the LGA's response to Public Health England estimates that just one in 10 people will be smokers in five years' time. (20 September)
51. The LGA's adult social care green paper featured on the front page of the **Telegraph** and in the **Express** after Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock suggested that a system similar to the national pension scheme could be developed to pay for people's future care needs (17-18 September)
52. Cllr Ian Hudspeth appeared on the **BBC's Victoria Derbyshire Show** to discuss the findings of a report by the UK Homecare Association on the funding of care provision across England and pay for carers (25 October)
53. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Ian Hudspeth featured in the **Mail** and **ITV Online** in response to figures from NHS digital showing that councils received 1.3 million requests for adult social care in 2017/18, which is the equivalent of 5,100 a day (24 October)
54. The **Express** and **Mail Online** reported the LGA's response to Which? research into care home costs. Research by the consumer group revealed that millions of people underestimate the cost of care, which follows polling by the LGA that found only 15 per cent of people were making plans to pay for their future care costs (31 October)
55. CWB Board Chairman Cllr Ian Hudspeth, was interviewed on **BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme** about councils reducing meals on wheels services. (12 December)
56. Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, featured in a video interview on **Express Online** about the LGA's call for more funding for both child and adult social care, ahead of the Government's expected green paper on the issue (12 December)
57. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, featured in the **Sunday Times** and **Sunday Express** in response to new government figures showing a total of 32,115 adults died last year before they could get the social care they needed (30 December)

58. Cllr Ian Hudspeth, featured on **BBC Breakfast** and the **BBC News channel**, while **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC Radio 4 Today** and **BBC local radio** news bulletins also featured the LGA's press release about how public health outcomes have improved under councils despite substantial budget reductions and Spending Review call for these cuts to be reversed to build upon this success. This was also reported on **BBC Online** (3 March)
59. The LGA's warning that adult social care faces a £3.6 billion funding gap by 2025 featured in an **FT** piece about the care provider Four Seasons entering administration (7 May)
60. The LGA's response to latest figures showing there were more than 700,000 obesity-related hospital admissions in England featured in the **Times** and **Guardian**. (9 May)
61. The LGA's call for government to reverse the £700 million reduction in public health funding since 2015 and to plug a £3.6 billion funding gap for adult social care by 2025 featured in the **Observer** and **Independent Online** about a IPPR report on how more than 130,000 deaths since 2012 could have been prevented if improvements in public health policy had not stalled as a direct result of spending cuts. (2 June)
62. The **Express** reported the LGA's adult social care funding lines in response to an analysis of CQC figures, showing nearly 10,000 care home beds have been lost since 2014 across 75 of England's council areas. (3 June)
63. **Mail Online** and **Independent Online** reported the LGA's lines child obesity were reported on in a piece about displaying cartoon characters on packaging (4 June)





## **Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – End of Year report**

### **Background**

1. This year, the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has shaped the national political agenda and made decisive interventions on priority issues for councils. In particular, the improvement offer to councils, funded by Arts Council England and Sport England, has greatly increased compared to previous years. The Board has made a significant difference to LGA member councils, contributed to LGA corporate campaigns, and raised its national profile.
2. Key achievements for the Board include publishing research on culture-led regeneration, commissioning and publishing a report on tourism skills, and the launch of the museums handbook. These resources support councils to develop their local areas, and have influenced national policy and the work of partner organisations.

### **Priorities and Achievements**

3. At its first meeting the Board identified three priorities for the year:
  - 3.1. Culture-led regeneration
  - 3.2. Tourism
  - 3.3. Social prescribing.
4. Over the course of the year, the Board has engaged with a wide range of partner organisations to promote and support the role of local authorities in delivering culture, tourism and sport, including through Board members' appointments to outside bodies and attendance at external events. Guests at Board meetings have included Sport England, Sheffield City Council, the Core Cities, and Arts Council England.
5. Looking ahead to next year, projects on social prescribing and a tourism levy are planned to continue, alongside the Arts Council England and Sport England improvement offers.

### **Culture-led regeneration**

6. In March, the Board launched its culture-led regeneration guide to achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. The guide was commissioned to provide examples of how culture-led regeneration can be applied in different types of council, sharing learning and inspiration across the sector.



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7. The guide containing 15 case studies was launched at the CTS Annual Conference, where it received a highly positive reception.
8. The Board have used key findings from this research to lobby and influence partner organisations, including the House of Lords select committee on regenerating seaside towns and communities. Work continues to embed and disseminate the research's findings in funded programmes and council practices.

### **Tourism**

9. The Board commissioned research into tourism skills, focusing on eight council areas with a strong tourism sector. The research explored how a practical application of Work Local principles might work for the tourism and hospitality sectors; and the evidence gathered will feed into further lobbying to reform the skills funding environment. Cllr Muhammed Butt represented the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board on the LGA Skills Taskforce, reflecting the importance of these fast growing sectors to the future UK economy.
10. The final report will be launched at the LGA annual conference as part of a plenary session on skills reform. The draft report has been shared with DCMS officials and will be formally sent to the Minister on its launch.
11. The Board have taken on corporate responsibility for considering the value of a tourism levy and potential operational models, in response to proposals from a number of LGA member councils and developments in Scotland. Following desk-based research, work is underway to develop a project brief and procure further research into models, to continue into next year.
12. The Board has strengthened its links with key tourism bodies, including Tourism Alliance and VisitEngland. The Tourism Society hosted an event at the LGA, where Cllr Peter Golds spoke. Cllr Brigid Jones also represented the Board at the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hospitality's session on the potential for a tourism levy.

### **Social prescribing**

13. The Board have continued to contribute to the APPG on arts, health and wellbeing, and to liaise with other LGA boards and partner organisations to develop social prescribing policy and support for local authorities.
14. Following board discussion and direction, officers have researched and developed a set of proposals to provide local government cultural and sporting services with information

on the opportunities from, and ways of contributing to, the health prevention agenda; and support them to make connections with and between commissioners of health services and voluntary/community sector providers.

15. Subject to approval at the June meeting, officers will progress work continuing into next year to commission a guidance handbook, organise a national conference and promote the role of local authorities in social prescribing.

### **Additional areas of activity**

16. **Museums Handbook:** Arts Council England provided funding for the development of a handbook to provide advice and guidance to local authorities responsible for running museums, including best practice and possible delivery models. This forms a joint response with ACE to the Mendoza review of museums, which identified public museums as facing the most challenges of the museum sector. The publication will be launched at the LGA Annual Conference in July.
17. **Parks funding:** the Board's involvement with the Parks Action group has helped to make the case for a new £13 million investment into maintaining and repairing valued parks and green spaces. Accompanying press statements and articles from the Board welcomed the additional investment from government, while highlighting the importance of local authorities funding in the future of the parks and how parks can achieve key outcomes such as wellbeing and health, loneliness, skills and tourism.

### **Conferences**

18. **Culture, Tourism and Sport Conference:** the annual event was hosted by the City of London in the Guildhall on 5-6 March 2019. The event saw the launch of the Board's culture-led regeneration research, as well as a keynote speech from Sir Nick Serota about Arts Council England's ten year strategy. Cllr Brigid Jones updated delegates on Birmingham's ambitions for the Commonwealth Games. The conference once again hosted the presentation of the Hearts for the Arts Awards 2019, alongside a range of cultural walking tours and workshops.
19. Following the annual conference, Cllrs Golds, Lewis, Jeffels, Butt, Henry and Vernon-Jackson, attended a roundtable discussion with Jordanian local and regional government representatives as part of a project to support democratic decentralisation in Jordan, funded by the UK Foreign Office and organised by Global Partners Governance.
20. **Joint conference with the FA:** the Board hosted its first joint conference with the FA at Wembley Stadium in September. The event focused on how local authorities can help to provide and maintain football facilities, and included a presentation from the Chief



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Executive of the FA Martin Glenn. The Board has strengthened its link with the FA to facilitate local authorities and football associations working together effectively going forwards.

21. **LGA Annual Sports Conference:** in December, 35 delegates attended the Annual Sports Conference to hear from speakers including Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson (12-time gold medal winning Paralympian), and Chris Perks (Director of Local Delivery for Sport England). The conference shared examples of best practice across the sector and inspirational stories of the transformational power of sports within communities and for individuals.

**CTS improvement offer 2018-19**

22. Both Arts Council England and Sport England continued financial support for the LGA CTS improvement offer this year.
23. The LGA has a two-year contract with Sport England to deliver five leadership essentials events for councillors and six leadership essentials for senior strategic officers, alongside regional events and masterclasses.
24. The LGA has a one-year contract with Arts Council England to deliver two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders, three cultural peer challengers, ten library peer challenges, and a councillor handbook on museums services.
25. So far this year, the following leadership essentials courses have been delivered:
- 25.1 Two leadership essentials for cultural services (for councillors)
  - 25.2 Seven leadership essentials for sport and physical activities (three for councillors and four for senior strategic officers).
26. Cllrs Peter Golds, Brigid Jones, Richard Henry and Faye Abbott all contributed sessions to make the courses a success. The events continue to be well received and command positive feedback from attendees, with the majority of delegates rating the programme excellent or very good.
26. Two Library peer challenges have taken place this year, receiving positive feedback from the participating councils. Work continues to progress the remaining challenges which are due to be completed by the end of July 2019.
27. Both Arts Council England and Sport England are in discussions to continue and expand this programme in 2019/20, focusing on: a revised cultural services leadership essentials event that provides more strategic narrative for councillors; additional peer challenges for



cultural and library services; further sport and physical activities leadership essentials for councillors and officers; and the development of masterclasses and regional events.

