

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 3 April 2019
1.00 pm

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

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

www.local.gov.uk

Guidance notes for members and visitors

18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board)

3 April 2019

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 3 April 2019** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be served prior to the meeting from **12.30pm**.

Attendance Sheet

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

Apologies

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: Lewis.addlington-lee@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@lga@local.gov.uk

Location

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

LGA Contact

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

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) – Membership 2018/2019

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

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) Attendance 2018-19

Councillors	18/7/18	12/9/18	17/10/18	6/12/18	23/1/19	6/3/19
Conservative						
Lord Porter of Spalding 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	Yes	Yes
Izzi Seccombe OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Simmonds CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Labour						
Nick Forbes CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Box CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Michael Payne	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lib Peck	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/a
Anne Western CBE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liberal Democrat						
Howard Sykes MBE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ruth Dombey OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Independent						
Marianne Overton MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clive Woodbridge	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observer / In attendance						
Kevin Bentley		Yes	Yes			Yes

Agenda

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) **Company Number 11177145**

Wednesday 3 April 2019

1.00 pm

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

Item	Page
1. Chairman, Notice and Quorum	
To confirm the Chairman for the meeting, that the meeting is quorate, and that adequate notice of the meeting was given.	
2. Declarations of Interest	
Each Director present to confirm that they have no direct or indirect interest, or declare any interest, in the transactions and other arrangements to be considered at the meeting, or which the Company has entered into which they are required to declare by Section 177 or Section 182 of the Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006) as amended, or by the Articles of Association.	
3. Duties of Directors	
Each Director to note that under section 172 of the Companies Act 2006, they must act in the way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to certain factors set out in that section; and that under Section 173 they must exercise independent judgement.	
Business of the Meeting	
The following reports set out the main business of the meeting, the purpose of which are for the Board to consider and, if deemed fit, approve, ratify or note:	

4.	Updated Terms of Reference	1 - 4
5.	Brexit - Verbal Update	
	Ian Hughes, Head of Policy, to give an update on the work that the LGA has been undertaking to support councils on work related to Britain's exit from the EU.	
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PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 5 June 2019, 1.00 pm, Smith Square
1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

Terms of Reference

Purpose of report

For decision

Summary

From 1 April 2019, LGA Unlimited replaced the unincorporated LGA as the main membership body. The LGA Leadership Board is now the Board of Directors of LGA Unlimited.

The new Terms of Reference have been drafted in line with the Company's Articles of Association and Governance Framework and are attached at **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board agrees the Terms of Reference set out in **Appendix A**.

Action

Subject to Board agreement the Terms of Reference of the Leadership Board will be published on the LGA website.

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

Appendix A

LGA Leadership Board Terms of Reference 2019/20

1. The Leadership Board is the Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (LGA). It is politically balanced and is made up of the chairman, vice and deputy chairs, who are elected annually by the General Assembly.
2. The Leadership Board is responsible for the management of the LGA's business. Its powers and responsibilities are set out in Part 5 of the Articles of Association and in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Governance Framework.
3. The Leadership Board:
 - 3.1 sets the strategic direction of the LGA in consultation with the Executive;
 - 3.2 directs the activities and business of the LGA and ensures its proper management;
 - 3.3 is responsible for the management of internal resources and for policies on resource management;
 - 3.4 agrees the annual budget and business plan;
 - 3.5 considers applications to join the LGA's Associate schemes;
 - 3.6 receives reports of the Audit Committee and the Commercial Advisory Board;
 - 3.7 receives annual reports of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and joint venture companies;
 - 3.8 receives and recommends to the General Assembly the LGA's consolidated financial statements and annual report of the Audit Committee;
 - 3.9 recommends amendments the Articles of Association to the LGA General Assembly; and
 - 3.10 recommends Motions to the General Assembly for consideration.

Directing and managing the activities and business of the LGA

4. As the Board of Directors of a national membership body and the single voice for local government, the Leadership Board ensures activity across the LGA is coordinated and integrated. The Leadership Board:
 - 4.1 Builds and maintains positive relationships with member councils, maximising LGA membership levels.
 - 4.2 Maintains a forward programme of forthcoming legislation and events, identifying, discussing and communicating emerging and key issues.
 - 4.3 Maintains relationships with other local government representative bodies, Government, Parliament, the Civil Service and other partners.
 - 4.4 Undertakes representational activity on behalf of the LGA and provides the principal spokespersons.

- 4.5 Agrees the programme of the LGA General Assembly Annual Meeting and the Annual Conference.
- 4.6 Agrees the LGA approach to the annual political balance.

Managing the Resources of the LGA and its associated companies

- 5. The Leadership Board is responsible for the management of the resources of the LGA and its associated companies and for agreeing the annual budget and policies on resource management. In that respect the Board:-
 - 5.1 Agrees the medium-term financial strategy for the LGA and its associated companies as the basis for the effective management of resources.
 - 5.2 Agrees and overseeing delivery of the LGA's Commercial Strategy.
 - 5.3 Agrees the annual budget and making recommendations to the respective company boards.
 - 5.4 Agrees annual subscription levels.
 - 5.5 Monitors budget arrangements and overall performance, including financial performance.
 - 5.6 Ensures that proper records are kept and approves the LGA's own and consolidated financial statements for presentation to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.
 - 5.7 Oversees the approach to MHCLG grant funding.
 - 5.8 Approves policies relating to staffing, including structure, appointments, terms and conditions of service, recruitment and severance procedures.
 - 5.9 Commissions reviews and agreeing changes to the Members' Scheme of Allowances.
 - 5.10 Ensures the proper safeguarding and management of investments and other assets, including treasury management arrangements and borrowings.
 - 5.11 Oversees the management and maintenance of 18 Smith Square and the Stills on behalf of the LGA and its tenants.
- 6. Subject to the Articles of Association, the Leadership Board may delegate responsibility for specific activities to another LGA Board. The General Assembly may, by special resolution, direct the Leadership Board to take or refrain from taking specified action.

Quorum

- 7. One third of the Directors, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the Board are present.



LGA Leadership Board
Company Number 11177145
3 April 2019

Political Composition

8. The core composition of the Leadership Board is

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

Frequency

9. The Leadership Board meets eight times per year but may by agreement reduce or increase the number of meetings as the business requires.

Admittance into Membership of New Member

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

At previous meetings of the Board all authorities in membership of the unincorporated LGA were admitted into membership of the new LGA Unlimited (the Company).

As a result of the recent reorganisations in Somerset, Dorset and Suffolk, 15 authorities ceased to exist and left LGA membership on 31 March 2019.

On 7 March 2019, the Board resolved to admit into membership East Suffolk District Council, West Suffolk District Council, Dorset Council, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council from 1 April 2019.

The Board is now invited to consider an application from West Somerset and Taunton Deane District Council to be admitted into membership of the Company.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board resolves to admit into membership of the Company West Somerset and Taunton Deane District Council with effect from 4 April 2019.

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Position:	Head of Corporate Services Company Secretary
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Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

LGA Proportionality for 2019-20

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This report sets out the proposed timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality, and agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of Chairs and Vice-Chairs, following the 2019 local government elections on 2 May 2019.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board agree the proposed process and timetable set out in **Appendix A** to the report.

Action

Officers and LGA Leadership Board to take forward the timetable as set out in the report.

Contact officer:	Paul Goodchild
Position:	Member Services Manager
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E-mail:	paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

LGA Proportionality for 2019-20

Background

1. The 2019 local government elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019.
2. Local government elections will be held in 151 English Councils:
 - 2.1. 33 metropolitan boroughs. *33 one-third council elections.*
 - 2.2. 179 district / borough councils. *130 whole council elections; 49 one-third council elections.*
 - 2.3. 47 unitary authorities. *30 whole council elections; 17 one-third council elections.*
3. On the same day, the following elections will also be held:
 - 3.1. A Combined Authority Mayoral election in the North of Tyne Combined Authority.
 - 3.2. 6 local authority mayoral elections in Bedford, Copeland, Leicester, Mansfield and Middlesbrough.
4. This report sets out the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality for 2019-20 and for agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs.

Process and timetable

5. The proportionality process and full timetable, including key General Assembly dates, is set out at **Appendix A**.

Financial implications

6. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA.

