

17 October 2018

Chief Executive's Report – October 2018

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

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

- Britain's exit from the EU;
- Devolution and funding for local government;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing;
- Children, education and schools;
- Adult social care and health; and
- Supporting councils.

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

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for October 2018.

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Report – October 2018

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 1.1 **'No deal' Brexit:** since the summer the Government has published a series of guidance notes on how to prepare for Brexit in a 'no deal' scenario. To help assess the implications for local government, we have produced an updated briefing which summarises both the "known" and "unknowns" under a 'no deal' scenario. It explores the issues that local government needs to address as a result of national advice from the Government, future announcements on regulatory and legislative change that could affect councils in the run-up to March 2019, and information on community cohesion and civil contingency.
- 1.2 **Post –Brexit Devolution:** in response to a letter from the Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, Clive Betts MP, Cllr Kevin Bentley has written to the Committee on devolving European powers to local government post-Brexit. This follows evidence we provided earlier in the year to the same inquiry.
- 1.3 A detailed update of all of our work in preparation for Brexit is covered by another item on the Agenda.

Priority 2 – Devolution and funding for Local Government

- 2.1 **Autumn Budget:** the Chancellor will announce his 2018 Autumn Budget on Monday 29 October. The LGA submission calls for the Government to meet the £3.9 billion funding gap facing local government in 2019/20 and commit to a full assessment of the overall funding needs of local government in the 2019 Spending Review and guarantee to fully fund them. It also outlines 20 other short term actions the Government needs to take to help local authorities provide the services their residents need.
- 2.2 **Technical Consultation on 2019-20 Local Government Finance Settlement:** our response to the technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement which included the Government's proposal for dealing with 'negative Revenue Support Grant' (RSG), was submitted in September. In addition to highlighting the funding gap, we included calls for an end to council tax referenda, no increase in the new homes bonus threshold, and for the Shire District council precept limit to be increased from £5 to £10. We also identified that there is a case to examine a prevention precept relating to district council tax levels in two tier areas; how this 'prevention precept' is used should be agreed locally.
- 2.3 **Cipfa resilience index:** having submitted a response to the Cipfa consultation on its proposals for a resilience index we have had further discussions with Cipfa and we would like to work together with Cipfa on publishing data that is useful to councils without it be turned into a formal index or league table.
- 2.4 **IFRS 9 – "Movements on Fair value":** we responded to the Government's consultation on a statutory override to the IFRS 9 accounting code, a new standard that defines how organisations value investments in their annual accounts. While this is a technical topic, without the statutory override some councils might be forced to make real service reductions in response to the need to make a cash provision for annual fluctuations in value of long term pooled investments every year, rather than at the point that the loss or gain on the investment was actually realised. The override, which we called for, means councils should still be aware of the value changes but not have to make that cash provision for what is likely to be a temporary change. The Government's proposal is to make it temporary. Our response calls for it to be permanent.
- 2.5 Our work on Business rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review are covered by another item on the Agenda.