### **Speaking engagements and outside bodies**

28. Board members have taken an active role in promoting and representing the work of the Board to LGA members and partners. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson chaired the annual CTS conference and the LGA Annual Sports Conference. Cllr Peter Golds spoke at the Tourism Society event at the LGA, and Cllr David Jeffels attended the Visit England/Visit Britain Destination Forum.
29. Cllr Matthew Lee has represented the Board on the Libraries Taskforce; Cllr Barry Lewis on the Peak District National Park Authority; Cllr Geraldine Carter on the Tourism Alliance Board; Cllr Muhammed Butt on the LGA Skills Taskforce; and Cllr Faye Abbott has met with theatres in her role as Theatre Champion.
30. More recently, Cllr David Jeffels has been appointed to represent the Board on the LGA's Coast Special Interest Group. Cllr Terry O'Neill acted as the Board's representative on the London Marathon Charitable Trust until his resignation in April 2019, with a replacement to be confirmed.

### **Media coverage**

31. The Board has continued to seek opportunities to promote its work through both national media and LGA channels. We have released press releases on topics including NICE guidance on improving physical activity, park funding and DCMS' cultural development fund. We have been quoted in relevant sector press, including a Times inquiry into libraries budget cuts, and contributed to the LGA's Spending Review Campaign.
32. The Board has published monthly e-bulletins to update the sector and Cllr Vernon-Jackson has authored a number of articles, including in First magazine and Arts Professional. Topics have included culture-led regeneration, tourism skills, museums, libraries week and parks.
33. The CTS Twitter account now has 1,904 followers and is actively retweeted and responded to during conferences and other key announcements.



## **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - End of year report**

### **Background**

1. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board provides strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the economy and environment, housing, and transport including: local economic growth and regeneration, planning, flood risk management, waste and climate change, in line with the LGA priorities and any specific regulatory and LGA lobbying priorities as they relate to this activity.

### **Achievements**

#### **Housing and Planning**

2. The Board welcomed a more positive financial environment for council owned social housing such as the lifting of the housing borrowing cap, and has continued to argue for a bolder vision that will enable new homes at social rent to be built at scale. We published analysis that showed the wider value of socially rented homes to society, putting a precise figure on the savings that could have been made by government and tenants if social housing had been built at the scale for the last twenty years.
3. Our survey work with stock owning councils showed that 94 per cent will use their new powers to accelerate or increase building programmes. We provided resources to councils including a good practice guide on council housebuilding and capacity building funding to develop new council house building programmes.
4. Government recognised the LGA's argument for reform of Right to Buy finance arrangements when it put forward proposals for greater flexibilities in the use of right to buy receipts. We welcomed the recognition that the current system is not delivering replacement of homes sold, and have worked to influence a more radical devolved approach to the Right to Buy that would allow councils to keep all receipts and set local discounts.
5. The Board continued to focus its work on securing a better funded, proactive planning system that delivers good quality homes and the associated infrastructure that communities need. Activity has included continuing to make the case for locally-set planning fees; pressing government to cease permitted development rights allowing building conversions to homes and making the case for policy changes to enable councils to secure greater investment in infrastructure.
6. Successful outcomes have included influencing government policy on the following:
  - 6.1. A government commitment to review quality standards of homes delivered through permitted development rights

- 6.2. The removal of permitted development rights for the installation of telephone kiosks and associated advertising
- 6.3. The removal of section 106 pooling restrictions for all councils
- 6.4. Confirmation that the Accelerated Planning Green Paper will invite proposals to pilot new approaches to meeting the costs of planning services
7. The Board continued to focus its work on preventing homelessness and improving the way vulnerable people and those in crisis are housed, specifically: making the case for more funding for homelessness prevention in the upcoming Spending review and influencing the terms of the Homelessness Reduction Act review. Activity around this has included publishing a survey on the impact of the Act, formulating a Homelessness Officers' Policy network, joining the Government's HRA review steering group, and commissioning research on how central government policy can support homelessness prevention.
8. We have also published guidance for local authorities on implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act's duty to refer, convened a steering group examining the LGA's role in easing issues relating to Out of Area placements, and held six regional seminars with the National Housing Federation exploring how councils and housing associations can work together to tackle homelessness.
9. The Board has delivered a housing improvement programme by sponsoring improvement work in this area. The 2018/19 Housing Advisers programme, launched in July 2018, was a success with over 60 councils receiving support. The 2019/20 programme will be launched shortly. We have also supported 16 projects through a Building Council Homes Programme, following the removal of the HRA borrowing cap and 16 councils through the Housing Business Ready Springboard Programme.
10. We have launched two new Leadership Essentials programmes, with the aim of promoting strong political leadership in housing and homelessness. We have also commissioned work on tenant engagement and understanding local housing markets.
11. Following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, the Board along with other LGA committees has worked closely with Government to ensure buildings are made safe. Successful outcomes have included influencing government policy on the following: the introduction of a ban on the use of combustible materials on the external surfaces of buildings, additional funding for private sector building owners to remove dangerous cladding from their buildings, and a new testing programme on other forms of potentially dangerous cladding. We are also a part of the Joint Regulators' Group, which is advising Government on the shape of the future building safety regulatory framework.

## **Waste and Recycling**

12. The EEHT Board has for a long time been lobbying for greater producer responsibility. The Government has finally recognised this and in its Resources and Waste Consultations published proposals for producers to pay full net costs for their packaging



waste. There was also recognition that the current governance model for producer fees needs to be significantly overhauled. The lack of transparency around this is something the LGA has been lobbying against for some time. And the proposal for a plastic tax will help stimulate the recycled plastic market. The LGA had been lobbying Government to take a more proactive role in market stimulation.

13. The same set of consultations also highlighted the Government's plans to pay councils New Burdens funding for food waste and garden waste. And the proposal that businesses should have to recycle their waste will mean that councils are not solely responsible for all waste targets.
14. The Board was able to undertake a significant level of consultation upon which the LGA responses to the Resources and waste consultations were developed. This included a sector wide survey and consultation event. Working with partner bodies we were able to put forward submissions containing a lot of shared messages.
15. Working with ADEPT the LGA was able to prevent an incineration tax from featuring in the October 2018 budget. This followed on from direct feedback from Board members.

### **Environmental Governance**

16. The Board submitted a response to DEFRA's consultation on the Office for Environmental Protection. We are now engaged in the stakeholder group looking at this issue in more detail.

### **Transport**

17. Rail policy – The Board has refreshed its relationship with rail policy through shaping the outcome of the Williams industry-wide review, responding to consultations, and a session at a Board meeting. Network Rail has also sought to engage with the LGA to discuss its relationship with councils with their new models of governance.

### Air pollution

18. NOx – We have responded to high levels of interest locally and nationally on air pollution through discussion at Board level and also securing a session at the LGA annual conference as well as a meeting of councils given ministerial directions. Working with the Safer & Stronger Communities Board DEFRA have agreed to work with the DfT to introduce a national register of vehicles PHV licensed vehicles to enable effective charging in CAZs.
19. Environment Bill –We have supported work on the Environment Bill, bringing together local politicians and practitioners to help ensure better local air quality management measures which are adequately resourced.

### Funding

20. National Infrastructure Assessment – Earlier in the year the National Infrastructure Commission recommended that “Local transport authorities outside London should have stable, devolved infrastructure budgets, as Highways England and Network Rail have, supporting our call for simplification and more certainty of funding policy.
21. Funding - As part of the budget the LGA secured significantly extra short term capital funding with £450m allocated for highway maintenance in the budget. This funding was allocated directly to councils.
22. Buses – Working with North East Combined Authority we produced an assessment of the funding gap for concessionary fares, which currently at £650m, severely impacts on councils’ ability to support further public transport services. The evidence was presented to the Transport Select Committee undertaking the Health of Bus Market’s Inquiry. The Committee has agreed to undertake a specific inquiry into funding of local bus services.
23. Future Transport – the Board has continued to make progress in its leadership role on new transport technology. Significant work has included a Board discussion on drones and emerging regulatory framework, linking bike sharing guidance on our website, an event on future transport in January followed by an article in First on electric cars. Over the coming weeks we will be producing a short publication on electric charging infrastructure for councillors.

#### Parking

24. Blue Badge scheme – we had highlighted the issue of growing levels of abuse and prosecutions against fraud with the blue badge scheme, and welcomed the Government’s recently announced review of blue badge misuse, in parallel with a widening of the scheme to include people with non-physical disabilities.
25. Pavement Parking - we have continued to contribute our views to the government on pavement parking and recently highlighted the issue in a letter to the new minister, including our preferred solution.
26. Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6 - We have written to the new responsible minister in the DfT proposing that the Government seek to introduce trials to reassure ministers that it could be implemented without it becoming simply a revenue raising power. We are also surveying our membership to update our evidence base.

#### **Growth**

27. Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) – we have continued to work with People and Places and City Regions boards to ensure councils are at the heart of local industrial strategies. This has included ensuring extensive involvement of the LGA on the LEP review, successfully calling for all areas to be invited to develop a LIS, and delivering a comprehensive support offer to councils looking to instigate or further their engagement with LIS development.

28. Town centre revitalisation – EEHT has taken on a strong leadership role on the issue of town centre revitalisation on the back of continued upheaval of high street retail. This has included a fully booked town centre conference, two masterclass events, a board session involving private sector expertise and a workshop session at the forthcoming LGA annual conference. We have also made submissions to the Government's consultation on planning rules affecting the high street and to the HCLG committee inquiry on high streets, shaped MHCLG's proposals on the High Streets Task Force and continued to be represented on the ministerial Future High Streets Forum.
29. Future High Streets Fund – The Government listened to the LGA's call for further resources in order to support council's leadership role in delivering revitalised town centres and announced a total package of £675 million over 5 years for towns. Officers also helped shape the way that the fund will be structured in order to reduce burdens of bidding on councils.