Appendix A: General Assembly, Political Balance and Appointments to Member Structures 2019-20

Wednesday 16 January	Alert circulated to member councils giving preliminary notice and timetable for the General Assembly Annual Meeting. The notice also includes the deadline for receipt of motions by Wednesday 1 May 2019 .
Wednesday 20 March	Alert circulated inviting member councils to appoint their representatives to the General Assembly for 2019/20 and those attending the Annual Meeting by Wednesday 5 June 2019 .
Wednesday 1 May	Deadline for submitting motions to General Assembly (5pm).
Thursday 2 May	<p>LOCAL ELECTIONS</p> <p>Deadline for authorities to be in LGA membership for their election data to be included in the LGA's political balance calculation for 2019/20 political cycle. Only councils in full membership of the Association <u>before the polls open on the day of the principal local elections shall be included in the political balance calculations</u>. To be included in the political balance calculations, councils joining the Association on or after 1 April of the membership year must have paid their subscriptions in full prior to the opening of the polls on the day of the principal local elections.</p>
Tuesday 7 May	Estimated political balance figures from LGA Research and Information team (dependent on speed of councils' declarations of results). Email to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Office (HGOs). (Monday 6 May is a Bank Holiday).
Wednesday 8 May	<p>Elections results data available from Professors Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher which then needs checking and analysis by the LGA Research and Information team to calculate political balance.</p> <p>Meeting of HGOs/Head of Corporate Services to discuss the estimated changed percentages and their implications for changes to the distribution of seats amongst the parties and the distribution of Chair and Vice-Chair places.</p> <p>HGOs will discuss possible implications with their respective Group Leaders and consider whether Group Leaders need to meet together.</p>
Thursday 9 May	Final political balance calculation available from the LGA Research and Information team. HGOs to brief Group Leaders.

Chairman/Group Leaders meet to discuss political balance.

Wednesday 5 June

Deadline for member authorities to inform LGA of their representatives for 2019/20 General Assembly.

**Wednesday 5 June
1.00pm**

Report to LGA Leadership Board with formal proposals for places on boards and distribution of Chair / Vice-Chair places for 2019/20.

**Thursday 6 June
1.45pm**

Report to LGA Executive requesting their endorsement of the proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of Chairs/Vice-Chairs and populating member structures.

Friday 7 June onwards

Political Groups to use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them – to take effect from **1 September 2019**.

Monday 17 June

Despatch of Agenda and papers for the Annual Meeting to General Assembly members.

Tuesday 2 July

Political Groups to report their nominations for LGA Office Holders to General Assembly Annual Meeting as early as possible on Tuesday 2 July or before.

LGA General Assembly appoints the LGA Office Holders of the Association for the 2019/20 political cycle with immediate effect.

Friday 5 July

Member Services to send appointment letters to the LGA Chair, Vice-Chairs and Deputy Chairs appointed at General Assembly.

Thursday 1 August

Political Groups to inform Member Services of nominations to LGA Member Structures for 2019/20.

From Friday 2 August

Member Services to send appointment letters to all members and invitations to Members' Briefing on Thursday 12 September 2019.

1 September 2019

2019/20 meeting cycle commences.

Thursday 12 September

LGA Members' Briefing (new and continuing members invited).



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

LGA General Assembly 2 July 2019: Outline Programme

Purpose of report

For endorsement.

Summary

This year's General Assembly will take place on Tuesday 2 July 2019 in Bournemouth. This report sets out for the LGA Leadership Board's endorsement the draft agenda for the meeting.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board endorse the proposed agenda for this year's General Assembly.

Action

Officers to take forward as set out in the report.

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

General Assembly 2 July 2019: Outline Programme

Background

1. The Annual Meeting of General Assembly will be held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at the Bournemouth International Centre, immediately prior to the official opening of the LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition.
2. It is proposed for 2019 that we follow a similar format to 2018. The meeting will commence with the formal business of the General Assembly, required by the LGA Unlimited Articles of Association, including elections to the formal positions of office.
3. As in previous years, it is proposed that the newly elected Chair's main address will be made to all delegates at the start of LGA Annual Conference, rather than to the General Assembly. The LGA President and the outgoing LGA Chairman will address delegates at the General Assembly. The outgoing Chairman will also deliver a valedictory speech at the start of the Conference. The proposed agenda is attached at **Appendix A**.

General Assembly Motions

4. In accordance with the LGA's Constitution, all member authorities have been invited to submit motions to this year's General Assembly to the Chief Executive by Wednesday 1 May 2019. A list of any motions received will be presented to the LGA Executive on Thursday 6 June to decide which will be debated in full at the General Assembly.

Voting at General Assembly

5. Voting slips are included on the back of the agenda for the General Assembly meeting and will be available on the day if required. In accordance with the LGA Constitution, in the event of a vote, the Chair will call for a show of hands. Should not less than one third of local authorities present at the meeting demand a ballot, voting members will detach and complete their voting slip and hand to the Hall Staff. The actual votes cast will be determined retrospectively and all member authorities will be notified of the result of the ballot as soon as possible.

Financial Implications

6. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA in this report.

Appendix A: General Assembly Programme 2019

The Annual Meeting of the General Assembly will take place in the Bournemouth International Centre.

TIME

9.00 - 10.00	Registration and Refreshments
10.00 - 11.30	Political Group meetings
11.45 - 12.30	General Assembly meeting
11.45	Welcome from the Chief Executive
	Item 1 Election of President <i>President's Address</i>
	Item 2 Election of Chair / Chairman <i>Outgoing Chairman's Address</i> <i>Incoming Chair / Chairman's Address</i>
	Item 3 Election of Vice-Chairs/Deputy Chairs
	Item 4 Appointment of Vice-Presidents
	Item 5 LGA Consolidated Financial Statements for year ending 31 March 2019
	Item 6 Annual Report of the LGA's Audit Committee
	Item 7 Minutes of General Assembly held on 3 July 2018
	Item 8 General Assembly Debates
12.45	Close of General Assembly
12.45 - 2.00	LUNCH AND EXHIBITION VIEWING
2.00	OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

Spring Statement 2019

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides a summary of the 2019 Spring Statement announced by the Chancellor, Philip Hammond on 13 March 2019, including key announcements and the LGA response.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board note the report.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Sarah Pickup
Position: Deputy Chief Executive
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Email: sarah.pickup@local.gov.uk

Spring Statement 2019

Introduction

1. The Chancellor, Philip Hammond MP delivered his [2019 Spring Statement](#) on 13 March 2019. He set out the direction of the Government's thinking on the Spending Review and a range of areas of interest to local government, as well as an update on the progress of previously made commitments.
2. Similar to last year, the Chancellor did not seek submissions in advance of the Spring Statement, as the annual 'major fiscal event' continues to be the Autumn Budget.
3. In response to the Spring Statement, we issued a [media statement](#) and sent a [bulletin](#) to our member councils summarising the relevant announcements (please see Appendix A for a summary of the relevant announcements). We will also continue to respond on behalf of the councils, including briefing for parliamentary debates and engaging in discussions with the Government.

Key announcements

2019 Spending Review

4. The Chancellor confirmed that, subject to an EU exit deal being agreed in the next few weeks, the Government will hold a Spending Review which will be launched before the 2019 Summer Recess and conclude alongside the 2019 Autumn Budget. This will set departmental budgets, including 3-year budgets for resource and capital spending (covering 2020/21 to 2022/23). The Spending Review is discussed in more detailed elsewhere in the agenda.

Government consultations and reviews

5. The Chancellor set out the Government launched consultations on the following topics of interest to councils:
 - 5.1. The Government has published a [consultation on its Infrastructure Finance Review](#) that will look at the Government's tools for supporting private investment, and how they are delivered, in the context of the UK's changing relationship with the European Investment Bank. The deadline for responses is 5 June 2019.
 - 5.2. The Government has launched its [review of the Aggregates Levy](#). The initial discussion paper sets out the rationale for the review, the terms of reference and scope of the review, and how stakeholders can engage.
6. Future consultations covered in the Spring Statement include:
 - 6.1. A consultation on Planning for Future High Streets will explore potential changes to help local areas make better use of planning tools to support their local high streets, including through Compulsory Purchase Orders and Local Development Orders.

- 6.2. A publication on the Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy will set out the Government's approach to putting the UK at the forefront of mobility, and responding to the significant changes taking place in transport technology – such as the growth in electric vehicles and the development of self-driving vehicles.

Implications for Wales

7. The 2019 Spending Review will have implications for local authorities in Wales. The funding of Welsh local authorities is a devolved matter in Wales although we will continue to explore with the Welsh LGA opportunities to work together on the Spending Review. We have not been able to assess the implications for Wales of the consultations and reviews announced in the 2019 Spring Statement and will discuss with the Welsh LGA.

Financial implications

8. This work is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in 2017/18 and 2018/19 budgets.

Appendix A. Spring Statement 2019 – announcements relevant to local government

Public spending and the 2019 Spending Review

- As part of its [Economic and Fiscal Outlook report](#) published alongside the Spring Statement, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) has concluded that:
 - Economic growth in the UK and globally has slowed since the 2018 Budget in October, with a downward revision to the near-term GDP forecast.
 - But tax receipts have performed better than expected in the final months of 2018-19 and the OBR has judged that much of this buoyancy will endure.
 - Together with downward pressure on debt interest spending from lower market interest rates, this delivers a modest medium-term improvement in the public finances.
 - The Chancellor has banked most of the improvement in the public finances in lower borrowing, but has spent some on higher planned public services spending.
- The Chancellor confirmed that, subject to an EU exit deal being agreed, the Government will hold a Spending Review which will be launched before the 2019 Summer Recess and conclude alongside the 2019 Autumn Budget. This will set departmental budgets, including 3-year budgets for resource spending (covering 2020/21 to 2022/23).
- As the part of the 2019 Spending Review, the Government will run a zero-based review of capital spending.
- The Spending Review will have a renewed focus on the outcomes achieved for the money invested. Alongside the Statement, the Government has published a revised version of the [Public Value Framework](#), aimed at Government departments, with accompanying guidance.
- The Government will provide an extra £100 million to Police and Crime Commissioners in 2019/20, ringfenced to pay for additional police force overtime targeted specifically at knife crime and for new violent crime reduction units.

