

13 September 2017

Chief Executive's Report – September 2017

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2016/17 centres on seven external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU;
- Funding for local government;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing;
- Children, education and schools;
- Promoting health and wellbeing;
- Devolution; and
- Sector-led improvement.

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.

The updated Business Plan for 2017/18 is included as a separate item on the Leadership Board agenda.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for September 2017.

Action

As directed by members.

Contact officer: Mark Lloyd
Position: Chief Executive
Phone no: 020 7664 3237
Email: mark.lloyd@local.gov.uk

Chief Executive's Report – September 2017

Achievements against our seven external priorities

Priority 1 – Exit from the EU

- 1.1. **The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill:** will receive its Second Reading in the House of Commons in September. We will be briefing MPs ahead of Second Reading debates, and we are in conversation with the DExEU team regarding potential amendments to the Bill.
- 1.2. **ExEU and CLG Select Committees:** Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the Brexit Task and Finish Group, has written to the chairs of the Exiting the European Union and Communities and Local Government select committees outlining our thinking on Brexit.
- 1.3. **Future of waste and recycling:** the EEHT board has begun discussions about the future of waste and recycling services once Britain exits the EU, receiving expertings and establishing a waste and recycling officer sounding board to feed into these discussions.

Priority 2 – Funding for Local Government

- 2.1 **Business Rates Retention:** the Queen's Speech confirmed that the Local Government Finance Bill would not be re-introduced in the forthcoming legislative session. We are working with DCLG officials to explore ways in which the reforms can be progressed without immediate primary legislation and convened a meeting of local government members of the joint DCLG/LGA officer-level Steering Group. Chairman Lord Porter has written to the Rt Hon. Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining the LGA's position on the future of business rates retention.
- 2.2 **Fair Funding Review:** reconvened the officer-level needs and redistribution working group to discuss progress on the assessment of relative needs and formulating the funding baseline. Papers are published on our business rates retention [hub](#).
- 2.3 **Business Rates Reliefs:** highlighted to DCLG and media the barriers to billing authorities implementing the business rates relief schemes announced in the Spring Budget. This led to DCLG agreeing a deadline with the main software suppliers for software updates.
- 2.4 **Prudential Code:** worked with CIPFA and the sector on proposed revisions to the Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code, particularly on how the codes will take account of councils' commercial investments. CIPFA has published a consultation on the revised Codes, which closes on 30 September.
- 2.5 **Fair Funding Review:** ministers have reaffirmed their commitment to fair funding distributions as well as a thorough, evidence-based review. This review does not require legislation and we will continue to work with DCLG and local authorities.
- 2.6 **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID) II:** the FCA has published the final rules for MiFID II. We welcomed the improvements to the rules and their recognition of our concerns. If Local Authorities wish to opt up to professional status they will have to do so by January 2018.
- 2.7 **Funding Gap:** following the election, we reviewed our analysis of the financial gap facing local government by 2019/20 and reiterated our position in media releases and briefings that the Government must take urgent action.
- 2.8 **MasterCard-Visa Claims:** 101 member authorities have now joined the MasterCard-Visa Claims Funded Litigation Group for unlawful interchange rates with a collective claim of approximately £20 million. Detailed analysis of the potential claims will follow.
- 2.9 **Roundtable of future of adult social care:** Lord Porter hosted a LGA roundtable for Chief Executives

and Leaders from several councils on the future of adult social care. The roundtable was chaired by Mark Lloyd, and facilitated by Sarah Pickup. The roundtable explored key priorities for local government and our position on possible solutions.