### **Programme of work and priorities 2018/19**

#### **Environment**

30. Continue to represent Members's interests as the government finalises its waste and resources reforms.
31. Make the case for councils' role in environmental protection and improvement including as part of the progress of the Government's Environment Bill.
32. Continue to seek reforms to the allocation of flood prevention funding.

#### **Housing**

33. Make the case for councils to have the powers and funding to deliver more homes that are affordable and meet the needs of communities (influencing government policy as it seeks to implement reforms to social housing and continuing to lobbying on Right to Buy).
34. Build safe, healthy and prosperous places that are well supported by infrastructure and services and infrastructure (taking into account the Accelerated Planning Green Paper and the Building Better, Building Beautiful commission).
35. Reduce homelessness by: continuing to work with councils and government to influence the Homelessness Reduction Act review; continue to lobby Government to influence policy on homelessness prevention and other policies creating pressure on councils' provision of temporary accommodation, including welfare reforms.

#### **Transport**

36. Spending review lobbying for the end of fragmented bid based funding, adequate funding to address the maintenance backlog and full funding for concessionary fares.



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37. Continuing the future transport project in particular examining how authorities can best utilise the data they have.
38. Call for simplification of the process of Traffic Regulation Orders.
39. Seek another round of total transport funding, spreading the lessons of the first round and seeking greater buy in across public agencies.
40. Represent member's interest on the clean air provisions of the environment bill.
41. Call for the implementation of Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6. Seeking to understand whether we could introduce trials of the powers.

#### Economy

42. Local Industrial Strategies – depending on the direction of any future new Government the Board may wish to explore more deeply the leadership role of councils in relation to the four grand challenges underpinning the Government's industrial strategy (an ageing population, mobility, clean growth and artificial intelligence and data).
43. Town centre revitalisation – it is likely that pressures for change will continue on our high streets and town centres and the Board may wish to continue support for member councils, in particular for council's leadership.

#### Financial Implications

44. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.

#### Implications for Wales

45. Policies that come under the Board's remit are largely devolved matters. However the Board will continue to work to share good practice and address issues of common interest.

## Improvement and Innovation Board - End of Year report

### Improvement

1. This year we have seen the successful delivery of a wide-ranging improvement offer. We achieved a 20 per cent increase in the number of peer challenges delivered, with highly positive impacts reported, and organised the most ambitious Innovation Zone programme yet. In addition we helped the sector respond to in-year developments such as EU Exit preparedness and the aftermath of the Novichok attack in Salisbury.
2. Our approach to improvement, developed in collaboration with the sector, provides different tiers of support depending on the intensity of the challenges faced locally. Our regionally-based team of **Principal Advisers** act as the focal point for discussions with councils about their improvement needs and the help we can make available. We work on the basis that every council and fire and rescue service will have a corporate peer challenge or finance peer review (at no cost) at least every four to five years. We also expect participating councils to publish the peer challenge report, to produce an action plan, and to have a follow-up visit.
3. We ran our seventh successful **Innovation Zone** at our Annual Conference this year involving over 70 speakers, representing innovative work from 37 organisations. Improvement and Innovation Board members helped compere the Zone programme and speak in the new 'open mic' session. The Zone with the theme of 'Taking the Plunge' was opened by Design Council and featured a huge array of interaction sessions, including robotics, care dogs and a silent disco. Hundreds of delegates visited the Zone and case studies will be uploaded to the LGA website to further share learning with others.
4. Working through the LGA's Lead Member Peers and Principal Advisers, we have provided **targeted support to individual councils** and groups of councils, for example: change of control support to 33 councils, bespoke peer mentoring support to 14 councils experiencing significant governance issues, and support to 40 councils to improve their engagement with communities. We have also supported the Centre for Public Scrutiny, which has helped 68 councils to develop their scrutiny skills and expertise.
5. During 2018/19 145 **peer challenges** have been delivered, a 20 per cent increase compared to last year. These challenges covered a range of different areas including finance, fire, children's and adults services, as well as 71 corporate peer challenges. This year we secured 2,500 days from member and officer peers to support the peer challenge process, representing a considerable investment by the sector in its own improvement. We have also delivered 10 peer training and development events during the year as we seek to widen and refresh our pool of member and officer peers.
6. Our evaluation of the corporate peer challenge programme found that 94 per cent of Chief Executive respondents of authorities participating in the past year said it had a positive impact on the council's performance and on delivery of council priorities. All respondents were very or fairly satisfied with the corporate peer challenges received, and would be likely to recommend it to other councils.

7. We keep our improvement offer under regular evaluation and review. This year we commissioned Shared Intelligence to undertake a series of in-depth interviews with leaders and chief executives from 18 councils that benefitted from a corporate peer challenge and/or in-depth sector-led improvement support. This investigation found four key areas of impact, including strengthening managerial and political leadership, challenging councils to grasp particular issues, reinforcing messages through the challenge process, and boosting council confidence.
8. We also conducted a survey of councils which received a corporate peer challenge between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 to reflect on impact a year after the challenges took place. 92 per cent said it had a positive impact on culture and behaviours within their council, 90 per cent on delivery of council priorities, and 89 per cent on external reputation of the council.

### **Leadership**

9. The LGA's **Highlighting Leadership offer** provides a range of programmes, events and resources aimed at supporting and developing councillors at all levels and helping them progress through the various stages of their political careers. It has been another excellent year for bookings with 842 councillors participating in our programmes (including Wales), and we have worked to increase the diversity of councillors attending our programmes.
10. Highlights from our ongoing evaluation of the leadership programmes demonstrates their value. 100 per cent of responding participants in our flagship Leadership Academy programmes and 97 per cent in Leadership Essentials programmes said they felt more confident in their ability to carry out their role having participated in the course.
11. During the year we have seen an increase in the take up locally of the '**Be a Councillor**' campaign. We have produced a toolkit to support councils in their local bespoke programmes and have developed partnerships with Parliamentary outreach and organisations with a focus on under-represented groups such as women and young people.
12. We have recruited 62 participants to take part in the **Next Generation** programme which is aimed at talented councillors across the political parties. Delegates attend residential modules, meet councillors from across the country, and learn and develop as a cohort of peers and critical friends.
13. **The National Graduate Development Programme** (ngdp) has continued to grow in popularity and success, with more councils taking part in the scheme and an increase in application numbers. We placed 123 graduates with councils this year, and we have introduced more options for graduate interchanges/secondments between councils for 2018/19.
14. During the year we worked with SOLACE to strengthen our offer to support the development of **managerial leadership capacity** in the sector, supporting a total of 94

officers in a variety of programmes. This includes a leadership programme for existing Chief Executives to equip them for the future.

15. Our apprenticeships programme has helped councils meet their public sector apprenticeship targets through a range of activity including regional workshops and network events, best practice guidance, and running a Knowledge Hub group with over 250 active members. We have also worked with the Education and Skills Funding Agency to provide targeted support where necessary.

16. We have continued to provide a range of support to help councils develop flexible and productive workforces. We have supported 77 councils to help them transform their workplaces and modernise the way they are managed.

### **Efficiency and productivity**

17. During the year we have helped over 300 councils to transform their services. We were excited to launch the Transformation and Innovation Exchange at the LGA annual conference, which includes an online self-assessment tool, resources and narrative as a comprehensive package to support councils in making efficiencies.

18. We have continued to encourage councils to consider the potential benefits of **shared service** arrangements and run the shared services 'matchmaking' service to provide assistance to councils who wish to share services and/or management teams with other councils. The 2019 refresh of the Shared Service Map evidenced shows that there are now 626 individual shared service arrangements across the country resulting in £1.34 billion of efficiency savings which further evidences the local government sector's role at the forefront of collaborative working, working with restricted budgets while still making efficiency savings.

19. Local Government's interest in **commercialisation and income generation** has continued to grow throughout 2018/19 and we have developed a range of support designed to help councils pursue appropriate and well considered commercial opportunities. This year we have delivered a range of support and events, as well as sessions at the LGA conference on 'Profit with a purpose', focused on how commercial activities are driving social value and having a successful impact on local jobs, skills and growth. We have also delivered commercial skills training to officers in partnership with the Institute of Directors, and masterclasses for elected members. **Commercial experts** were commissioned to work with five councils this year through our programme, contributing towards an estimated £9.7 million additional income.

20. Our **productivity experts programme** is an opportunity for councils to access expertise to realise ambitious efficiency savings and income generation. During 2018/19 productivity experts worked with 42 councils to deliver £42.6 million efficiency savings and/or income generation. The experts provided support around a wide range of areas, including economic growth, procurement, asset management and specific service efficiency reviews. We have also collaborated with the **Behavioural Insights Team** and the **Design Council** among others to support 22 councils on a range of innovative projects to tackle key council concerns, including public health.

21. Our new **housing advisers programme** has gone from strength to strength. Flexible and locally-led, the new programme provides an independent expert for up to 20 days, providing bespoke support to a local authority project to deliver homes, reduce homelessness, or generate savings or revenues. We supported 60 councils over the year with 45 projects, and 100 per cent of councils said the support had a positive impact on the main outcome they hoped to achieve.
22. We have partnered with **other organisations** to provide practical support. Our collaboration with Local Partnerships has helped councils identify over £36 million of savings. We have continued to support the One Public Estate programme, which has now delivered £183 million in capital receipts, cut running costs by £26 million, created 5,938 jobs and released land for 3,463 homes.