Government consultations and reviews

- The Chancellor set out the Government's launched consultations on the following topics of interest to councils:
 - The Government has published a [consultation on its Infrastructure Finance Review](#). The review will look at the Government's tools for supporting private investment, and how they are delivered, in the context of the UK's changing relationship with the European Investment Bank. The deadline for responses is 5 June 2019.
 - The Government has launched its [review of the Aggregates Levy](#). The initial discussion paper sets out the rationale for the review, the terms of reference and scope of the review, and how stakeholders can engage. The paper also sets out the membership of an expert working group.
- Future consultations covered in the Spring Statement include:

- A consultation on Planning for Future High Streets will explore potential changes to help local areas make better use of planning tools to support their local high streets, including through Compulsory Purchase Orders, Local Development Orders, and other innovative planning measures.
- A publication on the Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy will set out the government's approach to putting the UK at the forefront of mobility, and responding to the significant changes taking place in transport technology – such as the growth in electric vehicles, the development of self-driving vehicles and advances in data and internet connectivity.

Other announcements and progress on commitments made previously

- The Government has announced that in the coming months, it will publish the following in relation to planning reform:
 - Additional planning guidance to support housing diversification on large sites, in response to the review by Sir Oliver Letwin and with the aim of improving build-out rates once planning permission has been granted.
 - A package of reforms, including allowing greater change of use between premises, and a new permitted development right to allow upwards extension of existing buildings to create new homes.
 - A Green Paper setting out proposals on how greater capacity and capability, performance management and procedural improvements can accelerate the end-to-end planning process.
- The Government announced a new £3 billion Affordable Homes Guarantee scheme, to support delivery of around 30,000 affordable homes. In addition to this, the Chancellor announced allocations of the Housing Infrastructure Fund to new areas.
- The Chancellor confirmed that the Government will use the forthcoming Environment Bill to mandate biodiversity net gain for development in England.
- The Government will introduce a Future Homes Standard by 2025, future-proofing new build homes with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency.
- The Government has confirmed its commitment to provide additional funding to the British Business Bank for venture and growth capital, as we leave the European Union and our relationship with the European Investment Fund changes.
- The Government restated its commitment to publishing a comprehensive National Infrastructure Strategy, setting out its priorities for economic infrastructure and responding to recommendations in the National Infrastructure Commission's National Infrastructure Assessment alongside the 2019 Spending Review.
- The Chancellor referred to allocations relating to previously announced schemes: £60 million of the Transforming Cities Fund (announced at Budget 2017) and £53 million from the Local Full Fibre Networks Wave 3.
- The Chancellor confirmed up to £260 million as part of a Borderlands Growth Deal. On top of the £102 million announced recently for the Carlisle Southern Link Road from the Housing Infrastructure Fund.
- The Government confirmed that, as announced in the 2018 Budget, the Apprenticeship Levy co-investment rate will be halved from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, and the amount

employers can transfer to their supply chains would increase to 25 per cent. These changes will now take effect from April 2019.

- The Chancellor announced that the Government will fund the provision of free sanitary products in secondary schools and colleges in England from the next school year.
- The Government will respond to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee [report on the Retail Prices Index \(RPI\) and its measurement](#) in April, following discussion of relevant issues with the UK Statistics Authority.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
3 April 2019

Pay Policy Statement

Purpose

For decision.

Summary

The LGA's Pay Policy Statement is subject to an annual review by Leadership Board and is regularly updated to reflect new legislation and process. The statement was last reviewed by Leadership Board in April 2018.

The policy has been reviewed against the LGA's guide "Pay policy and practice in local authorities" to ensure that, where appropriate, the LGA policy mirrors the recommendations made to local authorities. In line with best practice, pension contribution rates have been updated to reflect 2019 figures.

There have been no further amendments for 2019/20.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

1. Approve the LGA Pay Policy statement (**Appendix A**) and note the inclusion of the updated pension contribution rates;
2. Commission any further amendments; and
3. Note that the next annual review is scheduled for April 2020.

Action

Pay Policy Statement to be updated in line with the Leadership Board's decision.

Contact officer: Chris Harding
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Pay Policy Statement

Date created: March 2007
Responsible Officer: HR & Payroll Manager

Date of review/revision	Amendments made
April 2016	Section 5 - Inclusion of living wage commitment
June 2017	Section 14 – Inclusion of pension contribution rates
April 2018	<p>Section 4 – Clarification of posts outside grading structure</p> <p>Section 5 – Clarification of spot salaries and amendment of publication of senior salaries to reflect Transparency Code</p> <p>Section 6 – Clarification that the LGA does not pay relocation expenses</p> <p>Sections 8 – Delegation of responsibility for approving honoraria from Chief Executive to SMT</p> <p>Section 9 – Clarification of non-re-engagement terms for those who leave the LGA with a redundancy payment or enhanced pension</p> <p>Section 14 – Pension contribution rates updated</p> <p>Section 15 – Clarification of process for agreeing temporary appointments outside establishment</p>
April 2019	Section 14 – Pension rates updated

Date for next review: July 2020

This policy applies to all employees of the Local Government Association and Improvement & Development Agency for Local Government.

Pay Policy Statement

1. Purpose

The LGA's pay model seeks to:

- Attract talented people with the right skills and abilities in competition with the marketplace
- Fit with organisational culture and support business strategy
- Recognise the demands of the job and reward individuals fairly and equitably
- Retain staff to keep turnover to acceptable levels
- Motivate employees
- Keep employer costs reasonable to achieve the above
- Avoid abuses of the UK taxation system by restricting off payroll arrangements

2. Why has it been developed?

Our mission to support, promote and improve local government means that the LGA has a major role in upholding the sector's reputation. As such the LGA seeks to ensure it has clear and transparent policies which demonstrate accountability and value for money.

The LGA's pay arrangements reflect the need to recruit, retain and motivate skilled employees to ensure high levels of performance balanced with accountability. The arrangements recognise that flexibility is essential in ensuring the organisation has the most effective workforce to deliver services for the sector. They are underpinned by the principles of fairness and transparency.

3. Who does it apply to?

This statement applies to all employees and, where shown, agency workers and those who are engaged on a consultancy contract.

4. Job evaluation

In 2009 the LGA undertook a wholesale review of the pay and grading structures of its employees, bringing together disparate practices and pay arrangements into one cohesive pay and grading structure which was agreed with our recognised trade union, Unison.

The job evaluation (JE) process is applied to all jobs in the LGA with the exception of the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive roles, which fall outside the grading structure, along with specified posts externally funded by government grant. JE is the process by which organisations evaluate job size from the largest and most highly paid job to the smallest, lowest paid. The LGA is committed to fairly determining pay in accordance with the equal pay legislation (now contained in the Equality Act 2010).

The LGA uses the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme.

5. Grades and salary bands

The LGA established its grading structure around total Hay point scores. The evaluation scores determine the pay grade that will apply to each post.

For those roles specified in section 4 above, the LGA determines spot salaries. External advice is sought to ensure that salaries at this level reflect market levels and recommendations are made to the Chairman and Group Leaders who are responsible for the final decision. A spot salary is also paid to Brussels Office staff on a Belgian contract. Spot salaries are reviewed periodically, including consideration of market factors.

Updated April 2019

Senior staff salaries are published in line with the government's Transparency Code, which all local authorities are required to follow, and which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding governing the annual Improvement Grant. Published salary bands are updated annually to reflect the national pay award.

The LGA is committed to paying the UK Living Wage (for roles based outside of London) and the London Living Wage (for roles based in London). These are voluntary minimum hourly rate of pay set by the Living Wage Foundation.

6. Remuneration on recruitment

The same recruitment policies apply to all employees regardless of grade, including both the most senior officers and the lower paid, who take up a new appointment with the LGA.

Candidates are normally appointed on the minimum salary point of the grade for the post. If a candidate is already being paid above the minimum point of the post they are applying for, the appointment will usually be on the next highest increment above their current salary, subject to the maximum of the grade.

The LGA does not pay relocation expenses.

7. Increases in Pay and Pay Progression

Where applicable, pay increases are in line with the annual pay award for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

The LGA does not operate a performance related pay scheme. Following agreement with Unison, the LGA has established a closer link between pay and performance and incremental increases are subject to the annual appraisal and performance management cycle (this is monitored by HR and reported to Senior Management Team on a regular basis).

8. The use of bonuses

The LGA does not have a bonus scheme. The Chief Executive and members of the Senior Management Team have the ability to make discretionary honoraria payments in line with the LGA's Special Rewards Policy.