Priority 3 – Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Housing borrowing cap:** in her speech to the Conservative Party Conference, the Prime Minister responded to the sustained campaigning of councils and the LGA by announcing plans to scrap the cap on the amount local authorities can borrow against their Housing Revenue Account assets. As many of you will know, this has been a personal priority of our Chairman, Lord Porter, and, in a response that was reported widely across the media, he praised the Government for ensuring councils can be part of the solution to tackling our chronic housing shortage. We are encouraging the Treasury to move quickly to ensure current borrowing caps are removed and to confirm that councils will be able to borrow at prudential levels. MHCLG has said that further details will be confirmed in the Budget. Of course, we will keep you up to date with any developments and continue our work in the background to ensure there are no strings attached.
- 3.2 **Cladding systems ban:** the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced plans to reform building regulations to ban the use of combustible materials for all new high rise residential buildings, hospitals, registered care homes and student accommodation. He also pledged to “bring about a change in culture on building safety”. Our response welcomed the ban, which will provide clarity for building owners and help ensure the tragedy which unfolded at Grenfell never happens again.
- 3.3 **Fire Safety Joint Inspection Team:** we are hosting a team, funded by MHCLG, to help councils ensure unsafe cladding is removed from private high-rise residential buildings. This Joint Inspection Team will be available at no cost to councils needing assistance. It will include environmental health officers, a fire engineer, and a building control officer who will work alongside an authority’s own staff to assess risk in private blocks under the Housing Act 2004.
- 3.4 **Apprenticeship levy reforms:** the Chancellor has announced a series of measures to reform the operation of the Apprenticeship Levy. This includes increasing the amount that employers can transfer of their Levy contribution, which is a positive sign that the Government is listening to council concerns around the need for flexibility to ensure the Levy is genuinely effective. In our response we encouraged the Government to go further and faster, particularly by enabling local areas to pool Levy contributions to invest in skills development relevant to local economies.
- 3.5 **Universal support:** the Department for Work and Pensions has announced that, from April 2019, Citizens Advice will take on the responsibility for delivering the Universal Support service currently being delivered by councils. We are in contact with DWP to relay the concerns of councils and question the decision, including the lack of notice and consultation. We are seeking urgent clarification around how the new arrangements will relate to existing structures and mechanisms, as well as the support councils provide to our more vulnerable residents during Managed Migration.
- 3.6 **Seaside regeneration:** we submitted evidence to the House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities Committee on regenerating seaside towns and communities. Our submission highlighted the crucial role that councils play in ensuring rural areas are healthy, prosperous and sustainable places to live and work and supplemented the Coastal Special Interest Group’s oral evidence to the Committee.
- 3.7 **Digital government:** we submitted evidence to the Science and Technology Committee on digital government. This was an opportunity to raise councils’ concerns about the need for more integrated digital platforms across central government departments.
- 3.8 **Benefit cap:** the Work and Pensions Committee has reopened its inquiry into the Benefit Cap after this was put on hold ahead of the 2017 General Election. We provided evidence to the inquiry previously, and wrote to the Committee with an update in light of the implementation of the cap.
- 3.9 **Local roads:** we submitted evidence on local roads funding and governance to the Transport Committee. Our submission highlighted the need for the Government to address the estimated £9.3 billion roads repair backlog, and to devolve responsibility for allocating funding to local authorities.
- 3.10 **Bus market:** we submitted written evidence to the House of Commons Transport Committee as part of its inquiry into the health of the bus market. In our evidence we called for the devolution of the Bus

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Services Operators Grant, and for greater franchising powers for councils.

- 3.11 **Active travel:** We submitted evidence on active travel to the Transport Committee. Our submission was an opportunity to promote councils' work in encouraging cycling, walking and other forms of active travel.