### **Accountability, transparency and sharing good practice**

23. We have maintained our coverage of 100 per cent of councils registered with **LG Inform**, which had over 250,000 page views from 44,000 unique visitors over the year. Authority users can view data or pre-written reports, and create their own reports, using the most up to date published information. We added 800 new metrics to LGA Inform this year, and published reports on topics including personal wellbeing, the gender pay gap and indices of multiple deprivation.
24. We have developed our database for capturing and sharing innovative practice, which now contains over 1,000 examples.
25. We made a successful bid for Cabinet Office funding under the **National Cyber Security Programme**, securing £1.5 million for 2018/19. We have used this funding to carry out a cyber security stocktake of all 353 English councils, capturing current arrangements including risks and good practice, and used this to shape a programme of support for the sector. We have awarded over £1 million of grants to 116 councils at greatest risk and to address issues that can be quickly resolved.

### **Oversight of LGA Improvement activity**

26. Members have agreed that it is important for the Improvement and Innovation Board to retain an “overarching” perspective on the improvement activity currently undertaken across LGA Boards and have received regular reports from all Boards and had the opportunity, among others, to provide strategic input to the development of the integrated Care and Health Improvement Programme, our children’s services improvement work and our offer of support on Devolution.



## **People and Places Board - End of Year Board Report**

### **Background and Context**

1. The People and Places Board was created to provide a clear voice and resource for non-metropolitan authorities within the LGA.
2. Members are asked to consider the achievements of the board over the last year against the use of allocated resources and to reflect on whether the board is continuing to meet its original purpose in response to the emerging priorities of non-metropolitan areas.

### **Priorities and Achievements**

#### **Post-Brexit England Commission**

3. In the last political Board cycle, the People and Places Board established the Post-Brexit England Commission to explore the issues and opportunities facing local areas outside England's major city regions; from large and small towns, to the coastal and rural communities in which 62 per cent of the English population live.
4. To support the work of the Commission, a series of engagement roadshows have been held across the country to gather evidence on the challenges rural and coastal communities are facing, and the local policy levers needed to tackle them. The Commission visited all English regions outside London and heard from over 200 non-metropolitan stakeholders on the opportunities and challenges their rural areas are facing after Brexit.
5. The Commission's interim report provided a firm foundation on which the Commission has further refined its thinking. This will culminate in the publication of the final report at LGA Conference in July.
6. Research was commissioned from Savills Rural Research on understanding the future role for councils in rural land management. This will feature in the Commission's final report.

### **Devolution**

7. The People and Places Board wrote to the Secretary of State to influence the Government's expected Devolution Framework. The Board's main focus was to make the case for parity for those non-metropolitan areas that hadn't been afforded the same freedoms as areas with a devolution deal.

### **Skills and Employment**

8. The Board works jointly with the City Regions Board to steer our employment and skills work through our Work Local proposals for devolved and integrated employment and skills. During the last political cycle, the Boards agreed to establish a cross LGA Skills Taskforce to forge links with skills industry experts and stakeholders on this agenda. Co-chaired by Cllrs Sir Richard Leese and Mark Hawthorne, the Taskforce convening three

themed roundtables between December 2018 and March 2019. Through it, we engaged 28 leading organisations and trade bodies that are key to improving skills and employment in England. A Taskforce [webpage](#) includes video interviews from stakeholders and summaries of each roundtable meeting. We aim to strengthen these links over the next Board cycle. Already we have started to develop follow up work on apprenticeships and the National Retraining Scheme.

9. The LGA and 23 leading signatories wrote an open letter to the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education, which called for a series of reforms to support councils and combined authorities to deliver quality apprenticeships locally. This included calls on the Government to pause plans to begin clawing back unspent Apprenticeship Levy funding following delays to the standards in adult care, early years and building control against which the Levy funds must be spent. The letter was featured in the Financial Times. The LGA has welcomed a Public Accounts Committee report raising concerns about the apprenticeship programme, having previously submitted written evidence to it.
10. The LGA Boards will launch a refreshed Work Local proposal at our annual conference in July 2019. This also includes findings from the skills taskforce roundtables.
11. The LGA hosted a skills conference in November 2018. The event was well attended with extremely positive feedback. The sessions ranged from post-16 pathways to supporting age-friendly employment with keynote address by Dr Emran Mian OBE, Acting Director General of Higher and Further Education, Department for Education. We are now planning to host a series of events to explore some of the specific topics.
12. Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chairman of the Board, was invited to speak at two events as part of the independent Skills Commission's 'Future of the Skills System' inquiry. The LGA used these events to reaffirm our Work Local messages.
13. Following positive discussions last year with the Rt Hon Anne Milton MP, Skills and Apprenticeships Minister, the LGA proactively put forward a plan for LGA politicians and skills leads from councils to engage strategically with DfE on the development of post-16 skills policy and funding. The proposal was well received by DfE officials with a go-ahead to proceed. However more recent discussions with the Department suggest that while political level meetings are expected to continue, plans to engage council skills leads have been watered down. The LGA will seek clarity from DfE on this.

## **Trade and Investment**

14. As Britain prepares to leave the EU, we have continued to work in partnership with the City Regions Board to inform the LGA's policy work on trade and international investment.
15. A survey of the LGA's membership was undertaken at the end of last year to highlight the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of sub-national government in future trade and investment activity.

16. The LGA has continued to engage with the Department for International Trade and key national stakeholders on the role for local government in future trade policy. Marian Sudbury, Director of UK Regions at the Department for International Trade (DIT), attended the Board to talk about the Department's sub-national work. The Board discussed with Marian how councils could most effectively contribute to the Department's work and highlighted examples from across the country of the important role for councils in supporting exports and inward investment. This activity at the Board has been supplemented by Parliamentary activity including written questions on trade from the LGA Chairman and a meeting between Cllr Kevin Bentley and Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Investment.

### **Broadband and Mobile Phone Connectivity**

17. The Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group oversaw a range of LGA responses to digital connectivity consultations from Government and Ofcom including:
- 17.1. An Ofcom consultation on the delivery of the broadband universal service obligation (USO). In the submission the LGA outlined the need for Ofcom to ensure that broadband providers implement a social tariff to ensure no resident experiences hardship paying the market rate for a broadband connection.
  - 17.2. An Ofcom consultation on the new mobile coverage conditions it plans to place on mobile network operators. As part of its formal response the LGA outlined its disappointment that Ofcom had rolled back on its original coverage obligations and increased the deadline for MNOs to meet them from 3 to 4 years.
  - 17.3. A Government consultation on introducing legislation to invoke a "duty to connect" on developers to force them to connect new builds to gigabit capable infrastructure. The LGA's submission detailed local government's support for Government to require broadband providers to connect new builds with full fibre broadband.
18. The Working Group invited a senior executive from Openreach to their meeting to discuss the USO in greater detail. In conversations with the provider it became clear that until Ofcom has fully examined the responses to its recent consultation there will remain a lack of clarity on how or when the USO will be implemented.
19. The Group has also commissioned a councillors' handbook on digital connectivity. This has been completed and will be published shortly.
20. People and Places Board Chairman Cllr Mark Hawthorne was invited to a mobile connectivity roundtable hosted by consumer organisation Which? and attended by a range of business, rural and consumer stakeholders. There was consensus across the room for the Government and Ofcom to consider regulatory measures such as rural roaming (where a mobile can utilise the strongest signal from any mobile network operator) to incentivise the market to provide excellent coverage in rural areas. The LGA will continue to have conversations with stakeholders with an aim to join up on our lobbying efforts.

## **Industrial Strategy**

21. The People and Places Board has continued to represent the interests of non-metropolitan areas in relation to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy, specifically the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the introduction of Local Industrial Strategies and the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
22. Having secured a commitment from Government that all areas will agree a Local Industrial Strategy, the Board is committed to supporting the development of these strategies across non-metropolitan England. Specifically, the Board has provided input into the design of the LGA's Local Industrial Strategy improvement support offer, seeking to ensure that this addresses the specific needs of non-metropolitan authorities. The LGA has held well-attended masterclasses on inclusive growth, effective collaboration with businesses and stakeholders, and developing a place-based narrative. It also hosted a series of action learning sets with officers from around the country. Write-ups from these events alongside learning notes and a good practice toolkit to support the creation of a robust evidence base will be available on the LGA website by late June.
23. We have continued to respond to developments arising from the Government's review of Local Enterprise Partnerships. Activity included a letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and responses to work led by the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee into LEP progress. This has included a focus on strengthening LEP accountability, particularly in light of changes to LEP board composition.

## **Programme of work and priorities 2018/19**

24. Under the direction of a new Chairman, the board will pursue a programme of engagement with Government and rural stakeholders to take forward the recommendations of the Post-Brexit England Commission including its work on rural land management.
25. The board will continue to make the case for a place-based approach in public policy making, articulating the ambitions of non-metropolitan authorities.
26. The board will continue to take forward the LGA's lobbying work on skills, making the case for the Work Local model and continuing to engage with key stakeholders.
27. The board will seek to ensure the key elements of the Industrial Strategy – Local Industrial Strategies, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the LEP Review, fit with the priorities and ambitions of non-metropolitan authorities.
28. The board will keep a watching brief on developments on rural broadband, and develop its work on mobile connectivity in rural areas.



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### **Financial Implications**

29. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources. Additional funding was secured from BEIS to deliver the LIS improvement programme.