9. Re-engagement

The LGA does not re-engage ex-employees who have left with a redundancy or enhanced pension payment, for at least two years, unless in exceptional circumstances e.g. where an employee may have retrained in an area of skills shortage. A business case is required before a final decision is made and is subject to approval by the Chief Executive.

10. Payment for acting up or additional duties

When an employee is required to complete work of a higher graded post or undertake duties outside the scope of their role, the LGA may consider a payment in line with the JE scheme and grading structure. Payments are subject to review and for defined periods.

11. Unsocial hours payments or overtime

In general the LGA does not make unsocial hours or overtime payments. However in certain agreed circumstances additional payments may be made for participation in out of hours activity (such as the Media and Facilities Management Teams).

12. Car and motor cycle allowances

Although the expectation is that employees will use public transport wherever possible, the LGA operates a car and motorcycle allowance scheme for the purpose of reimbursing employees for the cost of travel incurred in the course of their duties. The same policy applies to all employees and is outlined in the Expenses and Subsistence Policy. The LGA does not operate any leased car or car loan arrangements. Reimbursement for mileage is paid at the HMRC rate.

13. Payment on ceasing to be employed by the LGA

The LGA operates the same redundancy policy for all staff. These arrangements are detailed in the LGA's Management of Change Policy and subject to consultation with Unison.

The LGA will seek to ensure that termination costs are included in any bids for external funding that includes staff to ensure that the LGA budget is not liable for costs, unless there is an explicit joint funding agreement.

Payment in respect of pensions must in line with the LGA's Pensions Discretions Policy.

In rare circumstances, it may be prudent for the LGA to reach agreement with an individual on ending their employment and to make payment in recognition of loss of office. In such circumstances, individuals compromise on their ability to raise any legal challenge. Payments must be proportionate to the specific circumstances and agreed by the Chief Executive and managed on behalf of the LGA by a member of the HR & Payroll team.

14. Pensions

Members agree the LGA's Pensions Discretions Policy which sets out the current arrangements by which the LGA will exercise its decisions in line with The Discretions under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

The current employee contribution rates for pensions (from April 2019) are as follows –

Pensionable Pay for Employment	Main Scheme contribution rate	50/50 contribution rate
	Gross Contribution	Gross Contribution
£0 - £14,400	5.50%	2.75%
£14,401 - £22,500	5.80%	2.90%
£22,501 - £36,500	6.50%	3.25%
£36,501 - £46,200	6.80%	3.40%
£46,201 - £64,600	8.50%	4.25%
£64,601 - £91,500	9.90%	4.95%
£91,501 - £107,700	10.50%	5.25%
£107,701 - £161,500	11.40%	5.70%
Over £161,501	12.50%	6.25%

The employers' contribution rates are currently 11.4% (LGA) and 19.2% (IDeA)

15. Use of consultants, associates, temporary and agency workers

It is the LGA's practice only to appoint to posts within our agreed organisational establishment. However in certain circumstances temporary appointments may be made outside the establishment

in order to undertake a specific fixed term piece of work for which the skills or capacity do not exist within the core establishment. These appointments may take the form of

- Temporary or agency staff
- Consultants or associates

Temporary appointments outside of core budgeted activity are subject to a funded business case approved by the relevant senior manager. Appointment of consultants and associates are subject to our normal procurement processes.

The LGA is mindful of the need to secure value for money from all appointments, and to ensure that no individual is able inappropriately to achieve a more favourable position in respect of their tax arrangements. The LGA will have proper regard to this principle in determining the form of contract most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the engagement.

Temporary employees not appointed on LGA contracts of employment will not be used for longer than 140 days in any financial year and will only be used to cover additional and specified activity outside the organisation's core establishment.

Freedom of Information Act

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The Local Government Association is now subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from the 1 April 2019, following its change to an unlimited company. This paper summarises the implications of that change and the steps taken to ensure that the LGA is prepared for it.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

1. Notes its legal obligation, as the Board of Directors of the LGA, to ensure that the that the LGA complies fully with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
2. Notes the practical arrangements in place to ensure that the LGA meets its legal obligations.

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Freedom of Information Act

Background

1. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides public access to information held by public authorities. It does this in two ways:
 - 1.1. Public authorities are obliged to publish certain information about their activities; and
 - 1.2. Members of the public are entitled to request information from public authorities.
2. Until 31 March 2019 the LGA, as an unincorporated Association, was not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), although its policy was to operate within the spirit of the Act. However as an unlimited company wholly owned by local authorities, the LGA now falls within the definition of a public authority and has a legal obligation to comply with FOIA. As Company Directors, the Leadership Board must ensure that the company meets those obligations.

Duties under FOIA

3. Under FOIA anyone who makes a request to a public authority for information is entitled
 - 3.1. To be informed in writing whether that authority holds information meeting the description set out in the request; and
 - 3.2. To have information the public authority holds relating to the request communicated to them.
4. It is a statutory requirement that the LGA's scheme of publication (the information that we publish and make available) is kept updated and relevant.
5. The presumption is one of disclosure and all records and systems that may fall within scope of a request must be searched for information. Responses must be sent within the timescales set by the Act.
6. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) can issue decision notices, which are legally binding, to rectify when a response is deemed incorrect. If either side disagree with the decision notice it can be referred to the Information Tribunal which forms part of HMCS. There are significant financial implications for this. The Commissioner may also use an enforcement notice if an authority repeatedly fails to comply with its obligations. Decision and enforcement notices are public documents and so there are reputational risks associated with them being issued.

7. Whilst some exemptions may apply under certain circumstances, the application of exemptions must be rigorous and are subject to challenge and ultimately appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and courts. Exemptions include:
 - 7.1. Information is accessible by other means
 - 7.2. Information is intended for future publication
 - 7.3. Prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs
 - 7.4. Personal information
 - 7.5. Information provided in confidence
 - 7.6. Legal professional privilege
 - 7.7. Commercial interests

Actions and next steps

8. To ensure that the LGA is ready for its change in status, a number of actions have been put in place:-
 - 8.1. A designated FOI point of contact identified for each service area.
 - 8.2. Following a programme of team briefings on the new legal obligation, a mandatory FOIA e-learning course is being rolled out to all staff.
 - 8.3. The LGA's policy on information and records management is being reviewed and updated in line with FOIA good practice guidance.
9. For further information and a guide to FOIA go to the Information Commissioner's Office website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/>

Financial Implications

10. In general implications should not be significant as the LGA has always sought to work within the spirit of FOIA legislation. How any marked increase in FOIA requests as a result of the new requirement may have implications for staff resources.



LGA Leadership Board
Company Number 11177145
3 April 2019

Chief Executive's Report – April 2019

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

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

- Funding for local government;
- Adult social care and health;
- Children, education and schools;
- Housing;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution;
- Britain's exit from the EU; and
- Supporting councils

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

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for April 2019.

Action

As directed by members.

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LGA Leadership Board
Company Number 11177145
 3 April 2019

Chief Executive's Report – April 2019

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for local government

- 1.1 **2019 Spring Statement:** the Chancellor delivered his 2019 Spring Statement on 13 March. In his speech and associated documents, Philip Hammond MP set out the direction of the Government's thinking on the 2019 Spending Review and a range of areas of interest to local government. On the day of the Statement, we issued a media statement and a bulletin summarising the announcements of potential interest to local government. We briefed Leaders, Chief Executives and parliamentarians on the key measures for local government. We also briefed peers ahead of a debate on the economy in light of the 2019 Spring Statement. In this debate, Baroness Thornhill called on the Government to listen to our warning that the current funding settlement for local government is unsustainable.
- 1.2 Our work around the 2019 Spring Statement is covered in more detail elsewhere on the Leadership Board agenda.
- 1.3 **2019 Spending Review:** subject to an EU exit deal being agreed, the Government will hold a Spending Review which will be launched before the 2019 Summer Recess and conclude alongside the 2019 Autumn Budget. This will set departmental budgets, including 3-year budgets for resource spending (covering 2020/21 to 2022/23).
- 1.4 The 2019 Spending Review is covered in more detail elsewhere on the Leadership Board agenda.
- 1.5 **MHCLG inquiry into local government finance and the 2019 Spending Review:** the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee announced an inquiry into local government finance and the 2019 Spending Review which will consider how effective the existing funding set-up is in providing resources to meet the need and demand for local services now and in the future. The deadline for submissions is 17 April 2019 and the LGA will be submitting evidence.
- 1.6 **Council finances:** a new report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies has examined the case for giving councils more power over taxation, including the possibility of bringing in a dedicated local income tax. In our response, we reiterated our key message that if councils were given greater control over their own finances and local economies, new approaches and better decisions could be made around funding services. This will be part of our #CouncilsCan campaign, which aims to influence the forthcoming 2019 Spending Review and highlight the growing risk to vital local services if the Government does not take action to secure the financial sustainability of councils.
- 1.7 **Funding gap:** our analysis of the overall funding gap facing local government in 2019/20 was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn MP, during Prime Minister's Questions. The figures show that local services face a funding gap of £3 billion this year.
- 1.8 **Treasury Select Committee inquiry into the impact of business rates on business:** we made a submission in response to a Treasury Select Committee inquiry into the Impact of Business Rates on business. The inquiry includes the impact of changes in business rates policy since 2017 on businesses and how the current business rates system measures up to principles for good taxation such as fairness, supporting growth, and providing certainty and coherence.
- 1.9 **Financial management:** the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy is consulting on a new Financial Management Code which aims to support good practice and to assist councils in demonstrating financial sustainability. The consultation closes on 30 April and we will be submitting a response.
- 1.10 **Audit report:** the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has published a report on auditing local government. The report covers both local NHS bodies and local authorities, and comes further to a

National Audit Office (NAO) report which showed that local government performs well in terms of value for money. The NAO report found that 98 percent of chief finance officers feel they can give challenging advice to elected members. The PAC report contains some important recommendations for central government, and we will be talking to MHCLG about their response to the report.