Priority 4 – Children, Education and sschools

- 4.1 **Early Years Provision:** we have published a report looking at the quality and scale of early years provision. We are aware of concerns within the sector about the impact of recent changes to both funding and policy in the early years sector, and our survey explored how these changes have affected councils across the country. Eighty eight councils gave us feedback on issues including the cap on central spend, early years entitlements and provision for disadvantaged children.
- 4.2 **Childhood obesity funding:** at our recent Child Obesity Conference, the Public Health Minister, Steve Brine MP, launched a new trailblazer programme, in partnership with us. All councils will be invited to apply to the programme and set out their proposals. Up to 12 councils will be supported to develop practical plans, and in spring next year five will be selected. These councils will be on the programme for three years and, during that time, they will be given expert advice and funding.
- 4.3 **Serious violence funding:** the Home Secretary has announced a new £200 million youth endowment fund. This will focus on steering 10 to 14 year olds at most risk of youth violence away from being serious offenders. There will also be a consultation on a new legal duty on councils and public sector partners to take action to prevent violent crime, and an independent review of drug misuse. While this new funding and approach is positive, we continue to push the need to address the underfunding of children's services, for cuts to councils' public health budgets to be reversed and for any new statutory duties to be fully funded.
- 4.4 **SEND budgets:** we have commissioned the Isos Partnership to carry out a research project to understand and quantify the pressures on high needs budgets. We have sent out a short survey to councils' Chief Finance Officers which asks for information about high needs budget and spending patterns over the last four years. We hope a good response rate will support our lobbying in the forthcoming Spending Review for additional resources to support SEND children. The deadline for response is Friday 19 October.
- 4.5 **Children's social care:** we briefed MPs ahead of a House of Commons debate on children's social care in England, led by our Vice-President Tim Loughton MP (Conservative, East Worthing and Shoreham). Our briefing highlighted the current funding constraints within children's services and promoted the key recommendations in our Bright Futures campaign.
- 4.6 **Nurseries:** we briefed MPs ahead of a debate on the sustainability of the nursery sector. We highlighted the benefit of early years education and repeated our call on the Government to sustainably fund early years provision.

Priority 5 – Adult Social Care and Health

- 5.1 **Adult social care funding:** as part of plans to ease winter pressures, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has announced £240 million in additional funding for adult social care this winter. This will be allocated to councils based on the adult social care relative needs formula, and is aimed at reducing delayed transfers of care. As we said in our response, this injection of desperately-needed funding recognises the role of councils in achieving a sustainable health and care system. However, the pressures facing social care are year-round and continued short-term bailouts are not the answer.

The lives we want to lead

- 5.2 On 31 July we published our green paper on the future of adult social care and wellbeing, *The lives we want to lead*. In the absence of the Government's own green paper, we launched our own to stimulate a nationwide debate about how best to fund the care we want to see in all our communities for adults of all ages and how our wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people's wellbeing.
- 5.3 The response to our green paper has been an enormous success. There have been more than 15,500 views of our green paper, the 'easy read' version has been downloaded more than 400 times and our facilitators and communications packs have been downloaded more than 360 and 430 times respectively. We have received more than 500 submissions to our consultation questions and the Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than 4 million people. Accompanying videos we produced have been watched more than 72,500 times. We have conducted public polling as well as focus groups as part of the consultation process.
- 5.4 Our green paper has enjoyed similar success in the media. On the day of the publication's launch, the green paper achieved 26 episodes of national coverage. This included Cllr Izzi Seccombe being interviewed on BBC radio stations, Cllr Marianne Overton being interviewed live on Sky News and Sky News Radio, Cllr David Simmonds appearing on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show and BBC Radio 5 Live, and Cllr Richard Kemp being interviewed on several regional BBC radio stations.
- 5.5 A detailed update of all of our work on the green paper is covered by another item on the Agenda, including the next steps.
- 5.6 **Veterans Strategy:** we submitted a response to help shape the Government's forthcoming veterans strategy that emphasised the different ways in which councils support veterans who have served in the Armed Forces and their families.
- 5.7 **Supported Housing:** we responded to the Government's announcement that supported housing will continue to be funded by Housing Benefit by welcoming the certainty this will give providers, but highlighting the need to give councils a stronger oversight role and that councils must not face a shortfall in Housing Benefit funding.
- 5.8 **NHS Plan:** we have responded to the mental health work stream of the NHS long term plan consultation, highlighting the need for the NHS to recognise and fund the spectrum of mental health services (including prevention), ensure better access to treatments and ensure local areas receive the full £1.7 billion of funding Government promised for children's mental health. We continue to be fully engaged in all of the work streams covered by the NHS Plan.
- 5.9 **National Strategy for Loneliness:** we responded to the Office of Civil Society Consultation on a National Strategy for Loneliness. This was a joint response with ADASS and ADPH.
- 5.10 **Safeguarding missing adults:** we wrote to Anne Coffey MP chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing children to respond to the APPG inquiry into safeguarding missing adults who have mental health issues. We met with Missing People representative to see how we could assist with the inquiry's recommendations.
- 5.11 **Economic Affairs Committee:** we submitted written evidence to the House of Lords Committee on Economic Affairs as part of its inquiry on the future of adult social care in England. Our submission highlighted our green paper.
- 5.12 **Sexual Health:** we submitted written evidence on sexual health to the Health and Social Care Committee. Our submission highlighted the record demand for sexual health services which are adding to the existing pressures faced by local authorities, particularly as public health budgets continue to be constrained by the £533 million reduction to the public health grant.