## **Resources Board - End of Year Board Report**

### **Background and Context**

1. The LGA's Resources Board shapes and develops the Association's policies and programmes in line with the LGA priorities in relation to Local Government Finance; EU Funding and Successor Arrangements; Welfare Reform; and Workforce issues.
2. Members are asked to consider the achievements of the board over the last year against the use of allocated resources and to reflect on whether the board is continuing to meet its purpose in response to the emerging priorities of metropolitan areas.

### **Priorities and Achievements for 2018/19**

#### **Local Government Finance**

##### Local Government Funding

3. Through its work on highlighting financial pressures facing local government, the LGA with the help of Resources Board, secured over £1 billion of additional funding in 2019/20 in the 2018 Autumn Budget, including further funding for social care and high street regeneration. The Resources Board contributed to developing and clearing the [2018 Autumn Budget submission](#) and the [LGA's on-the-day briefing](#) on the Autumn Budget was well received by member authorities.
4. The LGA's funding gap analysis has continued to be influential, featuring in LGA Parliamentary briefings and press work. It continues to be widely quoted across the media.
5. With input from the Resources Board, the LGA Leadership Board and Executive have agreed a set of high level messages to be employed as part of the [LGA's 2019 Spending Review campaign](#). Resources Board will continue to have direct input into a significant number of LGA Spending Review-related activities and will also continue to advise LGA Leadership Board and Executive throughout the Spending Review campaign period in the 2019/20 LGA political year.
6. The LGA held a sold out annual finance conference in January 2019, with the Secretary of State of Communities and Local Government and his Shadow counterpart, as well as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury all addressing the delegates.
7. Councillor Richard Watts, Chair of Resources Board, has featured regularly in the media over the last year expressing the LGA case on a number of local government finance issues including the funding gap and the impact of funding reductions and council tax.

### Business Rates Retention

8. The LGA continues work with MHCLG officials on reforms in preparation for introducing 75 per cent business rates retention. The LGA submitted a [response](#) to an MHCLG [consultation document on reforms](#) including how to balance risk and reward, resetting, and minimising risks in the system. Discussions with MHCLG have continued in the officer-level Systems Design and Implementation Working Groups, notably concerning an alternative administration model for business rates retention to mitigate the impact of appeals.
9. The LGA commissioned a [business rates retention model](#), available on the LGA website, to enable modelling of possible future business rates retention scenarios, including different options for resets. This model is being used to develop LGA policy as well being available to member authorities.

### Other Business Rates Issues

10. The LGA submitted [written evidence](#) to a Treasury Select Committee [inquiry into the impact of business rates on business](#). Councillor Richard Watts, Chair of Resources Board, appeared before the Committee at an [oral hearing](#). The session covered a wide range of issues including the importance of business rates as a source of income for local government, the impact of on-line retailing and out of town developments, the need for flexibility around reliefs, and the need to tackle the effect of appeals as well as business rates avoidance.
11. On behalf of the LGA, the Resources Board submitted a [written response](#) to a [consultation](#) on the business rates treatment of self-contained accommodation.

### Fair Funding Review

12. The LGA continues to co-chair, with MHCLG officials, a technical working group of local authority finance officers. Through this group, consensus is being built on what services should have specific relative needs assessments, common cost drivers that could be used in the funding formulae, and other important aspects.
13. Officers and politicians continue to be engaged with the Government and other stakeholders as part of the reforms. The LGA has also ensured that there are plenty of opportunities for member authorities to engage directly with the MHCLG and the LGA on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review, such as through regional events.
14. The LGA has also not shied away from developing policy positions on some controversial issues related to the Review. For example, the LGA called for deprivation to be included as a factor in the foundation formula, covering £13 billion of spending on services (as at 2017/18 outturn) in our [response](#) to the recent MHCLG [consultation](#).
15. The LGA has published a [number of tools](#) (on relative needs, relative resources and transition) to help local authorities assess the impact of proposals arising from the



Review. The LGA is also successfully using these tools to develop LGA policy positions on the Review.

16. While the work is being led by the LGA Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group, members of Resources Board continue to be updated. The Chair of the Resources Board also chairs the Task and Finish Group and the Vice Chairman of the Resources Board is also on the group.

#### CIPFA Financial Management Code and Resilience Index

17. In September we [responded](#) to the CIPFA [consultation](#) on its proposal for a local authority financial resilience index. In response to consultation responses CIPFA has altered its approach. Following this, in April we [responded](#) to CIPFA's [consultation](#) on a new Financial Management Code for Local Government which CIPFA believes will support good practice in financial management and assist local authorities in demonstrating their financial sustainability. We welcomed the code as an additional tool for councils but believe it should be viewed as guiding principles and should not prescribe what councils have to do. We expect CIPFA to launch the code at their annual conference in July.

#### Audit

18. In May we submitted a [response](#) to the National Audit Office (NAO) [consultation](#) on the New Code of Audit Practice. This first stage consultation seeks to identify high level issues for the five year review of the code, and the second stage, to be conducted later in the year, will look at the actual draft text for the new code. The new code will be laid before Parliament in time for it to come into force no later than 1 April 2020. In December we also [responded](#) to the annual [consultation](#) by PSAA on the level of audit fees.

#### Capital and investments

19. In September we [responded](#) to the Government's [consultation](#) on a statutory override to the IFRS 9 accounting code. While this is a technical topic, without the statutory override some councils might have been forced to make real service reductions in response to paper movements in the values of certain pooled investments. We called for the override to be extended and made permanent. Following the consultation, the Government announced that it was extending the override by five years and then will undertake a further review.

#### **Workforce**

20. Most of the workforce team's priorities are established by the memorandum of understanding with MHCLG which sets out funded improvement programmes. The general objective for the team was to ensure that Councils are supported to address future workforce changes associated with public sector reform, the practical implementation of current employment legislation etc. and to modernise and transform the way they work, developing workplace cultures that motivate and value staff at all

levels. The team also had objectives relating to pay negotiations, employment law and pensions policy.

21. Some of the main achievements undertaken within the remit of the Resources Board over the year have been:

21.1 Published Workforce Focus, a major document outlining priorities for workforce development and LGA support.

21.2 Assisted Councils in introducing the new pay spine with all Councils doing so without delays and a number of Councils re-joining the national spine.

21.3 Agreed pay deals for coroners, youth and community and Soulbury staff.

21.4 Assisted with a number of very complex employee relations cases involving senior local government staff.

21.5 Successfully developed the Apprenticeship Accelerator Programme.

21.6 Continued organisational effectiveness reviews, and Decision Making and Accountability (DMA – assessing managerial spans of control).

21.7 Conducted a health check for employers of Adult and Children social workers.

21.8 Promoted the Disability Confident scheme to councils through workshops with DWP.

21.9 Produced resources and promoted the issue of workforce financial wellbeing to Councils and supported this through a free support offer to Councils.

21.10 Supported the LGA on key legal cases including sleep-ins and the National Minimum Wage; and the employment status of foster-carers.

21.11 Represented the LGA in a number of Health and Safety networks including the Local Authority Waste Occupational Health and Safety Forum.

21.12 Conducted a major survey of chief executives and chief officers for the first time in many years covering pay and demographic characteristics.

21.13 Worked with the Care and Health Improvement Team to commission a toolkit to assess the added value provided by social care services to local economies.

21.14 Worked with the Investment Association and the PLSA to successfully launch the Cost Transparency Initiative which in May published templates to cover 90 per cent of pension investment costs.

21.15 Successfully raised the profile of Pensions Tax and its impact on workforce issues in local government.

21.16 Worked with CIPFA to develop guidelines for reporting on the results of the formation of eight asset pools in the £208 billion LGPS.

21.17 Organised a very well attended conference on infrastructure and housing investment addressed by the Local Government Minister.

## **Welfare**

22. The Board agreed the continued need for the LGA to press Government on the resource and delivery impacts of welfare reform and Universal Credit (UC) for councils. This year this has particularly focused on the support offer to vulnerable claimants, which remains under-recognised and under-resourced. The decision to transfer responsibility for 'Universal Support' from councils to Citizens Advice and the 'Move to UC' for those on long-term legacy benefits are key areas of concern that we continue to highlight. Evidence on the need for resources for a properly recognised and resourced local safety net is being presented to HMT, DWP and MHCLG in advance of the forthcoming Spending Review.

23. LGA has worked with a range of partners to develop a strong and evidence-based position on the need to ensure that benefits meet housing costs, to protect residents and prevent costs for councils, particularly in relation to homelessness. This has focused particularly on the private sector Local Housing Allowance rate and impacts on key costs including Temporary Accommodation. This work will form a key strand of our work on the forthcoming Spending Review.

24. The LGA completed its scoping exercise / report on 'reshaping financial support'. This will underpin a programme of pathfinders throughout 2019/20, which brings together a wide range of funding and work on this area, which is of increasing interest to councils, Government and partners.

## **EU Funding**

25. The board has focused on the continuation of £5 billion of investment in local areas from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) until 2020 through the LGA's membership of the Growth Programme Board. As part of the draft agreement between the UK and the EU in December, the UK will continue to participate in ESIF and other programmes until the end of the current 2020 programme period. The LGA has played a key lobbying role to ensure local areas continue to access these funds.

26. The Director of European Programmes, Julia Sweeny, attended the board to consult members on both the 'no deal' preparations and the use of the reserve fund for the European Regional Development Fund. Members expressed the need to prioritise the use of funds to respond to any short term economic shocks, as well as ensuring there is a smooth transition from the ESIF programme to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

## **Proposed Programme of Work and Priorities 2019/20**

27. The Resources Board will discuss and agree the 2019/20 work programme during its first meeting of the political cycle.