Priority 3 – Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Employment, Skills, Welfare and Pensions:** Cllrs Sir Richard Leese, Mark Hawthorne MBE and Claire Kober OBE have written to Ministers at the Department for Work and Pensions to set out our key priorities for the above areas.
- 3.2 **Work Local Report:** Cllrs Mark Hawthorne and Richard Leese have written to the chairs of the Education, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Work and Pensions select committees, highlighting the recommendations.
- 3.3 **Local Growth Academy:** supported the delivery of the first module of the Local Growth Academy, targeted at unsuccessful applicants to the Leading Places programme. The second module will be delivered in four locations from September with policy updates from LGA officers.
- 3.4 **Housing Advisers Programme:** launched the [Housing Advisers Programme](#) designed to help councils meet the housing need of their local area. The programme funds an independent expert for up to 20 days. Expressions of interest are invited before the 12 September.
- 3.5 **Housing our Homeless Households:** launched a [report and supporting resources](#) supporting councils to manage increasing demand in their areas for temporary accommodation. We worked with 10 councils to understand their homelessness reduction strategies and gained significant press attention.
- 3.6 **Housing affordability:** launched an [analysis](#) on the affordability of housing across the country as incomes struggle to keep up with rents. We called for a redefinition of affordable housing to match what households can afford, and will take this forward with the Government.
- 3.7 **Quality of housing:** launched a [report](#) assessing the quality of existing and new housing. As a result the LGA has called for powers for councils to enforce standards in existing property and for new development through the planning process.
- 3.8 **Congestion report:** launched [a report](#) looking at the costs and consequences of rising congestion and have called for greater long term funding certainty for local authorities to bring us up to par with strategic national bodies like Highways England and Network Rail.
- 3.9 **Bus Services Act:** Received Royal Assent on 27th April 2017. The LGA has called for more flexibility for councils to intervene in local bus markets and supported the Bill in its passage through Parliament.
- 3.10 **National Living Wage:** following LGA representation, Government agreed to waive HMRC penalties for non-payment of sleep-ins at the national living wage rate from 26 July 2017 and has issued a stay on HMRC action on back-pay until after 2 October 2017. The LGA is in talks with Government to address [uncertainty and support needs](#) before October 2017.

Priority 4 – Children, education and schools

- 4.1 **Supporting Improvement in Children's Services:** we are working closely with the ADCS and Solace to develop a council-led support offer that seeks to drive sustainable improvement in children's services focussing on preventative support and utilising council's existing experience and expertise.
- 4.2 **Youth Services:** hosted a roundtable with representatives of the youth services sector on 16 August to discuss a range of issues around youth services and to inform the development of an LGA vision on the council role in youth services, to be launched at a Youth Services Conference in December.
- 4.3 **Fostering Stocktake:** on 21 June, Cllrs Richard Watts, Roy Perry and Gillian Ford, met Sir Martin Narey and Mark Owers who are conducting the stocktake to emphasise areas of key concern for

councils. We are working with DfE on the methodology for examining the costs of council and Independent Fostering Agency provision.

- 4.4 **Round table discussion on children and young people's mental health green paper:** Cllr Richard Kemp attended a round table discussion hosted by Department of Health on 26 July. The discussion focussed on preventing mental illness and seeking right treatment in the right place at the right time. The green paper is due to be launched mid-Autumn.
- 4.5 **Launch of Health Visitor Week:** Mayor Kate Allsop attended an event marking the start of celebrations for Health Visitor Week, 21- 25 August. She highlighted councils' integrated offer of local support to improve the health and wellbeing of children 0-5 years old.

Priority 5 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing

- 5.1 **Health & Care Review:** CQC have been instructed by the Secretaries of State for Health and Communities and Local Government to undertake a system wide [review](#) of the care and health interface in 12 local areas. We have worked closely with CQC to ensure that its methodology genuinely takes a system-wide view and is fair to local government.
- 5.2 **Health & Care Review:** Cllr Izz Seccombe OBE met with Sir David Behan to outline the concerns of councils around the disproportionate focus on adult social care, the tight timescale and methodology. So far, 12 of the 20 areas have been selected and we are pressing Government to confirm the remaining review areas as soon as possible.
- 5.3 **Preventing drug related deaths:** launched a [publication](#) giving examples of where councils are making an impact on drug-related harm.
- 5.4 **Partnership approaches to improving health outcomes for young people:** launched a [report](#) highlight different approaches to supporting the health of young people.
- 5.5 **Naloxone survey:** published the findings of a [joint survey](#) with Public Health England on 31 July in order to better understand the use of naloxone across local authorities, and to demonstrate how it is considered by local authorities as part of their response to drug-related deaths:
- 5.6 **STP survey:** published the [key findings of a survey](#) of senior councillors' perceptions of and involvement in Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships showing insufficient engagement with councillors little confidence that STPs will deliver their objectives. The LGA are firmly committed to improving partnership working and driving transformation of local health and care systems.
- 5.7 **Social Work Healthcheck Survey:** we are working with ADASS to revise the current survey with a final draft being available in October 2017 to send out to councils.
- 5.8 **Culture Hub:** with Arts Council England, we have developed a new [Culture Hub](#) to help local authorities develop innovative ways to invest in culture. Comprising 50 case studies on a range of areas, the hub has already received almost 1000 visits. It will be regularly updated.
- 5.9 **Delivering local solutions for public library services:** we have published a [new guide](#) to help councillors understand the impact of libraries, how they can deliver against multiple corporate objectives, and ways to improve their operational efficiency.
- 5.10 **Age UK:** Sarah Pickup spoke as panellist at an Age UK event in London on the impact of unmet need.
- 5.11 **Extra care scheme for older people:** Sarah Pickup visit to Denham Garden Village in Buckinghamshire, an extra care scheme for older people.