- 1.11 **Public Accounts Committee evidence session on local authority governance:** our Chairman, Lord Porter, provided evidence to the PAC's evidence session on local authority governance on 27 March. He highlighted the benefits of sector led improvement and emphasised that there is no need to return to an Audit Commission style system.
- 1.12 **Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally (FFCL) – conference and awards:** we supported the Board of Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally in arranging a well-attended conference in March to highlight good practice in counter fraud activity across the sector and to raise fraud awareness with council leadership teams. As well as looking at council activities, the conference included a session with senior staff across the sector investigating the wider impacts of fraud activities on communities.
- 1.13 **Local bus funding:** Paul Woods, Interim Chief Finance Officer at the North East Combined Authority, gave evidence to the Transport Committee on behalf of the LGA, as part of its inquiry into local bus funding. This was an opportunity to inform the Committee of the £652 million funding gap facing local concessionary bus services.
- 1.14 Both Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review are covered by separate items on the agenda of Leadership Board.

Priority 2 – Adult social care and health

- 2.1 **Adult social care:** we held a briefing for parliamentarians on our adult social care green paper, The lives we want to lead. Parliamentarians commended the LGA for taking forward the green paper and called on the Government to publish its own at the earliest opportunity. They also raised concerns about the lack of support for carers and reductions in direct payments and personal budgets of people with care needs. Social care funding also featured during questions to the Housing, Communities and Local Government ministerial team. This was followed by an exchange during Treasury Questions, with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury highlighting the additional money provided for social care in the 2018 Budget.
- 2.2 **Care homes:** Independent Age has published its annual study into care home performance across England. It serves as further evidence of the significant pressures across the system and the need for action through the Spending Review and the forthcoming green paper. We responded to the findings, emphasising that local authorities work closely with their care providers and the Care Quality Commission and, overall, quality is improving.
- 2.3 **Sexual health:** colleagues from Public Health England, appearing before the Health and Social Care Committee this week, highlighted the good work councils are doing to commission sexual health services. New diagnoses of HIV are down by 28 per cent since 2015. Since local government took on the commissioning of sexual health services in 2013, in many cases they have become better integrated, more efficient and more accessible. However, there is still much work to do, and we will continue to work with colleagues across public health and the NHS to improve outcomes.
- 2.4 **Public health conference:** on 21 March, we held our sixth annual Public Health Conference and Exhibition. Over 200 delegates attended the 23 plenary and workshop sessions over the day. Attendees heard from high level speakers like Steve Brine MP, Health Minister, Ruth Sutherland, Chief Executive of the Samaritans, Bev Taylor from NHS England and Professor Sian Griffiths, Deputy Chair of Gamble Aware. It was a great opportunity to hear the very latest thinking on key policy and improvement agendas, comment on, and shape policy at the highest level, and network with peers. One the same day, we also launched 'Public health transformation six years on: partnerships and prevention'. The report shows the excellent work that public health in local government is doing to

commission for quality and best value across all areas of public health.

- 2.5 **Social Care Digital Innovation Programme:** twelve councils have been selected for the discovery phase of the third wave of the Social Care Digital Innovation Programme 2019-21. Projects include exploring managing hydration in care homes in North Somerset, using technology to improve home care in North East Lincolnshire and improving travel in Camden. Final reports from the 2018-19 programme will be published over the next two months including results from carers testing exoskeletal devices in the Isle of Wight and the biometric technology trials with people with autism in Wirral.
- 2.6 **Drugs policy:** we submitted written evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry on drugs policy. Our evidence highlighted the work of councils in addressing some of the pressures associated with drugs and alcohol addictions in local communities.
- 2.7 **Accessible homes for older people:** we submitted written evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Ageing and Older People's inquiry on decent and accessible homes for older people. Our submission highlighted the impact of poor and inaccessible housing and the affect older people's health and care.

Priority 3 – Children, education and schools

- 3.1 **Children's centres:** our analysis has shown that councils have been forced to cut their spending on children's centres by nearly a quarter in four years, down to £480,513,000 in 2017/18 compared with £637,265,000 in 2014/15. This is at a time when councils are looking after some 75,420 children, more than at any time since the 1980s. Councils are also spending 18 per cent more on children in care while the money for children's centres and wider preventative services is falling. The services these facilities provide are often a lifeline for children and parents alike, and we are working hard to take this message to Government as part of our 2019 Spending Review campaign.
- 3.2 **Parliamentary report on children's services:** the Public Accounts Committee referenced our evidence that councils are working tirelessly to support vulnerable children and that in 2017/18, £8.8 billion was spent on children's social care in its report on Transforming Children's Services. The report also notes the rising pressures facing children's services, quoting our data that 91 per cent of councils overspending on children's services in 2017/18 with increased referrals and more children being taken into care. The report states that the Department for Education has not done enough to ensure the sustainability of quality and funding for children's social care and calls on it to outline the reasons for the variation between the activity and cost of children's social care across councils.
- 3.3 **Troubled families:** we highlighted the pivotal role councils have played in making the Troubled Families Programme a success for some of the most vulnerable families. New evidence published by Government has shown the programme is improving outcomes for families across a number of measures. The Government must continue funding this vital service, as it is one of the few remaining sources of early intervention funding for councils.
- 3.4 **Health visitor numbers:** we underlined the need for urgent action to deal with a significant fall in numbers of children's health visitors. Since 2015 there has been a 20 per cent drop in the number of full-time equivalent visitors working in the NHS. This has led to the current system being stretched to its limits as the numbers of vulnerable children and families goes up. We are calling on Government to reverse the £531 million cash terms reduction to public health budgets between 2015/16 and 2019/20. This will enable more health visitors to be trained and recruited by councils who can then provide more help and support to vulnerable children and families.
- 3.5 **Resolution Foundation skills report:** a report from the Resolution Foundation has found that there has been a slowdown in the growth in the education levels of our young people. In our response we highlighted the importance of an education and training system that councils can adapt to their changing local jobs market. This must include providing young people with a compelling choice of both

academic and technical pathways, a National Retraining Scheme for adults to gain skills for new jobs, and devolved and adequately resourced UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Industrial Strategies. These will allow councils and their partners to plan how their local economies can enable growth that benefits all.

- 3.6 **Foster carers:** our Deputy Chairman, Cllr David Simmonds, appeared on Newsnight to highlight what councils are doing to support the vital work of foster carers, whilst protecting the interests of each child. He emphasised that what councils share with foster carers will clearly depend on the individual circumstances but the presumption will always be to share as much information as possible.
- 3.7 **Nurseries:** maintained nursery schools have received a £24 million funding boost for the 2019/20 academic year. This is good news, and we are pleased the Government has acted on our concerns. Councils have been making clear that additional funding is needed urgently to secure the future of maintained nurseries. Our nurseries provide a high level of crucial support to disadvantaged children and those with special educational needs, but cannot do so unless funded properly.
- 3.8 **National Deaf Children's Society survey:** we responded to survey results from the National Deaf Children's Society. It found 58 per cent of specialist teachers felt there was less support available for deaf children than in 2014, while 43 per cent thought pupils were now performing worse. This confirms our key message that the pressures facing councils in helping pupils with special educational needs and disabilities continue to increase, while the money is just not there. Councils are working hard to help give all our children the education they deserve.
- 3.9 **Child gangs:** MHCLG announced a £9.8 million fund in support of community projects to confront knife crime and gang culture. A total of 21 councils have successfully bid for a share of £9.5 million to help young people and families vulnerable to the effects of gangs. A further £300,000 will also be available for local authorities across England to train frontline staff on how to tackle childhood trauma. There have been some concerning findings published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner on child gangs. The research has revealed there are an estimated 27,000 children in gangs in England, with only a small number known to authorities. We have pointed out that councils are working hard to identify and protect children and young people at risk, but were forced to cut spending on local youth services by nearly 40 per cent between 2010/11 and 2016/17.
- 3.10 **Youth services:** the National Citizens Service (NCS) is set to receive over £10 million for a branding refresh. We have outlined how some of the scheme's funding would be more effective if devolved to local youth services. The NCS is a Government-led voluntary initiative which only a small number of eligible youngsters take part in. Whilst the NCS is a positive experience, funding youth services would be more effective in providing young people with local opportunities all-year-round. Councils have had to reduce spending on youth services from £652 million in 2010/11 to £352 million in 2017/18.
- 3.11 **Breaking the cycle of youth violence:** in March, we published our report on 'Breaking the Cycle of Youth Violence'. The report contains a number of case studies which demonstrate how councils and their partners are taking the lead on tackling youth violence and intervening early to divert young people away from a life of serious violent crime.
- 3.12 **Children's services event:** we are holding an event on commissioning children's services on 1 May in Birmingham. It will focus on working closely with suppliers, recruiting foster carers and how councils can make savings by joining up on future procurements.
- 3.13 **Children's services funding gap:** our analysis of the funding gap facing children's services was quoted by Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee member Matt Western MP during a session with the Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, and the Department for Education Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP. Additionally, Bridget Phillipson MP quoted the LGA's estimate of a £3.1 billion funding gap in children's services in a parliamentary question about additional funding for children's services.
- 3.14 **Special educational needs and disabilities:** we briefed Caroline Lucas MP (Green, Brighton

Pavilion) regarding schools funding and pressures on SEND.