### **Local Government Finance**

28. 2019 Spending Review: Contributing to the further development of the LGA's Spending Review campaign will be a major priority for the Resources Board and other Boards during 2019 and 2020. This includes local government finance policy development, work on efficiency and variation in costs, maintaining and refining the funding gap analysis, supporting the work of other Boards on service-specific issues and related work and research.
29. This work will be led by LGA Leadership Board and Executive with advice from the Resources Board and other Boards.
30. Business Rates Retention: The long term work programme looking at issues such as securing extra business rates, designing the retention system, managing risks and incentives will continue to be a priority for the Resources Board in 2019/20.
31. This work is being led the LGA Leadership Board, Executive, and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group.
32. Other Business Rates Issues: This will work include avoidance, changes to the appeals and other issues such as flexibility around reliefs. Given the impact of these changes on local authority income this work is a priority.
33. Fair Funding Review: The LGA will continue to ensure the Government conducts its Fair Funding Review in an open, transparent and timely fashion with all parts of local government having an opportunity to provide evidence and state their case. The results of the review will contribute towards setting individual local authority funding levels in the next decade.
34. This is a priority for the LGA. This work is being led the LGA Leadership Board, Executive, and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group.
35. Local Government Finance Settlements and other set pieces: The LGA will continue to lobby for additional resources in the 2020/21 local government finance settlement. We will analyse the settlement, produce an on-the-day briefing, respond to the consultation/s, and support activity in parliament.
36. Our annual finance conference will take place in January 2020 with input from Resources Board Lead Members.
37. We will lobby for local government in the run up to the 2019 Autumn Budget (and 2019 Spending Review) including a submission and on the day briefing.

38. Capital Financing: The LGA will continue to try to influence thinking and formulate policy improvements in the area of financing capital and infrastructure, to lobby for this in the 2019 Spending Review and to contribute to national reviews of capital finance.

## **Workforce**

39. Priorities for Workforce come under the MHCLG memorandum of understanding (MoU), which helps inform the work and priorities of the Resources Board.
40. The MoU for 2019/20 (to be signed-off shortly) has the following overall outcome on workforce issues: *“Councils recruit, develop, reward and deploy their workforce to best meet their objectives.”*
41. The MoU sets out that programmes to deliver this overall outcome will follow the priorities set out in the recent Workforce Focus publication which will drive our work over the next few years and will take into account the potential workforce issues that may arise from Brexit. The five priorities set out in Workforce Focus as a result of consultation in the sector are:
- 40.1 organisational development;
  - 40.2 skills development;
  - 40.3 leadership;
  - 40.4 recruitment and retention; and
  - 40.5 pay and reward.
42. The general objective for the next year in the MoU is: “Councils are supported to address current and future workforce changes associated with public sector reform, the practical implementation of current employment legislation etc., to modernise and transform the way they work, developing workplace cultures that motivate and value staff at all levels and to increase diversity and inclusion.”
43. Specific deliverables under this objective will include:
- 42.1 Help councils to address inequalities, gender pay gap, ethnicity gap and the roll out of Disability Confident.
  - 42.2 Support over 50 councils to transform their workforces and modernise the way they are managed through a range of HR/OD initiatives and in line with sector priorities.
  - 42.3 Identify the five occupations with the most significant recruitment and retention problems and target advice and support on those areas.

- 42.4 An apprenticeship programme (of encouragement and practical support) designed to help councils increase the number of apprentices and maximise their levy investment.
44. There is an additional objective under the MoU to ensure *that “Pay settlements are agreed and workforce disruption minimised”*. Deliverables to include: maintaining the national negotiating machinery on pay and workforce issues, facilitating the negotiation of a pay agreement that builds on the progress made in introducing a new pay spine for local government that addressed the challenge of the National Living Wage and avoids the duplication of single employer negotiations. To deliver pay agreements for other occupational groups that are not in the middle of current two-year agreement.
45. The Workforce team will continue to develop and provide advice on employment law issues and to respond on behalf of the sector to legislative and regulatory consultations.
46. The team has a special responsibility for resolution of complex senior employee relations cases which continues to grow.
47. The team also has an income-generating responsibility which will continue to focus on:
- 46.1 Providing bespoke consultancy on recruiting, organising and rewarding senior management teams.
  - 46.2 Job evaluation.
  - 46.3 Enhancing and growing the information and support subscription service provided to associated employers such as academy trusts through the “Employer Link” programme.

## **Welfare**

48. Deliver a programme of pathfinders and action learning on ‘reshaping financial support’.
49. Deliver research to better define the actual and potential role of councils in the wider welfare system, make the case for a more efficient and effective local safety net, and identify how this can and should be resourced as part of our work for the forthcoming Spending Review.
50. Continue to develop the evidence base of the cost to councils of shortfalls between incomes and housing costs, and propose viable sector-led solutions linked to our work on Housing and Homelessness.
51. Engage with DWPs pilot approach to ‘Move to UC’ to ensure that the role of councils in supporting vulnerable residents is properly understood and resourced.
52. Make the case for effective data-sharing between Government and councils, particularly UC, to support improved outcomes for low income households.



**LGA Executive**  
18 July 2019

### **EU Funding**

53. We will continue to lobby Government about the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Our aim is to ensure that it will be fully funded, locally driven and support existing infrastructure, enterprise, and social cohesion schemes.

### **Financial Implications**

54. All work programmes are met from existing LGA budgets and resources.





## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board - End of Year Report**

### **Background**

1. At its meeting in September the Board considered its priorities for 2018/19 and agreed five overarching themes:
  - 1.1 Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion;
  - 1.2 Community safety;
  - 1.3 Blue light services and civil resilience;
  - 1.4 Licensing and regulation; and
  - 1.5 Crematoria, coroners and medical examiners.
2. Alongside these Board priorities, the contribution the Board would make to cross-cutting priorities identified by the Leadership Board – in particular supporting councils to respond to the Grenfell tragedy and Britain's exit from the EU – was also recognised in the work plan.
3. This paper provides an overview of the achievements delivered against these themes, and seeks an initial steer from the Board on its priorities for 2019/20. This section of the paper will subsequently be developed into a full paper for consideration at the first meeting of the 2019/20 Board cycle in September.

### **Issues**

#### **Prevent, counter extremism and cohesion**

4. Over the year we have delivered five leadership essentials courses for elected members across Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion, attracting councillors from 36 different councils.
5. We have continued to support the work of the [Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism](#) (SIGCE), both at strategic and operational levels, including assisting SIGCE colleagues to deliver four counter-extremism seminars for councils since September; hosting the seminar on leadership in countering extremism at the LGA in November. We have continued to take a lead role in growing and facilitating the [SIGCE's online Knowledge Hub](#) (KHub), the main output for the SIGCE's work, to help share good practice across councils and partners, including developing case studies and supporting peer-to-peer learning. Membership of the KHub now includes representatives from 77 councils, alongside colleagues from central government and other statutory agencies. We also commissioned work on engaging with communities around extremism, which has fed into the establishment of a SIGCE working group on Far Right extremism. The LGA is supporting the working group's programme, which is looking to develop new resources to support local engagement activity.

6. We launched a new [KHub site for Prevent](#) to provide support and share practice on the delivery of the Prevent duty, which now has membership from over 60 councils. We also established a new Prevent Champions Network in the North East to help share practice, knowledge and approaches amongst councils in the region, which has now met twice over the year.
7. Following the publication of the new CONTEST strategy in June 2018, we have met with Home Office officials on a number of occasions to explore the implications for councils and ensure councils' views are heard, including at the Board in March and hosting a meeting of senior officers involved in new CONTEST pilots in February. These themes will be explored further at a plenary session on leadership in Prevent and counter-extremism at the LGA conference in July.
8. In November Cllr Blackburn met with Baroness Williams, Minister of State for Countering Extremism, to discuss national and local efforts in tackling extremism. The meeting explored the evolving nature of extremist threats and the need for adequate support for local authorities to respond effectively.
9. In January we submitted our [response](#) to the Commission for Countering Extremism's call for evidence setting out councils' core role in countering extremism, the impact of extremism on local areas and some of the challenges facing local authorities in their work. Cllr Blackburn was invited to sit on the Commission's Expert Group, which is providing the Lead Commissioner with advice and challenge in her first 12 months of the Commission.
10. We published comprehensive new [guidance on Building cohesive communities](#) in March, which explores councils' role in cohesion and integration and includes a number of case studies highlighting good practice.

### **Community safety**

11. Given the ongoing politician and media focus on **serious violence and knife crime**, this has been a key area of work for both members of the board and officers. Cllr Simon Blackburn has attended monthly Serious Violence Taskforce meetings since the Government's Strategy was published in April 2018, including at the November meeting providing members with a 'deep dive' account of how Blackpool has taken steps to tackle county lines issues. LGA officers continue to liaise with the Home Office on plans for a new legal duty on serious violence, including submitting a response to the Government consultation on this in May 2019. The LGA published a report on '[Breaking the Cycle of Youth Violence](#)', including a series of case studies highlighting how councils and their partners are taking the lead on tackling youth violence early intervention.
12. The LGA provided both written and oral evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into [serious violence](#), as well as briefing peers ahead of the House of Lords debates on the Offensive Weapons Bill, which focused on the introduction of Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs). Officers provided briefings for two LGA representatives who took part in private ministerial roundtables on education and healthcare as part of the Prime Minister's Serious Violence Summit.