Priority 6 – Devolution

- 6.1 **Support to Combined Authorities:** continued our support for CAs and have begun conversations with 2 areas for the roll out of the self-evaluation diagnostic tool. Work also progressed on CA themed

groups for; finance, planning, transport and employment and skills as requested by CA CEX network. The next meeting of the CA CEX network is to be hosted by GMCA on 28 Sep with a focus on Public Service Reform.

- 6.2 **Support to elected mayors:** we are preparing for the next LGA mayoral forum which will be hosted by Mayor Andy Street/WMCA at Birmingham University in the Autumn to be attended by senior civil servant from across a number of Whitehall departments.

Priority 7 – Sector-led Improvement

- 7.1 **Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA):** following the significant take up of the national scheme for the appointment of auditors, offered by PSAA after successful lobbying for this option by the LGA, contracts have now been let with six audit firms, all councils' audit costs will fall by at least 18 per cent with the quality of audits maintained.
- 7.2 **Commercialisation:** updated and launched [Enterprising Councils](#), our practical guidance to help councils turn their commercial plans into reality and we are offering a further two cohorts of training for local government officers undertaking commercial activities.
- 7.3 **Government Digital Service's (GDS's) Digital Academy:** secured free delegate places for council officers on GDS's Digital Academy this year. There are a range of courses at different locations across the country, which provide training in how to apply an agile approach to digital projects, and help design and build digital services that better meet users' needs.
- 7.4 **National technological and digital procurement category strategy:** launched this new strategy to support councils in identifying and procuring digital technology, systems and tools and providing practical ideas, guidance and solutions.
- 7.5 **Dynamic Purchasing Systems:** supported a 'virtual project team' of councils that have researched the use of these systems. We have also published a downloadable guide to dynamic purchasing systems within the public sector.
- 7.6 **One Public Estate (OPE):** with the Cabinet Office, launched Phase 6 of our joint OPE programme, offering new and existing partnerships the opportunity to apply for up to £500k to support the delivery of ambitious property-based initiatives. Partnerships can also apply for a share of the £45 million Land Release Fund and a repayable accelerator grant.
- 7.7 **Be a Councillor:** created the Be a Councillor Women's Network, which will bring councillors together to support new prospective candidates.
- 7.8 **Political Leadership:** this year's political leadership development programmes have started, with a record take up of over 500 bookings for Leadership Academy and Leadership Essentials programmes, and many programmes full to capacity.
- 7.9 **Leadership Essentials – Prevent:** launched this new programme for councillors, which complements our Counter Extremism course and looks in more detail at councils' role in countering terrorism.
- 7.10 **Councillor Development:** produced councillor e-learning modules on Bribery and Fraud Prevention, Data Protection for Councillors, Supporting Your Residents on Difficult Issues, Stress Management and Personal Resilience.
- 7.11 **National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp):** we will be placing 123 graduates at 57 councils for Cohort 19. This year's recruitment saw a record number of applications and an increase in the number of participating councils, five of which are new to the scheme.
- 7.12 **Local Government Services pay negotiations:** regional consultations are complete. Further Employers' Side (NJC) discussions will take place and it is anticipated that an offer will be made to unions in the autumn.
- 7.13 **Greater Manchester visit:** Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board recently visited Greater Manchester to learn more about their work on health devolution and integration. They had a

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fascinating discussion and saw first-hand what can be achieved by a more inclusive and co-operative relationship between local authorities and our partners in health.