Priority 4 – Housing

- 4.1 **Homelessness:** our survey warns that 83 per cent of councils have seen a rise in homelessness presentations following the Homelessness Reduction Act, which came into force on 1 April 2018. National statistics show that councils are still housing more than 83,000 households, including 123,000 children, in temporary accommodation, including in bed and breakfasts, hostels and private rented accommodation. We are pressing for councils to have the stable, long-term funding to tackle homelessness by preventing it in the first place, and asking the Chancellor to close the £100 million gap facing councils' homelessness services in his Spending Review.
- 4.2 **Housebuilding:** councils are set to utilise their new powers to borrow and invest in housing under the Housing Revenue Account, our recent survey has found. Whilst these new powers are positive, further reforms are needed if councils are to play a full role in tackling the housing crisis. It is encouraging that 94 per cent of stock-owning councils told us they will use the new powers to accelerate housebuilding. The majority of those councils asked in our survey also want more reform from the Government, including changes to Right to Buy, so that councils can retain 100 per cent of receipts and set discounts locally.
- 4.3 **Modern methods of construction:** as part of our parliamentary engagement on housing, our Chairman, Lord Porter, gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on modern methods of construction (MMC). The inquiry is looking at how councils and central government can support new and non-standard construction to help deliver the homes we need. Lord Porter called for national investment in MMC to make homes manufactured off-site more affordable, and emphasised that planning is not a barrier to getting new homes built. The Committee will be reporting in the coming months.
- 4.4 **Planning:** alongside the Spring Statement, the Government provided an update on its work relating to planning reform and housing delivery. The Chancellor indicated that MHCLG would shortly be publishing additional planning guidance in line with some of Sir Oliver Letwin's recommendations on speeding up build-out rates. It was also announced that an Accelerated Planning Green Paper will be published later this year, to explore ways to hasten the end-to-end planning process.
- 4.5 **Housing, planning and infrastructure:** the LGA's Annual Housing, Planning and Infrastructure Conference took place on 13 March, starting with a keynote address from Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Housing. The winners of the Future Place programme were announced at the event. Future Place is a joint programme from the LGA, Royal Town Planning Institute, Chartered Institute of Housing, Royal Institute of British Architects and now Homes England to unlock local potential for place-shaping.

Priority 5 – Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution

- 5.1 **Stronger Towns Fund:** the Government published details of the £1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund. There was confirmation that £1 billion of the new fund will be allocated using a needs-based formula, with the remaining £600 million being available through a competitive process. A breakdown by region of the notional funding allocations is on the Government website. In an exchange on the Fund during Prime Minister's Questions, Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn, referred to our analysis of the funding gap facing councils this year.
- 5.2 **High street clean-up:** Government has announced a new, £9.75 million High Streets Community Clean-Up Programme. This will give councils money to spend with local community groups on spring cleans of high streets and town centres. It will support the Great British Spring Clean.
- 5.3 **Town centres and high streets:** we have continued supporting member councils on the high streets

agenda with two packed events. On 17 January we held the second masterclass on 'Creating Better Towns', drawing in experts from retail, public realm and commercial property to provide focused discussion and learning for lead officers and elected members. This was followed by a conference, 'Taking control of your town centres', on 14 February, attended by over 100 delegates, which included case studies of councils who have demonstrated strong leadership in taking key decisions in support of their town centres, including ownership of commercial assets as well as tackling difficult issues such as anti-social behaviour.

- 5.4 **Roads repairs:** a Government consultation has been launched on increasing the guarantee on utility firms' roadworks. There are also plans to introduce new asphalt standards to keep roads pothole-free for longer. This is good news for travellers, and could also help to lessen a little pressure on councils' over-stretched budgets used to make good shoddy repairs. The new asphalt standard will help to prevent some potholes, but long-term funding is still desperately needed to address the £9.79 billion roads repair backlog.
- 5.5 **Potholes:** a new report from Asphalt Industry Alliance's Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) has indicated that the number of potholes repaired by councils in England and Wales rose by more than a fifth last year, to 1.86 million. It also found that spending on roads maintenance rose by 20 per cent, but suggests much of the £24.5 million was spent on short-term "patch and mend" work. The one-time cost of fixing the entire road network rose to £9.79 billion. We responded, highlighting that the 2019 Spending Review needs to provide councils with long-term and consistent funding to invest in the resurfacing projects which our road network desperately needs over the next decade.
- 5.6 **Waste and recycling:** the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have issued a suite of consultation papers on the future of waste and recycling policy. The four consultations cover household recycling, a deposit return scheme, producer responsibility, and plastic packaging. It is essential that we make our voice heard on these changes to the funding and design of waste services in the future. The Treasury is running a parallel consultation on proposals for a tax on plastic packaging. An LGA conference on the consultation proposals will take place on 4 April 2019.
- 5.7 **Air quality:** a review of interventions to improve air quality and health has been conducted by Public Health England. The review aims to create a 'clean air generation' of children, and make sure new developments are clean by design. Responding, we said that air pollution is a public health emergency and councils are determined to reduce the impact of harmful emissions on our communities. Councils also need local powers to further tackle air pollution, particularly to enforce moving traffic offences.
- 5.8 **Bus travel:** local bus passenger journeys in England have fallen by 1.6 per cent in the past year. This reflects the downward spiral of decline in bus journeys, driving the fare increases which exacerbate the reductions to local bus funding. Our response to the stats highlighted councils' commitment to protecting these vital services in our communities. Ahead of the Spending Review, we are urging the Government to give councils control over the Bus Service Operators' Grant, and properly fund national free bus pass schemes.
- 5.9 **Tree felling and woodlands:** we responded to the consultation on proposals for a new duty for councils to consult results about the felling of street trees. It is right that councils decide locally how best to involve tenants. Should the proposals be implemented they must be treated as a new burden and fully funded.
- 5.10 **Modern Slavery:** we have warned that referrals of potential victims of modern slavery made by councils have soared ninefold in five years. The National Crime Agency's figures show that the rate of council referrals has increased by 66 per cent in the last year alone. No specific funding is given to councils to support victims of modern slavery, and we are urging the Government to use the Spending Review to provide more funding for councils to help tackle modern slavery.
- 5.11 **Female genital mutilation:** we briefed Sarah Champion MP (Labour, Rotherham) on our priorities around FGM, ahead of a debate on the Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (FGM) Bill. During the

debate, Ms Champion highlighted the need to fund the National FGM Centre beyond 2020. She and Maggie Throup MP (Conservative, Erewash) also highlighted figures from our briefing regarding the Centre, where we highlighted its vital role in keeping children and young people safe from FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief.

- 5.12 **Gambling related harm:** we briefed MPs ahead of a debate on gambling related harm. Our briefing called on the Government to introduce a mandatory levy on the gambling industry to fund research, education and treatment. This follows our successful campaign to reduce Fixed Odds Betting Terminals stakes to £2 and the guidance we have published on taking a whole council approach to tackling gambling related harm to support councils.
- 5.13 **The Post-Brexit England Commission:** the roadshows have now visited all English regions outside London and heard from over 200 non-metropolitan stakeholders on the opportunities and challenges their rural areas are facing, post-Brexit. External research has also been commissioned to identify the opportunities for local government to play an enhanced role in the successor arrangements to Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy with a final draft delivered for sign-off. The Commission's final report will launch at LGA Annual Conference 2019.
- 5.14 **Future trade policy:** we have continued to engage with the Department for International Trade (DIT) and other key national stakeholders on the role of local government in future trade policy, and Marian Sudbury, Director of UK Regions at DIT, attended the People and Places Board in March and the City Regions Board in early April to discuss DIT's place-based work. An externally commissioned report to support councils to attract foreign capital investment into local infrastructure has also been drafted and delivered for final sign off.
- 5.15 **UK-France Summit:** we have continued to support councils' international engagement activity and LGA officers supported MHCLG in the delivery of the UK-France Summit hosted in London on 7 March at which a number of LGA members attended and spoke.
- 5.16 **Coastal communities funding:** Government announced funding for coastal communities, with 70 projects receiving a total of £36 million to go towards supporting innovative businesses, protecting historic buildings, new museums and restoration of much-loved coastal heritage sites. While we welcome the additional money, we will continue to make the case that more extensive and consistent investment is needed in our communities.