13. Members of the Board and officers have attended a range of events considering serious violence, including an event on enhancing the relationship between the police and local authorities; an international symposium on violent crime; the Children's Commissioner's gang's summit, and the National County Lines Coordination Centre Conference. The Chair of the Board visited two charities involved in early intervention work designed to prevent young people from becoming involved in knife crime. Additionally, we hosted an event on county lines and a best practice event with the successful local government bid leads of the Trusted Relationships Fund.
14. In November, we held a successful event on disrupting **modern slavery**; this was attended by 70 delegates from a number of councils.
15. We commissioned a document of to publicise case studies of councils' work on modern slavery, which is expected to be published in July, alongside guidance for councils on hand car washes. We have developed a short councillor guide to tackling modern slavery, which is also expected to be published in July, and are continuing discussions with Nottingham University's Rights Lab about the scope for a piece of behavioural insights intended to influence consumer behaviour. Colleagues in the LGA's procurement team continue to provide support to councils on developing transparency statements intended to address the risk of modern slavery in supply chains; more than 100 councils (and the LGA) have now published statements voluntarily, and the LGA website includes a number of tools to support work on this.
16. Finally, alongside our proactive work on modern slavery, a significant amount of time has been spent feeding into various pieces of Home Office work on modern slavery, including a consultation on the first responder role and the development of statutory guidance under the Modern Slavery Act.
17. On **domestic abuse**, we provided both a [written evidence submission](#) and [oral evidence](#) to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into [domestic abuse](#). We also [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, and Cllr Blackburn gave [oral evidence](#) to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill in May 2019. Cllr Blackburn and Cllr Lower have attended the National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse throughout the year, and officers have continued to liaise with Home Office and MHCLG officials regarding their proposals in this area. We submitted a joint [response](#) with the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to the Home Office's [consultation](#) on preventing and tackling forced marriage.
18. The LGA has continued to support the National **FGM** Centre this year in partnership with Barnardo's, with Cllr Anita Lower continuing to chair the Centre's Advisory Group. The Group's membership has been reviewed and expanded to give a greater cross-sector perspective and now includes more education and early years partners. We have supported the Centre in developing their sustainability strategy and in promoting the work of the Centre both in public and with key government departments.
19. On **water safety**, in December 2019 the LGA submitted evidence to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) review of responsibilities for beach safety, in consultation with

the LGA's Coastal Special Interest Group. Cllr James Dawson recently met with the MCA who confirmed that the review will be published in November 2019.

20. Following discussions between the LGA and the Home Office team responsible for publishing Fire and Rescue Service data, from 31 January 2019 the Home Office new incident level dataset covering flooding and water rescue incidents has been published by the Home Office, which will enable better analysis of the risk around water safety.
21. LGA officers continue to work with the Home Office's **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Advisory Board** on the use of the ASB 2014 powers.. The LGA convened a private roundtable with council officers, including planning, environmental health and community safety teams, to learn about their experiences of responding to unauthorised developments and encampments.

### **Blue light services and civil resilience**

22. We ran two leadership essentials courses for **fire and rescue authorities** and five regional masterclasses on Inclusion and Diversity aimed at fire and rescue authority members. We have reviewed our support offer to fire and rescue authorities in association with the Improvement Team.
23. We held the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition in Brighton in mid-March and produced an accompanying publication: '[Beyond Hackitt: protecting the vulnerable in the years ahead](#)'. The publication looks at the building-safety work coming out of the Hackitt review which may see significant additional burdens for the fire sector and also considers new activity within the sector. The latter includes the inspection regime and the related LGA support offer, major incidents like wildfires, the ongoing response to the Kerslake report, water safety, behavioural insights techniques, and protection from scams.
24. We have worked with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on the fire service aspects of both the ongoing building safety programme and the development of policy in the wake of the Hackitt Report.
25. We have worked with the NFCC and the Home Office through a variety of working groups and workshops to develop a strong submission to the anticipated Spending Review which has support from across the fire sector. We will continue to support this activity to its conclusion.
26. We have continued to work with Her Majesties Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue in their work on the first cycle of fire and rescue inspections and in the development of a corporate governance inspection programme.
27. We held our annual **Police and Crime Panels (PCPs)** workshop and commissioned revised guidance for PCPs which will be launched at the 2019 workshop in July. The National Association of Police and Crime Panels' application to become a SIG was approved by the LGA Leadership Board.

28. We published an updated councillor guide to **civil contingencies** which built in the learning gleaned from councils which responded to emergencies in 2017 and 2018. Alongside this, we published a joint document with Solace focusing on preparedness, response and recovery in relation to two case studies; the Manchester Arena attack and a flooding event in Suffolk. We held a further councillor civil resilience masterclass at the end of 2018, and two more are scheduled for June 2019.
29. We worked with MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division to develop a new approach to handling requests for national mutual following exceptional emergencies. The process takes into account the lack of resources available to support this process, while also aiming to streamline how requests are handled between the LGA and Government.

### **Licensing and regulation**

30. In September, the cross-industry working group set up to look at taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing published a report with a number of recommendations for government. The Department for Transport published their response to the recommendations in February. This, accepted many of the group's recommendations including those that the LGA (a member of the working group) has been calling for, most notably that Government intend to legislate to strengthen taxi and PHV licensing. Government also launched a consultation on new statutory guidance for taxi and PHV licensing authorities on how to use their taxi licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults. Again, the proposals included a number of proposals which the LGA has been calling for, which our consultation response welcomed.
31. We launched the new National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3). This allows licensing authorities to record details of where a hackney carriage or PHV drivers' licence has been refused or revoked and to check new applicants against the register. Several authorities have now started to use the register to support their licensing work, and the Government has announced it intends to mandate use of the register in future.
32. We have developed and published a range of guidance for councils including guidance for councils on developing an approach to mandatory CCTV in taxis and PHVs; a handbook to support new and existing members of licensing committees with their role in administering the Licensing Act 2003; and guidance on taking a whole council approach to tackling reducing gambling harm – this was circulated to all authorities by GambleAware. The Licensing Act handbook will be complemented by a new set of case studies exploring approaches to managing the night-time economy.
33. Following the announcement of the reduction in maximum stakes for fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs) last year, the LGA and others successfully lobbied government to introduce the new £2 stake sooner than originally set out in the Budget, including jointly commissioning research from Cebr to highlight the social cost of a delay in implementation. The change was subsequently brought forward to April 2019. In October, the LGA submitted evidence to the Home Office to inform the new Alcohol Strategy which is expected to be published later in 2019.

34. The LGA has become a Friend Against Scams (FAS) partner, to help promote the initiative with councils. As a partner organisation the LGA has made a pledge to actively promote the

FAS initiative with our members and promote awareness of scams and how they can be prevented.

**Crematoria, coroners and medical examiners**

35. Last year we responded to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) market study in to the funerals and cremations market. Following the study report the CMA announced their intention to launch a full market investigation in to the market. Some of the issues under investigation are directly relevant to local authority crematoria, including customer choice and decision-making, price setting and density of crematoria facilities. The LGA will continues to work with the CMA during its investigation to ensure that the local government perspective is taken into account.

**Supporting councils to respond to the Grenfell tragedy**

36. Following publication of the final report from Dame Judith Hackitt's review of building regulations and fire safety (which reflected the LGA's position) we responded to a number of Government consultations including proposed bans on the use of combustible materials on the exterior of high-rise buildings and the use of desktop studies, and revisions to the building regulations guidance on fire safety (Approved Document B). Although Dame Judith had not recommended it in her final report, the LGA was successful in securing a ban on the use of combustible materials on the exterior of high-rise buildings, and in securing restrictions on the use of desktop studies. We await further clarification on revisions to the building regulations guidance.
37. Since the publication of the Hackitt Review the LGA, along with the Health and Safety Executive, Local Authority Building Control, and the National Fire Chiefs Council, has been part of the Joint Regulators Group, which is providing the Government with advice on how to establish and transition to a new regulatory structure. The consultation on a new building safety regulatory framework is expected to be published by the end of May 2019, and new legislation is expected to be in place by 2021.
38. Having worked with councils and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to identify those private high-rise buildings with Aluminium Composite Material cladding, we successfully lobbied for the Government to pay the estimated £200 million costs of taking remedial action on high-rise private residential buildings where owners were not doing so themselves. Building owners will be expected to apply for this funding over a period of three months from May 2019.
39. We have established the Joint Inspection Team. This multi-disciplinary team, which is funded by MHCLG and hosted by the LGA, will support councils to take further action against building owners where necessary.
40. We have also continued wider work to explore issues with external wall insulation and large panel system buildings, and provide support to councils on these issues. This included contacting local authority leaders to conduct an LGA-data collection exercise on large panel buildings. In partnership with the National Housing Federation, we have also established an online Building Safety Knowledge Hub, which provides social housing building owners with resources relating to various building safety issues, and a forum to allow them to discuss emerging local and national challenges and share best practice.

**Britain's exit from the EU**

41. Various areas of the team's work have been a focus in relation to general Brexit and no-deal planning; regulatory services, civil contingencies and community cohesion. We have had some success in urging Government to provide greater clarity for councils on the legislative changes that will impact regulatory services in particular, but are continuing to make the case that Government should use the delay in the Brexit process to provide support and resources to councils on this issue.
42. The team has regularly briefed the LGA's Brexit task group on concerns that a no deal Brexit could impact the timely operation of ports, and the resilience implications of traffic backlogs, to reinforce concerns raised by member councils. Officers have also been engaging with local resilience forums to identify and highlight concerns, and contributed to the development of Home Office guidance on cohesion issues and Brexit.