- 7.14 **Come Back to Social Work:** As part of the Government programmes to help people return to work after career breaks, we have attracted an investment of £202,000 in recognition of the success of our Come Back to Social Work pilot supporting the return of good experienced social workers back into the profession.
- 7.15 **Cyber Security:** The LGA is working with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), Cabinet Office, DCLG and NHS Digital to help raise the profile of cyber security at strategic level in councils by; highlight and promote existing good practice, guidance and tools to help councils put in place the necessary measure to protect their services, staff and communities mitigate the risk of cyber-attacks. We have set up the LG Cyber Security Stakeholder Group to bring together the sector representative bodies, put cyber security on the agenda for a number of our boards and arranged a number of seminars, workshops and conference sessions for officers and elected members.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

8. The total number of councils on notice remains at nine. These are;

- West Sussex County Council
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- London Borough of Richmond
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Surrey County Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Essex County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Southend Borough Council

9. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.

Membership visits by the Strategic Management Team:

Chief Executive's Membership Visits	
<i>20 July – 13 September 2017</i>	
10 August	Rochford District Council
10 August	Southend-on-Sea District Council
16 August	Suffolk County Council
6 September	Manchester City Council
<i>Forward plan: 14 September – 19 October 2017</i>	
18 September	Lincolnshire County Council
20 September	Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council
5 October	Yorkshire and Humber Chief Executives
Deputy Chief Executive's Membership Visits	
<i>20 July – 13 September 2017</i>	
21 August	Welsh Local Government Association
31 August	Conference call with Chief Executives regarding CQC reviews
<i>Forward plan: 14 September – 19 October 2017</i>	
15 September	London Treasurers meeting
28 September	Society of County Treasurers presidents event
Director of Communication's Membership Visits	
<i>20 July – 13 September 2017</i>	
22 August	Three Rivers County Council

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Media and Public Affairs

10. The LGA was **mentioned 78 times** in Parliament in July.
11. We will be hosting events and securing speaking slots for our councillors at debates and roundtables held by stakeholder organisations at the autumn **party conferences**.
12. The Public Affairs team hosted a briefing for the Communications Parliamentary Network that supports local government officers working in communications and public affairs

Media Source	Issue
Britain's exit from the EU	
Vice Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on Sky News and Good Morning Britain. FT, Times, Guardian Online, Independent Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online.	The LGA's release calling for government to guarantee that €10.5 billion (£8.4 billion) of European funding will be replaced post-Brexit
Express Online	Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham's speech to the LGA Annual Conference calling for city regions to have a seat at the Brexit negotiating table
Guardian Online	Green Party MEP Molly Scott Cato referenced our call for the Government to commit to a locally-led successor scheme to EU regeneration funding.
The Observer	Our call for more powers and funding for councils to resume their historical role as significant builders of affordable homes, in a feature piece on the implications of Brexit on the property market.
Telegraph, Mail, Express Online, Sun Online	Our release on the need for simpler rules regulating how councils buy goods and services after Brexit.
Funding for Local Government	
Lord Porter on Channel 4 News, FT, Mirror, i paper, Independent Online, BBC Online, Guardian Online, ITV Online. Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on Good Morning Britain , reports also on BBC News, Sky News and BBC Daily Politics.	Our release warning of a £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020 and calling for local government funding to be put on a sustainable footing, following Lord Porter's speech at Annual Conference.
Guardian, Sun, Express Online	The LGA's response to the Government's announcement of extra local roads funding
Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on Sky News Radio. Telegraph, Times, i paper, Mail, Mirror, Sun.	Our warning that bus passenger journeys have fallen to lowest levels in a decade and call for government to fully fund the concessionary fares scheme and give councils control over the Bus Service Operators' Grant.
i paper	The LGA's previous analysis of a £2.6 billion funding gap facing social care by 2020.
Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn featured in the Guardian, Times, Sun Online and on BBC Online.	Our call for greater funding for the National FGM Centre, which the LGA runs in partnership with Barnardo's, ahead of the announcement of a £1.7 million grant towards the centre.
CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe in the Guardian, Times, Independent	On spending the extra £2 billion for adult social care following the publication of Better Care Fund guidance.
Times	How councils follow strict rules before making investments
Mirror Online	Our call for government to clarify whether the National Living Wage should apply for sleep-in

