

Chief Executive's Report – December 2018

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Report – December 2018

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for local government

- 1.1 **2018 Budget:** provided £240 million for adult social care in both 2018/19 and 2019/20, £410 million for adult and children's social care in 2018/19, £55 million in 2018/19 for Disabled Facilities Grant, £420 million for road repair and maintenance and an extra £500 million for Housing Infrastructure Fund. While these announcements of extra funding are welcome, we continue to make the case that this falls well short of the amount needed for local services, with an estimated £7.8 billion funding gap by 2025. We briefed parliamentarians on our response to the 2018 Budget and our briefing was quoted in debates in both the House of Commons and House of Lords.
- 1.2 The 2018 Budget is covered by a separate item on the agenda of Leadership Board.
- 1.3 **Public Accounts Committee's inquiry:** we provided written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into local government spending. This is supplementary to the Committee's earlier inquiry into the financial sustainability of local authorities, which we also gave evidence to.
- 1.4 **IFRS 9 – "Movements on Fair value":** MHCLG has published the results of its consultation on implementing a temporary statutory override to part of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9. We had called for this override as without it local authorities would have to make cash adjustments in their accounts for paper fluctuations in values of pooled investments. Councils reported this would be a financial problem. Our response to the original consultation argued that the proposed temporary override of three years was too short and therefore we are pleased to report that the Government has listened to us and will implement the statutory override for at least five years and will then review further.
- 1.5 **Property investments:** following the implementation in April of the new prudential framework for capital finance and MHCLG's updated statutory guidance for local authority investments, CIPFA has published a statement on borrowing in advance of need and investments in commercial properties. In this statement CIPFA signalled their intent to issue further guidance to clarify whether certain investment approaches identified are consistent with the requirements of fiscal sustainability, prudence and affordability. We will continue to discuss this with both CIPFA and MHCLG.
- 1.6 **Hudson review of oversight of business rates system:** In October MHCLG published the report of the independent review of the governance and processes which underpin the oversight of the business rates system carried out by Andrew Hudson. We were consulted as part of the review. The review was established following an error in calculating the S31 grant for pilot authorities earlier this year. The review included recommendations that the final local government finance settlement should be published no later than 31 January and that the provisional settlement should be published by about 5 December. MHCLG has announced that the provisional settlement for 2019/20 will be published on 6 December 2018.
- 1.7 Our work on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention are covered by separate items on the Agenda.

Priority 2 – Adult social care and health

The lives we want to lead

- 2.1 On 31 July we published our green paper on the future of adult social care and wellbeing, *The lives we want to lead*. On 14 November, at the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference, we launched our response to our green paper consultation and associated work (such as public polling

and focus groups). This set out the main findings from the responses along with our sense of the implications of those findings. We then set out 14 recommendations to Government across two broad objectives: sustaining the here and now and countering some of the immediate consequences of underfunding that are apparent across the system; and laying the groundwork for delivering a social care and support system that we know could be better in the long-term.

- 2.2 On the first day of launch, the website had more than 1,500 page views and the document had been downloaded 165 times. Community Wellbeing Board Chair, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, was interviewed on BBC 5 Live, with our report also covered in the Independent, i paper and the Sun. As part of the launch, LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, sent copies of the report to the Secretary of State of Health and Social Care, The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, opposition spokespeople and LGA Vice Presidents.
- 2.3 A detailed update of all of our work on the green paper is covered by another item on the Agenda.
- 2.4 **Prevention vision:** following publication of the Health and Social Care Secretary's vision for prevention and the NHS, the LGA have warned that government needs to ensure that councils' prevention work is adequately funded by reversing the £600 million in reductions to councils' public health grants and plug the £3.5 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025. Prevention is an essential part of the LGA's green paper on adult social care and we look forward to working with government to help shape its own green paper on prevention and securing long term funding in the Spending Review to help use all of councils' powers and functions to improve the public's health.
- 2.5 **Transforming health and care services:** On 14 November we launched 'Shifting the centre of gravity: making place-based, person-centred health and care a reality' at the National Children and Adults Services Conference. It has been developed by the LGA, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Association of Directors of Public Health, NHS Clinical Commissioners, NHS Confederation and NHS Providers to demonstrate that we are fully committed to working together to transform health, care and wellbeing services to improve people's health and care outcomes. As well as refreshing our joint vision, originally set out in 2016, it also outlines the actions that will help local systems do their own work on integrated health and care.
- 2.6 **Relationship Sex Education, Relationship Education and Health Education:** we submitted a response to the Department for Education's consultation on the draft regulations and guidance for Relationship Sex Education, Relationship Education and Health Education. Our submission highlighted the need for schools to work with public health teams to ensure pupils know what the local offer is and how they can access their local sexual health and mental health services. It also called for mental health, wellbeing and resilience and domestic abuse issues to be better addressed in the final curriculum content.
- 2.7 **Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill:** we continue to work with Peers scrutinising the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill in the House of Lords. Our briefing set out why the Bill is important and we welcomed amendments which seek to revise the role of care home staff in completing assessments. We continue to make the point that this legislation is a vital opportunity for long-awaited reform and it needs to be passed as the current situation is not sustainable both for councils and for our communities.
- 2.8 **Mental health:** we briefed MPs ahead of the debate on the five-year forward view for mental health. We highlighted the need to prevent mental health issues arising, intervening early if problems start surfacing, and helping people manage their lives going forward.
- 2.9 **Suicide prevention:** we published a scrutiny guide for councillors with Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Association of Directors of Public Health.
- 2.10 **Veterans Strategy:** we responded to the launch of the Government's Strategy for our Veterans. It was positive to see that the strategy recognised the role of local authorities and other sectors in delivering services that support and empower veterans. A consultation has also been launched to support implementation of the strategy and runs until 21 February 2019. The Strategy was also debated in