Priority 6 – Supporting Councils

- 6.1 **Suppliers update:** we have been working on a Strategic Supplier Relationship Management initiative with councils to engage with some of the key suppliers to local government in construction, ICT, social care and children's services. We have been in touch with high spending councils to engage in a collective conversation.
- 6.2 **One Public Estate:** the One Public Estate (OPE) Programme, which is delivered by the LGA, Cabinet Office and MHCLG, has announced its latest funding round. A national fund of £15 million is available and new and existing OPE partnerships are invited to apply. Funding is open for projects that support the delivery of collaborative public sector land and property projects. This application round will place particular emphasis on increasing housing supply. Councils have until 30 November to apply.
- 6.3 **Efficient and intelligent councils:** we are developing a package of support for efficiency. This will include an efficiency maturity model, which aims to help councils self-assess and identify areas for further improvement. Councils will be able to access and share a range of resources (including case studies and best practice) easily and in one place. This package of support will be developed and piloted with councils over the autumn, and implemented by the end of March 2019.
- 6.4 **Sport England and Arts Council England Improvement contracts:** we have signed a two-year improvement contract worth £271,728 with Sport England; a significantly increased investment in local government compared to the £69,960 contract from 2017/18. This will deliver five leadership essentials events for councillors; six leadership events for senior strategic officers; four regional events for councillors and/or senior strategic officers; and four masterclasses for senior strategic officers. Discussions with Arts Council England are ongoing, but to date they have confirmed their intention to commission us to deliver: two leadership essentials events for portfolio holders; three cultural peer challenges; ten library peer challenges; and a councillor handbook on museums services. The value of this activity will be £149, 860, compared to £44, 840 in 2017/18.
- 6.5 **National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp):** the ngdp has been featured in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers once again. Applications for cohort 21 of the programme have now opened and our new guide for councils has just been published.
- 6.6 **Land charges register:** after two years of working with HM Land Registry (HMLR), MHCLG, the Local Land Charges Institute, we are pleased that our efforts on their behalf mean that councils impacted pre-migration work in relation to the transfer of your Local Land Charges Register to HMLR Digital Register have now received letters with information on funding under the new burdens doctrine.
- 6.7 **Cyber Security Stocktake:** every council in England has now completed the Cyber Security Stocktake. All councils will now receive an individual assessment to help them understand their strengths and weaknesses around cyber security. They will also have the opportunity to bid for funding to address any issues.
- 6.8 **Investment in Grassroots Sport:** we hosted a Football Conference at Wembley Stadium with The FA. Over 150 delegates from 100 councils attended to hear about the FA's investment in grassroots sport, worth £100 million per year over the next 10 years. Councils will play a crucial role in targeting the investment through the development of local football facility plans. Discussions are underway about a further conference in the North with the FA to maximise councils' ability to support grassroots football.
- 6.9 **Local Digital Declaration:** the Workforce Team is working with MHCLG to promote the Local Digital Declaration that was launched at this year's LGA Annual Conference. We are looking at the best ways to develop digital leadership skills for senior officers and members and are seeking views via an online survey.
- 6.10 **UK Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA):** Lord Porter has written to council leaders letting them know that the UKMBA is now ready to issue a bond and to clarify that the opportunity to apply to borrow

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through this route is open to all councils; there is no need to invest in the agency or to make any payment to access borrowing. We have engaged Chris West, former CFO of Coventry City Council and Chris Buss, former CFO of the London Borough of Wandsworth, to work with councils who would like to consider this borrowing option.