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	shifts, in response to concerns raised by Mencap.
Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed on Sky New Radio. Mail, Sun, Mirror, ITV News Online.	Our release revealing that motorists spend almost 5 days a year stuck in traffic because of increasing congestion, costing £968 a year and the need for long-term consistent funding to invest in local roads.
Sunday Times, Independent Online	Our response to council targets for reducing delayed transfers of care or face a review of their funding allocation for social care.
Inclusive growth, jobs and housing	
Chairman Lord Porter was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. BBC Online, Times Online, Telegraph Online, Mail Online, BBC Radio 4's You and Yours, BBC Newsnight, BBC Online and Express Online and quoted by i paper online, LBC Online	Our response to fire safety test results and call for government to provide funding to councils to remove and replace cladding systems, call for an urgent review of building regulations and for private companies to release the results of their confidential fire test data.
FT, BuzzFeed, Times, i paper, Mirror, BBC Radio 4 news bulletins and on BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online, FT Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online and Independent Online. SSC Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn on BBC Radio London.	Our response to the latest fire safety test and our concerns that councils will be unable to afford fire safety improvements to high-rise blocks.
Guardian	How the Government will work with the LGA and the National Housing Federation to obtain full information on all tower blocks with similar cladding to that implicated in the Grenfell Tower fire.
EEHT Board member Cllr Ed Turner on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme and featured on Sky News Radio. The i paper, Sky News Online and ITV Online	Our response to a report by Crisis, which predicts that homelessness will increase over the next three years.
People and Places Chairman Cllr Mark Hawthorne was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live. The Telegraph and Express Online.	About the LGA's release, calling for fines levied on mobile phone operators to be handed to local areas to help boost connectivity.
Times, i paper, Metro, Guardian Online, Telegraph Online, Mail Online, Sun Online.	Our release about how one in seven tenants are spending half their incomes on rent, compared to just 2 per cent of homeowners.
Sun Online, BBC News	Our warning two-thirds of private renters on the lowest incomes in England fear they will never get on to the property ladder and call for councils to be able to build more homes to boost affordability.
Times, Express Online, Telegraph Online	Communities Secretary Sajid Javid's speech to the LGA's Annual Conference about the need to plan for the right number of homes.
Times, Mirror, Star and Telegraph Online	The LGA's response to a RAC report on road quality and a reported increase in pothole-related faults.
Times, Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed live on Sky News.	About the LGA's response to an AA report on roads funding and parking revenue.
i paper and Independent Online.	The LGA's call for the cap on councils being able to borrow to fund the building of new homes and maintain existing ones to be lifted.
Guardian Online	The LGA's previous estimates that the introduction of a 1 per cent annual rent cut over four years could cost councils £2.6 billion by 2019/20
Times	The LGA's lines about how hundreds of millions of pounds of relief promised to companies affected by a rise in business rates is not reaching them,

	because councils are having to wait for software firms to update their systems.
Mail	The LGA's lines on planning rules for mobile phone masts.
Times	Our statement about planning around roads in new build housing developments.
Sun, Metro, Mirror Online.	Our release on the quality of new builds, revealing that the average lifespan of a home in England will have to last 2,000 years at the current rate of replacement.
Independent Online	Research published by the LGA earlier this year warning the growing skills gap facing the nation will cost the UK economy £90 billion by 2024.
Children, education and schools	
CYP Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts on Channel 4 News, BBC Breakfast and BBC News ; Our lines were reported on BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 4 news bulletins and in the Guardian (twice), Mirror, i paper, Sun Online, Independent Online and Channel 4 News Online	Our release on how children's social care is reaching breaking point due to a growing financial crisis.
EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett on BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC and Sky News Radio . The LGA's lines were also reported on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, ITV News, Sky News, Channel 5 News, BBC Radio 2, TalkSport, Talk Radio and across BBC local radio , as well as in the Times and on BBC Online, ITV News Online, Independent Online, Guardian Online (twice), Mail Online, Mirror Online and Metro Online . LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed on BBC News, ITV News and Channel 4 News , including on Channel 4 News Online	Our release, on how councils are having to house an extra secondary school's worth of homeless children every month due to increased demand for temporary accommodation
Cllr Simon Blackburn, SSC Board Chair, interviewed on Sky News Radio and LBC ; also reported on Sky News, Telegraph, Times, i paper and Star .	About the LGA's call for swimming and classroom lessons to teach children about the dangers of cold water shock
CYP Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts appeared on BBC Breakfast .	About the Government's plan to roll out 30 hours of free childcare a week and the need for more funding and flexibility for councils and nurseries to implement the scheme.
CYP Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts featured on BBC Breakfast and BBC News . This was also reported in the Times, Guardian, Sky News Online and Independent Online .	The LGA's response to an Action for Children report about how 140,000 children in England who are referred to social care are stuck in a 'revolving door' of assessment and re-referral.
Guardian	The LGA's call for councils to be given a lead role in driving forward school improvement, including extra powers to decide where new schools are built and to force academies to expand where necessary to create 420,000 extra places by 2020.
Promoting health and wellbeing	

CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live and Sky News Radio and CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane on Good Morning Britain and Sky News . BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 Today, LBC, Talk Radio, TalkSport news bulletins and in the Guardian, Sun and on BBC Online, ITV Online, Independent Online and Mirror Online .	About the LGA's press release warning of a "tipping point" in sexual health services.
EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett interviewed live on BBC Newsnight and on BBC Radio 5 Live . LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming also featured on the BBC 6pm and 10pm News .	The LGA's response to the Government's air quality plan.
CWB Board member Cllr Jonathan McShane interviewed on Talk Radio ; reported on BBC Online, Guardian Online, i paper online and Mirror Online .	Our call for clarity around the soft drinks levy and a commitment from government that it is not used to "plug a black hole in education funding".
CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming featured on Sky News, ITV News and LBC . Sky News Radio bulletins, BBC Online, Times, Sun, Telegraph, i paper, Mail, Express, Mirror, Star, ITV Online, Sky News Online .	The LGA's release about the rise in cases of type 2 diabetes in children and young people and calling for urgent action on childhood obesity.
CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed live from the LGA's Annual Conference in Birmingham on ITV lunchtime news .	To discuss our response to a Care Quality Commission report about adult social care services.
The Sunday Times, Guardian Online	Our lines about the Better Care Fund planning guidance.
Telegraph	Our call for loneliness to be treated as a major health issue in the UK, after a new study revealed loneliness is deadlier than obesity.
Independent Online	The LGA's statement in response to Office for National Statistics data on the number of drug-related deaths in England and Wales in 2016
Independent Online	The LGA's response to a King's Fund report on the funding gap in public health budgets.
The Times	The LGA's survey which found less than a quarter of councillors polled are confident that sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) will succeed.
The Sunday Telegraph	The LGA's previous release about how loneliness should be treated as a major public health issue.
The Mail	A reference to the successful High Court and Court of Appeal challenge by the LGA and National AIDS Trust for the NHS to provide PrEP, a drug to dramatically reduce the risk of being infected with HIV, instead of by councils.
Mirror Online	The LGA's response to Public Health England figures showing fewer drug and alcohol addicts going into state-funded rehab.
CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed by BBC Radio 5 Live and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming appeared on Sky News, ITV News, LBC Radio, Times, Telegraph, Sun, Express, Mirror, i paper, Mail, Sky News Online, ITV News Online .	The LGA's warning of the increasing numbers of children and young people being treated for type 2 diabetes, and the possible link with childhood obesity.
FT, Mail, Express, Talk Radio, BBC Radio 5 Live	The LGA's response to Newcastle University's Institute for Ageing study warning that an extra

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	71,000 care home places will be needed in England within the next eight years to cope with rising life expectancy.
Guardian Online	The LGA's response to a new report by Healthwatch England on home care services.
Devolution	
Independent Online and CityAM	LGA joint report with the Learning and Work Institute launched at Annual Conference, warning that 12 million people will be out of work or in a job they are over-qualified for by 2024; call to devolve back-to-work, skills, apprenticeship, careers and business support schemes/funding to local areas.
Sector-led improvement	
BBC Online	Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton featured with the LGA's response to a Fawcett Society report on women in local government.
SSC Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn on BBC Radio 5 Live and Sky News Radio . Also reported on Sky News, LBC, Mirror, Mirror Online, Sun, Sun on Sunday, Metro Online and on ITV Online .	Our release on how up to two scams a day are being reported to some councils and highlighting the nearly £10 billion annual cost of fraud to UK citizens.
Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live, Mail, Telegraph, Guardian Online .	The LGA's call for taxi laws to be urgently updated to reflect new technology and help reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation.
Guardian Online	A recent LGA report into initiatives by the fire and rescue service to achieve an increasingly diverse workforce was referenced in an interview with Micky Nicholas, adviser on the Inclusive Fire Group.