Priority 6 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 6.1 At the time of writing, Parliament will tomorrow be holding a series of indicative votes on possible Brexit scenarios. **A detailed update of all of our work in preparation for Brexit is covered by another item on the agenda of Leadership Board.**
- 6.2 **Article 50 extension:** the Prime Minister secured an option to extend the Article 50 process to 22 May if her Brexit Deal is supported by Parliament. If the Deal is not supported, the option to extend is until 12 April by which time the UK must either seek a longer extension or leave on that date without a deal.
- 6.3 **Delivery Board:** the Local Government Brexit Delivery Board met and we heard from Rishi Sunak MP, Local Government Minister, and Caroline Nokes MP, Home Office Minister. The Board received an update from Ms Nokes on the UK Settled Status Scheme ahead of its launch on 30 March, as well as other ministers from across Government on departmental preparations. Colleagues from the three devolved nations – COSLA, WLGA and NILGA – were also in attendance and provided an update on their progress on preparing for when the UK leaves the EU.
- 6.4 **MHCLG Brexit stocktake:** on 18 March, there was a stocktake of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's and councils' Brexit preparedness with the most senior Whitehall officials. Mark Lloyd (LGA) was also in attendance, making the case for council's preparedness.

- 6.5 **Brexit and local government inquiry:** we briefed Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chair of the LGA Brexit Taskforce, ahead of him giving evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee for its Brexit and local government inquiry.
- 6.6 **EU Elections:** in all our discussions with ministers and senior officials we continue to highlight the massive challenges the continuing uncertainty regarding EU elections presents for returning officers. We've been assured that there are no consequences for local elections on 2 May.
- 6.7 **Community engagement:** Government has published new guidance for councils on how they can understand, engage and reassure their communities in the lead up to, and following, our exit from the EU. It highlights what councils are already doing to engage and support communities. This forms part of Government's broader efforts to support councils.
- 6.8 **Health and Social Care:** we briefed MPs ahead of a debate on Brexit and health and social care. We highlighted the role that councils play in commissioning and providing vital services for their communities, including social care and public health services.

Priority 7 – Supporting Councils

7.1 **LGA Annual Fire Conference:** held on the 12-13 March in Brighton, our annual fire conference was attended by over 260 delegates, speakers and exhibitors and included a range of plenary sessions and workshops covering a variety of issues relating to fire and building safety. At the conference we called for the introduction of stricter fire suppression rules to ensure fire safety in all high-rise buildings and care homes – not just those over 30 metres. It is crucial that automatic fire safety measures are installed in all new premises where vulnerable people sleep. Sprinkler systems have been proven to be effective, and we will continue to call for their wider use to provide reassurance to residents and the public.

7.2 **Culture-led regeneration:** we held our culture and tourism conference. At the event we published new research into how 15 areas were achieving a culture-led approach to regeneration. We have looked at those councils using existing assets in different ways, as well as those who have led cultural regeneration. Our research also assesses councils' creation of festivals, strategic planning and skills investment. The case studies provide practical information on the techniques used and types of investment secured.

7.3 **Apprenticeships Week:** during National Apprenticeships Week, we celebrated the importance of apprenticeships and called for much-needed reform of the current system. Our Skills Taskforce has held a series of roundtables with industry experts and council representatives, with the aim of making our skills system as effective as possible. We also launched an apprenticeship self-assessment and support toolkit, an updated version of our apprenticeships maturity model for councils – a self-assessment toolkit to help benchmark progress on apprenticeships. The National Audit Office (NAO) used Apprenticeships Week to launch a report into the apprenticeships system. Its findings show a 26 per cent fall in apprenticeship starts between 2015/16 and 2017/18. It also showed that many employers are still struggling to spend their Apprenticeship Levy funds. Whilst we support the Government's ambition to create three million apprenticeships by 2020, councils must be involved in the review of the Levy to ensure its success.

7.4 **LGA Apprenticeships Survey:** we have published the results of our 2019 Apprenticeship Survey, with analysis suggesting the sector is on course for a 20% increase in starts – a second consecutive year of growth. Levy spend continues to be quite low, with only a modest increase on last year, and two-thirds of councils expect they will see funds expire before the end of September 2019. This reinforces our case for increased flexibility in the apprenticeships policy and we have been calling on the Government to: extend the two year limit to spend the Levy against standards which have only just been approved or are still in development; allow pooling of Levy contributions to enable more strategic local planning; permit a more flexible use of the Levy to meet the full costs of apprenticeship programmes; and give local areas a say on how to allocate unspent Levy money and non-Levy funds.

7.5 **Innovation and best practice in social work:** Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults in England, launched her fifth Annual Report, *Social Work Leadership in Changing Times*. As in previous years, the



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annual report features examples of innovation and best practice in social work around the country. Following on from the Wigan Deal, which was featured in last year's report, a new video has been produced to reflect the transformation work happening in Southend Borough Council.

7.6 Councillors' toolkit: we have produced a new toolkit which is aimed at helping those who have other responsibilities, such as looking after children or caring for an older relative, to be councillors. The toolkit, which has Government backing, aims to support councils in creating the right environment for people of all circumstances to seek elected office. We continue to work towards increasing diversity and inclusion, including through our Be a Councillor campaign and Women's Network. It is important that we encourage more women, parents and carers to represent their communities.

7.7 International Women's Day: our briefing on the services councils provide to support women was quoted in the House of Lords debate for International Women's Day by Baroness Donaghy. We also made sure to mark International Women's Day by promoting the invaluable contribution of women in local government through our social channels and the media.

7.8 Leisure facilities: our briefing highlighting the challenges local authorities are facing to maintain leisure facilities including swimming pools was quoted in a debate on swimming and life-saving skills by Lord Addington and Lord Watson of Invergowrie.

7.9 Local Industrial Strategy: delivery of the LGA's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) improvement support offer has progressed significantly, including three fully-booked LIS masterclass events and a national stakeholder roundtable with cross-sector representation.



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Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

8. All LGA member councils will remain in LGA membership for the forthcoming year.
9. Four councils are currently on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2020. They are:
 - 9.1 East Staffordshire Borough Council;
 - 9.2 Hastings Borough Council;
 - 9.3 Leicestershire County Council; and
 - 9.4 Lincolnshire County Council.
10. The Broads Authority National Park and Exmoor National Park Authority are also on notice to leave on 31 March 2020.
11. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.
12. As a result of local government reorganisation, fifteen authorities ceased to exist on 31 March 2019:
 - 12.1 Poole Borough Council;
 - 12.2 Bournemouth Borough Council;
 - 12.3 Christchurch Borough Council;
 - 12.4 North Dorset District Council;
 - 12.5 West Dorset District Council;
 - 12.6 Weymouth & Portland Borough Council;
 - 12.7 Purbeck District Council;
 - 12.8 East Dorset District Council;
 - 12.9 Dorset County Council;
 - 12.10 Forest Heath District Council;
 - 12.11 St Edmundsbury Borough Council;
 - 12.12 Suffolk Coastal District Council;
 - 12.13 Waveney District Council;
 - 12.14 West Somerset District Council; and
 - 12.15 Taunton Deane Borough Council.
13. East Suffolk District Council, West Suffolk District Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and Dorset Council were all admitted into membership from 1 April 2019. The application from Somerset West and Taunton Council appears as a separate item on the agenda.

Transition to LGA Unlimited

14. The staff of the unincorporated LGA were transferred by TUPE to the new company on 1 April 2019, along with the pension scheme, all contracts, joint ventures and other legal agreements. Our finance arrangements, including payroll and bank accounts, have all transferred and a new VAT number has been allocated.