- 6.11 **Insurance Mutual:** the Mutual has been registered under the name Local Government Mutual Limited after receiving permission from government and the FCA. LGM Management Services Limited have been appointed as the mutual manager. This is a joint venture between the LGA and Regis Mutual Management Limited. A full governance review is being undertaken to ensure the mutual is fit for purpose when providing cover to local authorities. A third director is being appointed who has FCA Approved Person status. This will allow the mutual to undertake FCA regulated activity, such as conversations with authorities who wish to consider the mutual for their future cover requirements, as soon as the appointment is registered with the FCA. An OJEU procurement is taking place for the insurances required by the mutual.

Party Conferences

1. This year we hosted receptions and panel debates at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative Autumn Party Conferences.

Liberal Democrat

2. We held a panel debate at the Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference on the Spending Review and tackling the social mobility challenge. During the debate, Councillor Ruth Dombey encouraged people to engage with our adult social care green paper consultation.
3. Our evening reception was attended by Liberal Democrat Leader, Sir Vince Cable MP where he spoke about Liberal Democrat priorities for local government.

Labour

4. Cllr Lib Peck chaired our panel debate on the 2019 Spending Review and the financial challenges facing local services. A packed room heard contributions from Shabana Mahmood MP, Cllr Nick Forbes, and Dr Emily Andrews who discussed a broad range of issues with the audience, including the reputation of local government, financial sustainability, adult social care and the provision of children's services.
5. Our evening reception was attended by Labour Leader, Jeremy Corbyn MP, the Labour Deputy Leader, Tom Watson MP and the Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government Andrew Gwynne MP.

Conservative

6. We held a panel debate at the Conservative Party Conference on the importance of the Spending Review for communities. Cllr Teresa Heritage chaired the debate, and we had contributions from Nicky Morgan MP (Chair, Treasury Committee), Chris Philp MP (PPS to James Brokenshire), Dr Emily Andrews (Institute for Government) and Cllr James Jamieson.
7. During our debate, Nicky Morgan MP said that councils are critical to driving prosperity, and backed our calls for greater borrowing freedoms to invest in housing.

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8. Our evening reception at Conservative Party conference was attended by councillors and council leaders. There were remarks from Lord Porter, Cllr James Jamieson, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Local Government Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, was also in attendance.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

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1. The total number of councils on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2019 is six. These are;
 - East Staffordshire Borough Council
 - London Borough of Richmond
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Southend Borough Council
 - West Sussex County Council
2. The Broads Authority National Park are also on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2019 and Exmoor National Park have given notice for 31 March 2020.
3. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.
4. As a result of local government reorganisation, we have been informed by a further fifteen authorities that they wish to give notice to leave LGA membership on 31 March 2019 as these councils will cease to exist. These are;
 - Poole Borough Council
 - Bournemouth Borough Council
 - Christchurch Borough Council
 - North Dorset District Council
 - West Dorset District Council
 - Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
 - Purbeck District Council
 - East Dorset District Council
 - Dorset County Council
 - Forest Heath District Council
 - St Edmundsbury Borough Council
 - Suffolk Coastal District Council
 - Waveney District Council
 - West Somerset District Council
 - Taunton Deane Borough Council
5. We have been informed that their successor authorities intend to take up LGA membership on 1 April 2019.

New LGA Company

6. Further to the meeting of the Board of Directors of the LGA company on 7 March 2018, and the Special Resolution passed by the first General Meeting of the company on the same day, the Articles of Association were lodged with Companies House, directors' details submitted and the accounting date changed to 31 March. The new LGA came into effect on 1 April 2018.
7. All but one member authority have completed applications to be admitted as a member authority to the new LGA.

