

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

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

### Overview

#### **Vision**

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

#### **Aim**

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

### CCN Core Functions

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

#### **National Advocacy & Representation**

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

#### **Research & Policy Development**

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

#### **Sharing & Promoting Best Practice**

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

#### **National Collaboration and Commissioning**

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

### **Communications & Public Affairs**

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

### **Political Leadership**

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

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

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

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

### **CCN Officer Team**

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

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Devolution:** In 2017, our calls to drop the devolution requirement of Directly Elected Mayors for county areas were heeded. Alongside this change, CCN's call for a more open, transparent and structured approach to devolution through the publication of a 'common framework' was officially adopted as Government policy. CCN's recent report with Respublica has been cited by the Secretary of State as part of the evidence informing the development of the framework.
- **Reform:** CCN continued to shape the national narrative on local government reorganisation. We have published ground-breaking independent research and provided direct policy development to support those member councils who wish to pursue reform. This helped secure a unitary decision in Dorset and supported Buckinghamshire County Council to receive a 'minded to' decision. More widely, our research and policy development provides analysis to inform and defend member councils where proposals by district councils to split up county areas are not supported by County Councils.
- **County Elections:** In partnership with the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU), CCN ran the 'Out for Count' campaign during local elections in May 2017. Our two month project profiled the county elections on a national stage to encourage democratic participation, utilising the platform as part of Your County Matters campaign to showcase the vital services our member councils provide in a difficult financial climate. The campaign received input from across all our member councils on social media in the lead up to, and during, the elections and received national media coverage.

## LGA Coastal SIG Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

<b>SIG Name:</b>	LGA Coastal SIG
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Andy Smith
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Bill Parker

### **Aim /**

#### **LGA Coastal SIG Mission Statement (<https://lgacoastalsig.com/about/mission-statement/>)**

The LGA Coastal SIG will champion and take forward the coastal strategy and represent the collective interests of all maritime local authorities by:

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

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

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

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

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

All of this is outwith responses to formal consultations:

**4 consultation responses this year**

MHCLG Draft revised National Planning Policy Framework.

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

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

Defra consultation on microbeads.

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

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

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

## Councils with ALMOs SIG Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### **Aim**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

During the past year the CWAG Work Programme has focussed on the following key priorities:

#### **Responding to the National Policy Agenda**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Providing support for CWAG Members – Networking and Sharing Good Practice**

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

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

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

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

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

### **CWAG Meetings and Events**

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

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

### **Examples**

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



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

## District Councils Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### Aim

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

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

#### 1. Stronger Economies

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

#### 2. Better Lives

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

#### 3. Enhancing Quality of Life

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

Core issues/existing workstreams.

#### 4. Sustainable Finance and Workforce

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

### Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Aim**

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

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

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

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

### **Schools**

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

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

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

### **High Needs**

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

### **Early Years**

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

### **Central Schools Services Block**

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

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

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

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

## Key Cities Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### Aims

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

### WHAT IS THE GROUP'S PURPOSE?

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

### WHAT MAKES KEY CITIES UNIQUE?

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

### WHAT DO KEY CITIES OFFER?

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

## **Key Activities / Outcomes of work**

### **Group Meetings**

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

### **APPG**

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

### **Meetings with Ministers**

Productive meetings and engagement with Ministers, including;

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

### **Vision / Policy Brochures**

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

### **Conferences and Events**

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



#### **Media activity**

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

#### **Collaborative partnerships**

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

#### **Government consultation responses**

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

#### **Other projects**

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

## Local Authority Pension Fund Forum Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### Aim

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

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

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

### Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

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

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

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

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

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

### **Aim**

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **New Nuclear Local Authorities Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board**

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

### **Aim**

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

Key activities / outcomes of work undertaken:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Aims**

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

"The Aims are:

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



## **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

### **General**

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

### **Geological Disposal Facility**

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

### **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

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

### *Attended and participated in the following meetings*

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

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

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

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

## **Public Transport Consortium Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board**

<b>SIG Name:</b>	Public Transport Consortium
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Cllr Harold Davenport
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	John Pope

The Consortium aims to:

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

*Responded to the following consultations:*

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

Considered the following:

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

*Liaised with LGA transport policy officers*

*Provided a representative on the Board of Transport Knowledge Hub*

*Regional meeting & study tour held in Bristol*

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

*Regional meeting held in Birmingham*

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

*Regular meetings with DfT regarding content of Bus Services Bill*

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

*Provided regular information updates for members*

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

## Rural Services Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### Aim

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

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

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

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

### Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further information about our work and services can be found at our comprehensive website on [www.rsonline.org.uk](http://www.rsonline.org.uk)

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

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

### **Aim**

#### **SASIG's objectives are:**

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

### **SASIG Policy Principles**

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

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

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

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

**Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

**Department for Transport, CAA & Defra**

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



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

#### **Engagement with Other Stakeholders**

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

#### **Conferences and Public Fora**

21st June 2017: A SASIG representative attended the 1st annual Airport Surface Access Conference in London where presentations were given by the AOA and DfT.

Following the initial meeting (24th January 2017) of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) established following feedback from 2016 focus groups, SASIG attended further ANEG meetings in May and October 2017 and March 2018. The next meeting is in September 2018.

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

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

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

#### **SASIG Newsletter**

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

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

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

### **Aim**

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

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

#### **Local government funding**

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

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

#### **Adult Social Care**

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

#### **Brexit**

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

#### **Transport**

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

#### **Housing**

- Responding to the Funding for Supported Housing Consultation 2017.

#### **Education**

- Reporting on the DfE Settlement.

#### **General**

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

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

## **Unitary Councils' Network Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board**

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

### **Aim**

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

### **Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken**

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

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

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

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

## World Heritage UK Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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

### Aim

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

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

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

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

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

### Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

1. World Heritage UK continues the work of powerful advocate for the UK's World Heritage Sites, and as an effective forum for Local Authorities, government bodies and others such as independent trusts, involved in World Heritage matters.
2. Our meetings for the year April 2017- April 2018 were as follows:-  
  
In July a networking meeting was held in New Lanark, on the subject of "Running the Business of World Heritage". It was sponsored by Historic Environment Scotland and by the New Lanark Trust.

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

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

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