15. The first stage in the transfer of properties is underway and a separate item on the transfer of 18 Smith Square is included on the agenda. To avoid additional complexity, it is proposed to defer the transfer of LGMB until completion of the refurbishment.
16. In July 2018, General Assembly resolved to delegate to the Leadership Board the final decision to dissolve the unincorporated LGA, subject to the approval in writing of at least two-thirds of councils in full LGA membership. That approval has been secured. The old LGA will need to reconvene in due course to agree the transfer of Layden House and again to pass the resolution to dissolve once all outstanding business is complete.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

Chief Executive	
12 March	North West Chief Executive's Meeting, Warrington
<i>Forward Plan</i>	
4 April	Chief Executive, Doncaster Council
4 April	Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council
9 April	Chief Executive, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
10 April	Chief Executive, London Borough of Harrow
11 April	MJ Future Forum, Hertfordshire
30 April	Chief Executive, Welsh LGA
23 May	Chief Executive, Northampton Borough Council

Media

Funding for local government
Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair, Cllr Simon Blackburn was interviewed for Sky News and Sky News Radio on about our press release warning against cuts to councils' youth justice grants when they are announced this month by government. Our release was also referenced in a piece talking about the reasons behind the increase in knife-related incidents (Express, Sky News, Sky News Radio, Sky News Online, Times Online, Mail Online, Guardian Online, ITV Online, Huffington Post, LBC, Talk Radio, LBC, TalkRadio, BBC Radio 5 Live)
Resources Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts response about how councils had lost 60p out of every £1 of government funding for services since 2010 (Express Online)
Chair of the Resources Board, Cllr Richard Watts response to research by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy that found council tax bills in England will increase by 4.5 per cent a year from April (i, 5 News at 5)
Our analysis which found funding cuts forcing children's centres to close (Independent Online, Huffington Post, LBC, i)
Our letter, signed by 14 health and care organisations, calling for the Government to fund the £3.6 billion adult social care funding gap by 2025 and be bold in its long-awaited green paper (Telegraph)
Deputy Chairman, Cllr David Simmonds, pre-recorded an interview with Sky News Radio about our press release warning that children's centres face a fight for survival without new funding from the Government in the Spending Review (Sky News Radio)
Our lines on local areas having control of their own finances (Times)
Our lines on the funding pressures facing councils (iNews)
Our lines on the need to localise business rates reliefs and discounts (BBC Radio 4 You and Yours)
Our report which predicted a shortfall in SEND funding by 2020/21 (Guardian, Observer)
Our response to yesterday's Spring Statement (Huffington Post)
During Prime Minister's Questions the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn MP, referred to

our <u>analysis</u> of the overall funding gap facing local government in 2019/20 (Mirror Online, Sky News, BBC 2 Politics Live, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC)
Our calculations that £16 billion has been cut from councils' budgets between 2010 and 2020 were reported in a blog on the impact on women of local government cuts (Huffington Post)
Our <u>research</u> which found that prioritised funding for social care services puts libraries and parks at risk of closure (Telegraph)
Adult social care and health
We featured during an interview with the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman about complaints received over how some councils assess care packages (BBC Radio 4 You and Yours)
Our Social Care Digital Innovation Programme was referred to in a piece about digital innovation in healthcare (Guardian Online)
Our lines on the work councils are doing with the health sector to transform care (LBC, Channel 5 News)
Liverpool City Council featured as one of our council case studies in our new public health <u>report</u> on partnerships and prevention, which was launched at our public health conference today (ITV Online)
Children, education and schools
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the Children and Young People Board, response to the latest term-time absences statistics (Telegraph, Independent, Mirror, Guardian Online)
Chair of the LGA's Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, Cllr David Simmonds, appeared on BBC Newsnight about councils sharing information with fosters carers when they take in a child or young person (BBC Newsnight)
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the Children and Young people Board, warning on a shortfall in secondary school places (Independent)
Our statement on new research on the number of children living independently in care (BBC Online)
Our <u>response</u> to the NAO report showing apprenticeship starts have reduced (BBC Online)
Housing
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, <u>response</u> to the Independent Age analysis on the standards of care homes in local authorities (Mail Online)
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, featured in a piece about care homes (Express Online)
Our Homeless Reduction Act survey, which found that 83 per cent of councils saw a rise in homelessness presentations following the implementation of the Act (Independent)
Our lines on new powers given to councils to force privately-owned tower blocks to remove dangerous cladding (22 March) (Guardian)
Our <u>calls</u> for tougher sprinkler rules to ensure fire safety in high-rise buildings and care homes, (Good Morning Britain)
Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
Chair of our City Regions Board, Sir Richard Leese, featured in a piece with our response to a Centre for Cities' report on skills (i paper)
Our figures about how the number of people directly employed by local government has fallen by a third in ten years (Huffington Post)
Supporting councils
Improvement and Innovation Board Chairman, Cllr Peter Fleming, was interviewed on our lines on how any income raised through on-street parking charges is spent on running parking services and any surplus is only spent on essential transport projects (LBC, Mail Online, Express, Sun)
Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, was interviewed live on BBC Radio 5 Live about Local Welfare Assistance (BBC Radio 5 Live)
Our response to Press Association research on council garden waste collection services, where we called for any changes to be fully funded (i, Express, Sun, Telegraph, ITV Online)
Our lines on council waste collection services (BBC Online)
The Star featured our previous lines on the dumping of supermarket trolleys (20 March) (Star)
Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees mentioned the recent LGA Peer Review on BBC Online (19 March) (BBC Online)
Our lines about how some level of contamination in recycling is inevitable and that councils are



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working hard with residents to ensure that as much as possible can be recycled (Mirror)
Our lines on councils installing electric vehicle charging points (Guardian Online)
Our lines on parking charges. Mail Online also featured our lines on road enforcement fines (Express Online, iNews, Mail Online)
Our lines that most councils cannot afford the extra cost of sorting disposable coffee cups from kerbside collections were reported in a piece exploring what efforts coffee chains have made in recycling and reducing the use of such cups (BBC Radio 4 You and Yours)
The LGA's previous peer review of Northamptonshire County Council was referenced on BBC Online
A single voice for local government
Our <u>response</u> to the National Crime Agency statistics, showing an increase in suspected victims of modern slavery has risen since 2013 (FT Online, BBC Online, Express, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5, LBC Radio, Talk Radio, talkSport)
Cllr Martin Tett, our Environment spokesman, featured on ITV's 'Rubbish: Britain's Tipping Point?' programme about waste collections, fly-tipping and recycling (ITV Online, ITV One)
Cllr Martin Tett, our Environment spokesman, took part in the Telegraph's Plastic Sustainability Summit Q&A panel session on sustainability and plastic (Telegraph)
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Chair of our Culture, Tourism and Sport Board featured in a piece about how both residents and councils should be involved in caring for trees (Sunday Times)
Our <u>response</u> to plans to rebrand the National Citizens Service (Guardian, Mirror Online)
Our <u>response</u> to the Public Health England review of interventions to improve air quality, including banning cars from idling outside schools (FT, Telegraph, Express, Times)
The media reported a response by Leethen Bartholomew, the head of the National FGM Centre which is run as a partnership between the LGA and Barnardo's, to the jailing of a woman for becoming the first person in the UK to be convicted of female genital mutilation (Guardian, Mail Online, Mail Online, Independent Online)

LGA Forward Plan

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

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

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

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers to brief members and officers in line with steer.

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LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

June

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 5.6.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
LGA Political Balance	Endorse proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs/vice-chairs and populating member structures.
General Assembly Motions	Agree any motions for recommendation to General Assembly.
Government Adult Social Care Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Adult Social Care Green Paper (if published).
Government Prevention Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Prevention Green Paper
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To consider progress with the Annual Conference & Exhibition.
LGA Vice-Presidents	To approve the nominations made by the political groups.
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee report to General Assembly.
LGA Constitution	To agree any changes to the LGA Constitution for recommendation to the General Assembly.
LGA Consolidated Accounts	To approve the financial statements for the year to 31 March for presentation to the General Assembly.
Communications Update Report	To consider the six-monthly Communications Report for October 2018 to March 2019.
Performance Report	To review the full year performance report.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Minutes of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Audit Committee Minutes	To note the Minutes of the Audit Committee.
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment projects.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 6.6.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence (TBC)	To make a presentation on the Armed Forces Covenant (TBC).
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report.
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE 6.6.19	
Summary / Purpose	
The Spring Statement	To receive a summary of the Chancellor's Spring Statement and the LGA activity on it.
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Government Adult Social Care Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Adult Social Care Green Paper (if published).
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee report to General Assembly.
General Assembly Motions	To agree motions for submission to General Assembly.
LGA Political Balance	To note the revised proportionality and the implications for the distributions of seats on governance structures.
Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

July

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 17.07.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
SIGs Annual Reports	To note the Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups
Membership, Terms of Reference and future meeting dates.	To note the new membership, terms of reference and dates of future meetings.
Leadership Board: Review of the Year	Summarises the work of the Board since 1 September and its key achievements.
Future Business Plan Priorities	To provide a steer on the high level priorities for business planning prior to full report in September.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Local Government Ethics	To consider a report on the LGA's work on local government ethics.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Minutes of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board Minutes	To note the Minutes of the Commercial Advisory Board.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 18.07.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Guest Speaker TBC	TBC
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report.
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE 18.07.19	
Summary / Purpose	
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
LGA Boards: Annual Review of the Year	To note achievements against the objectives and deliverables agreed for the year.
Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

September

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 11.09.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Centre for Public Scrutiny	To submit an annual report on CfPS's activity.
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from the Annual Conference.
Autumn Budget Submission	To comment on the Autumn Budget submission to Treasury and commend to Executive for approval the following day.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Minutes of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board Minutes	To note the Minutes of the Commercial Advisory Board.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment projects.

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

LGA EXECUTIVE 12.09.19	
Summary / Purpose	
Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Governance Structures	To note membership, terms of reference and appointments
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Autumn Budget Submission	To discuss and approve the Autumn Budget submission to the Treasury.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
LGA Business Plan	To agree the Business Plan as recommended by the Leadership Board.
Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

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LGA location map

Local Government Association

18 Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

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

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych

3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

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

Cycling facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

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

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

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