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8. Following the resolution of the General Assembly that the unincorporated LGA be dissolved at such point as the Leadership Board shall determine, we have written to all member authorities to seek the agreement of at least two-thirds of our membership, to the dissolution, as required by the constitution of the unincorporated LGA. At the time of writing, 127 member authorities have signalled their agreement.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

Chief Executive	
12 September	Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
17 September	Warwickshire Chief Executives
18 September	Chief Executive, Doncaster Council
19 September	Dorset Councils
21 September	Chief Executive, Central Bedfordshire Council
21 September	East of England Chief Executives
24 September	Association of County Council Chief Executives
27 September	Chief Executive, Newham Council
27 September	Chief Executive, Reading Council
3 October	Worcester City Council
4 October	Worcestershire County Council
5 October	South West Chief Executives
8-12 October	Coventry City Council, Corporate Peer Challenge
15 October	Waltham Forest Council
<i>Forward Plan</i>	
18-19 October	SOLACE conference
2 November	Sunderland Council
8 November	Member Peer Conference, Nottingham
9 November	European LGAs meeting, CoSLA, Edinburgh
14 November	National Children's and Adult's Services conference, Manchester
Deputy Chief Executive	
20 September	Buckinghamshire County Council
9 October	ASC Leadership Essentials, Warwick
Director of Communications	
16-17 September	Liberal Democrat Party Conference, Brighton
23-24 September	Labour Party Conference, Liverpool
30 Sept – 2 Oct	Conservative Party Conference, Birmingham

Media

Devolution and funding for local government
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Resources Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts on Sky News Radio, Talk Radio and LBC news bulletins about how local services face a £1.3 billion government funding cut in 2019/20 despite many councils already struggling to balance their books (Times, Independent, i paper, Mirror, Sun, Metro, People, Sunday Mirror)
Lord Porter's letter was published in the Sunday Telegraph, on the need for the Budget to provide funding for local services.
Funding pressures facing councils and local services, warning that councils will have seen a reduction in core government funding of £16 billion. (Guardian, Guardian Online, Independent, BBC Politics Live, BBC Radio 4's Any Questions)
The LGA's analysis showing councils face a £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020 (People)
Lord Porter's warning that there is a real risk to the viability of some services and some councils if local government is not funded adequately, following criticism of Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss's claim that local councils are not facing cuts (Independent Online, i paper online)
Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
Lord Porter was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds featured on the BBC News at Six and News at Ten and also appeared live on the BBC News channel, in response to the Prime Minister's Conference speech announcing the scrapping of the housing borrowing cap. (FT, Times, BBC Online, Independent Online, i paper online, Mail Online, Express Online, Sun Online and Huffington Post)
Lord Porter was interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's World at One programme and Sky News in response to the Prime Minister's announcement on social housing (Mirror Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4's PM programme and news bulletins, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC local radio and Talk Radio news bulletins)
The LGA's call for restrictions to be eased so that councils can introduce selective licensing schemes for landlords, to help target areas with poor quality rented accommodation (BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme)
Lord Porter about how the only solution to address the housing crisis was for the Treasury to lift restrictions on borrowing, to allow local authorities to build homes themselves (Independent Online)
Children, education and schools
The LGA's Bright Futures lines that councils are facing a £3 billion funding shortfall in children's services by 2025, in a piece about support for young carers (BBC Breakfast)
Front page story that by 2020, government funding for councils will have been cut by £16 billion, about how councils are developing "predictive analytics" systems to identify families for attention from child services (Guardian)
Former Labour Cabinet minister David Blunkett on the LGA's call for a proportion of funding for the National Citizen Service to be diverted into local early intervention services (Times Red Box)
Call for more funding for council youth services amid estimates that local government will have received £16 billion less in funding by 2020 than in 2010 (Huffington Post)
A total of £1 billion has been taken out of children's services over the last eight years (Huffington Post)
The LGA's children's services funding lines, in response to the latest Department for Education figures on spending on children at risk of neglect or abuse (Independent)
Analysis by the LGA which found that 22,000 children are classed as severely obese, increasing their risk of Type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke (Sunday Express)
Number of children referred to mental health services has increased by more than a quarter in the last five years (Independent)
Adult social care and health