**Conferences, events and media**

43. The Board ran a range of events over the last year in addition to those listed above, including the annual licensing conference and the annual fire conference.
44. Over the last year the Board issued press releases or responded to stories on car clocking, counterfeit alcohol, fake toys, food hygiene ratings, food sampling, counterfeit cigarettes, modern slavery, shisha bars, second-hand tyres, underage knife sales, fake goods, FGM, domestic abuse, serious violence, Fixed Odds Betting Terminal stakes, county lines, anti-social behaviour, animal welfare inspections, burial fees, fake charity bag collections, CCTV, child gangs, environmental health budgets, the late night levy, medical examiners, pub gaming machines, scams, taxi driver assaults.

**2019/20 Priorities**

45. It is expected that the themes for the 2019/20 work priorities will remain broadly consistent with 2018/9, with a number of workstreams continuing into the new Board cycle.
46. The table below sets out some initial thinking on workstreams that will continue into the new Board cycle:

<b>Priority area</b>	<b>Proposed activity</b>
Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support the work of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE), including developing and delivering a support offer for elected members, facilitating the online Knowledge Hub, and feeding in to the outputs of the SIGCE's working groups.</li> <li>Support councils in their work to deliver the Prevent duty, counter-extremism and community cohesion, including through the delivery of</li> </ul>

	<p>further training courses and events, facilitation of the Prevent Knowledge Hub, the publication of guidance and developing a local authority cohesion network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate and feedback sector views about the Prevent duty once the independent review is announced.</li> <li>• Collate and feedback sector views to central government on the CONTEST pilots.</li> <li>• Collate and feedback sector views on counter-extremism policy and practice to central government and the Commission for Countering Extremism.</li> </ul>
Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby Government and Parliament in regard to the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill.</li> <li>• Support LGA input to the Serious Violence Taskforce and provide support to councils on this agenda.</li> <li>• Support LGA input into the National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse.</li> <li>• Hold a national conference on tackling anti-social behaviour, to help share best practice.</li> <li>• Engage with government and support councils on a range of community safety issues, including police and crime panels, gypsy and travellers and burglary.</li> <li>• Lobby Government and Parliament in regard to ongoing funding for the National FGM Centre.</li> </ul>
Blue light services and civil resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the fire and rescue sector work on fire reform initiatives (inspection, standards, workforce).</li> <li>• Support fire and rescue authorities to respond to inspection.</li> <li>• Hold masterclasses on Culture, Inclusion and Diversity in the fire and rescue sector.</li> <li>• Publish a Scrutiny Toolkit for Fire Authority members and produce an</li> </ul>



	accompanying eLearning module.
Licensing and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby government to bring forward taxi licensing legislation as soon as possible and continue to promote the use of NR3.</li> <li>• Lobby government to provide sustainable funding for vital public protection services and introduce a proper new burdens process that enables councils to increase/ invest in staff.</li> <li>• Work with Home Office officials to explore an increase in licensing fees.</li> <li>• Support BEIS with shaping the development of Primary Authority in licensing.</li> </ul>
Support councils to respond to Grenfell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with government and local authorities to identify high-risk, high-rise residential buildings, including those with combustible cladding systems and to remediate as necessary. Lobbying for local government to receive the support needed for this work.</li> <li>• Working with government to implement the recommendations from Dame Judith Hackitt's Review of fire safety, with legislation due to come into force by 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Responding to Government consultations, including on the new building safety regulatory framework; and</li> <li>○ Lobbying government to ensure that councils and fire and rescue authorities are funded to implement changes as needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support local government to respond to the changing regulatory environment through an ongoing improvement offer</li> </ul>
Britain's exit from the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent the views of councils in meetings across Whitehall, ensuring that adequate guidance and funding are made available to councils to deal with Brexit.</li> </ul>
Crematoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to respond to the Competition and Markets Authority into the funeral and crematoria market.</li> </ul>

47. Officers would welcome Board Members' views on the areas they would like to focus on.

### **Implications for Wales**

48. We will work with colleagues at the Welsh LGA to identify areas where our work will be applicable to Wales, and where WLGA may wish to use our work as a basis for Welsh specific work of its own.

### **Financial Implications**

49. The work priorities identified for 2019/20 will be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes dedicated capacity to support work on cohesion, extremism and Prevent, and dedicated capacity to support Grenfell work.

### **Next steps**

50. The Board are asked to reflect on the work delivered this year, and consider and comment on their priorities for 2019/20.

## Note of last LGA Executive meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	LGA Executive
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 6 June 2019
<b>Venue:</b>	Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	<p>The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Local Government Preparedness for Brexit</b>	
	<p>Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA Brexit Taskforce, introduced the item. He updated members on the preparedness of local government for Brexit.</p> <p>He outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LGA members had recently attended the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee, to report on councils' preparedness for Brexit.</li><li>• Post Brexit, the UK would cease to be a member of the Committee of the Regions.</li><li>• Government had assured local authorities that they would have a seat at the table for any future changes to UK legislation which affected them.</li></ul> <p>In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Welsh Local Government Association shared ambitions to see powers in funding devolved, and any discussion on further</li></ul>	

changes should involve LGAs in the devolved nations.

- The European Investment Bank had been an important source of grant funding for projects in the South-West of England.
- There were concerns that councils in areas of deprivation would find it difficult after Brexit, owing to lack of funding, particularly as it was felt funding would be centred on areas where match funding had been promised.

**Decision:**

Members of the Executive considered and **agreed** the report.

**Action:**

Officers to take forward work in line with the comments above.

**3 Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update**

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the item, providing an update on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes. He reported that the LGA continued to lobby MHCLG on the amount of money available for councils.

**Decision:**

Members of the Executive **noted** the report.

**Action:**

Officers to proceed with delivery of the LGA work programme on Further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review as directed.

**4 2019 Annual Report of the Audit Committee**

Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Services, introduced the item. She advised members that the Audit Committee met on the 3 June 2019, highlighting the annual report (**Appendix A**) which provided an overview of areas reviewed and work undertaken by the committee in 2018/19.

**Decision:**

The Executive **endorsed** the 2019 annual report of the Audit Committee.

**Action:**

The annual report to be presented at the General Assembly on 2 July

2019.

## **5 Local Elections and LGA Political Balance 2019/2020**

Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Services, introduced the item. She advised members that following the May 2019 election results, the figures for the LGA's proportionality for 2019/20 have been confirmed. The report set out the revised proportionality and the distribution of seats amongst the political groups on the LGA's governance structures.

In the discussion which followed, members asked that a mistake in **Appendix A** on the number of Conservative and Labour places on the City Regions Board be corrected.

### **Decision:**

The Executive **endorsed** the proportionality figures for 2019/20 meeting year.

### **Actions:**

1. The political groups to agree the allocation of places across all LGA structures.
2. Officers to correct the proportionality of the City Regions Board in **Appendix A**.

## **6 Note of the last Leadership Board meeting - Tabled**

The Executive **noted** the minutes of the last LGA Leadership Board.

## **7 Note of last LGA Executive meeting**

The Executive **noted** and **agreed** the minutes of the last Executive meeting.

## **8 2019 Spending Review - Update**

Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, introduced the item, highlighting the report provided an update on the LGA's planned activity ahead of the 2019 Spending Review. He advised members that, while the Government's plans for the Spending Review are currently uncertain, the LGA would continue to work on the assumption that the 2019 Spending Review will happen and cover three years, while pressing for certainty over funding regardless of what happens.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Members asked how many years the Spending Review would cover (this is currently unclear. The plan announced by the Chancellor in March was for the Spending Review to cover three years, but the Chief Secretary to the Treasury more recently said this was not likely).
- It was emphasised that as the Adult Social Care Green Paper continued to be delayed, there needed to be further assurance on funding for social care.
- As there would soon be a new Prime Minister and a new cabinet, the LGA should ensure it had a strategy to engage with both.

**Decision:**

Members of the Executive **noted** the report.

**Action:**

Officers to proceed with the LGA's work programme on the 2019 Spending Review in accordance with the steer from Leadership Board and Executive.

The Chairman thanked members.

Cllr Marianne Overton thanked the Chairman for his work, as this was his last Executive meeting in post.

**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 Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)		Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Alden		Birmingham City Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE		Warwickshire County 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 Nick Forbes CBE		Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Michael Payne		Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE		Derbyshire County Council

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble  
Cllr Simon Blackburn  
Sir Richard Leese CBE

Cllr Richard Watts  
Cllr Rishi Shori  
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE  
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE  
Cllr Clive Woodbridge  
Cllr David Finch  
Cllr Simon Henig CBE  
Cllr John Hart  
Cllr Peter John OBE  
Cllr Barry Lewis  
Cllr Terry O'Neill  
Cllr Roy Perry  
Cllr Debbie Wilcox  
Cllr Philip Atkins  
Cllr John Fuller OBE

Hackney London Borough Council  
Blackpool Council  
Manchester City Council and City Regions Board  
Islington Council  
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council  
Sutton London Borough Council  
Portsmouth City Council  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
Essex County Council  
Association of North East Councils  
South West Councils  
Southwark Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
North West Regional Leaders Board  
Hampshire County Council  
Newport City Council  
County Councils Network (CCN)  
South Norfolk District Council

Apologies:

Cllr Paul Carter CBE  
Cllr Peter Box CBE  
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha  
Cllr Michael Wilcox  
Sir Stephen Houghton  
CBE  
Alderman Sir David  
Wootton

Kent County Council  
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
West Midlands LGA  
SIGOMA  
  
Local Partnerships





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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](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