<p>The LGA's adult social care green paper featured on the front page of the Telegraph and in the Express after Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock suggested that a system similar to the national pension scheme could be developed to pay for people's future care needs. BBC Online also featured an analysis of our green paper.</p>
<p>The LGA response to the Government's announcement of an additional £240 million for the adult social care system to ease winter pressures (Times, Guardian Online, Independent Online, i paper online, BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC Radio 4's Today programme).</p>
<p>Pressures on unpaid carers and references to the LGA's adult social care green paper consultation (Telegraph, Independent, i paper, Express, BBC Breakfast, BBC News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Radio 2 news bulletins and across BBC local radio) Cllr Peter Fleming was also interviewed on Channel 5 News.</p>
<p>LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton featured on LBC, Talk Radio, talkSport and Sky News Radio bulletins while the LGA's Cllr Peter Fleming appeared on BBC News about the LGA's press release, urging first year university students to get vaccinated against meningitis ahead of the new academic term.</p>
<p>Response to research by the Advisory Group on Contraception on contraceptive access in England, highlighting how councils' public health grants have been reduced by central government by £600 million since 2015 (BBC Radio 4's PM programme, BBC Radio 5 Live)</p>
<p>Reductions in the local government public health grant is a short term approach which will only compound acute pressures for the NHS and other services (Independent Online)</p>
<p>Adult social care services face a £3.5 billion funding gap by 2025 just to maintain existing standards of care (Mirror, BBC Online, Independent Online, Mail Online, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4's File on 4 programme)</p>
<p>Response to the latest Delayed Transfers of Care figures (DTOCs). (Mirror, Mail, Sun Online)</p>
<p>Public Health England estimates that just one in 10 people will be smokers in five years' time (Mail Online, ITV Online)</p>
<p>Age UK report warning that 2 million over-50s are likely to be affected by loneliness by 2026 (Guardian)</p>
<p>LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on lunchtime ITV News and ITV News at Ten about adult social care funding.</p>
<p>Councils have had to make £7 billion in adult social care savings since 2010 (Express)</p>
<p>Dangers of loneliness and isolation (Guardian Online)</p>
<p>Supporting councils</p>
<p>LGA's ultimate ownership of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, about accounting firm Grant Thornton calling for nationalisation of auditor selection among Britain's largest companies to break up oligopoly of biggest four firms (FT)</p>
<p>LGA Vice Chair Cllr Howard Sykes was interviewed on Talk Radio and several regional BBC radio stations and LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton was on BBC Radio 5 Live's Wake Up To Money programme calling for the mandatory display of food hygiene ratings to be extended to England following their successful introduction in Wales and Northern Ireland (BBC Breakfast, Sky News Radio bulletins and in the Telegraph, Mail, Metro, Mirror, Sun, ITV Online)</p>
<p>Growing multi-billion pound roads repair backlog facing councils, a pothole being fixed by councils every nine seconds (Independent, Guardian Online)</p>
<p>Improvement and Innovation Board Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on BBC Radio 5 Live about councils' efforts to recycle and calls for producers to take more responsibility</p>
<p>Councils are trying to revitalise high streets but need more powers and flexibilities (Mirror)</p>
<p>LGA's recommendations on reforming current taxi legislation included in private vehicle licensing parliamentary report (Times)</p>
<p>Nearly half of all council-subsidised bus services have been lost since 2011 (Observer)</p>

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Maintaining green spaces and open parks in face of £8 billion funding gap by 2025 (Mail on Sunday)

Metal theft costs more than £750 million a year, including from churches, electricity cables and war memorials (Times)