both Houses on 15 November and our [briefing](#) to Parliamentarians highlighted the good work that councils are doing on the Covenant.

- 2.11 **A Connected Society:** the Prime Minister launched 'A Connected Society. A strategy for tackling loneliness' on 15 October. Since publication the LGA have had discussions with DCMS about how best we can engage local councils in the work. We are currently discussing holding a joint DCMS and LGA event in 2019 to discuss how the sector can best support the strategy objectives and showcase best practice. We are also looking to commission some guidance on best practice between principal authorities and parish and town councils. This will be produced in partnership with NALC and will be funded by the MHCLG grant that is provided to the LGA to support work between principal, parish and town councils.
- 2.12 **Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) 2018:** this is currently out for completion by councils. The SAF assists and prompts local areas in reviewing how they are doing in relation to the Autism Strategy and helps them to map out their local priorities. As in previous years the information submitted will be collated and analysed by Public Health England. Responses to the exercise are asked for by Monday 10 December 2018.
- 2.13 **Allied Healthcare:** on 5 November, CQC issued a Stage 6 notification on Allied Healthcare indicating a likely disruption to home care service provision due to financial issues. We responded immediately to assist councils enact their contingency plans by identifying [essential resources and offering local support](#). Allied has since indicated its intention to seek buyers for the business on a branch-by-branch basis. Councils are considering their options although timescales look prohibitively tight. This sits alongside the ongoing and extending discussions with Four Seasons about its financial restructure. We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working very closely with Department of Health and Social Care and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to provide support where needed.
- 2.14 **Social Care Digital Innovation Programme:** this programme tasked councils to create digital pilots that will advance frontline practice, improving systems and enabling integration across adult social care. Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Care, announced the nine councils that have been awarded implementation funding to use digital innovation to create social care of the future at the NCAS Conference on 15 November.
- 2.15 **Social determinants of health:** we have been approached by [The Health Foundation](#) (an independent charity) to enter a three-year £3.45m collaboration to support councils and their local partners to improve the social determinants of health. The programme will support delivery of innovative approaches to opportunities presented by public health moving to local government.

Priority 3 – Children, education and schools

- 3.1 **Children's social care funding:** the 2018 Budget provided £84 million over five years to expand children's social care programmes in 20 areas, and £410 million of additional funding for social care in 2019/20 on adult and children's services. We continue to make the case that while these announcements of extra funding for children's services are welcome, this falls well short of the amount needed, with an estimated £3 billion funding gap by 2025 just to keep services running at current levels.
- 3.2 **Bright Futures:** it is now a year since we launched Bright Futures, our vision for the future of children's social care. We have published an [update report](#), highlighting what we have achieved over the past year but also, importantly, looking at where there is still more work to do. As part of our Bright Futures campaign, we have published two new resource packs to support the delivery of services for children and families. The latest packs focus on [early education and childcare](#) and [permanence](#).
- 3.3 **Outcomes Framework:** at the NCAS Conference in November, we launched a new framework of youth outcomes to support delivery of effective youth services in the context of reduced funding and

fragmented provision. The Centre for Youth Impact and the National Youth Agency will be working with providers and commissioners across the country over the next three months to refine this before its final publication, with supporting guidance, in April 2019.

- 3.4 **Childhood obesity:** we have launched a trailblazer programme to tackle childhood obesity by supporting the development and implementation of innovative solutions. Over 120 councils have expressed an interest so far. Up to 12 local authorities will be supported to develop practical plans, and in spring 2019, five authorities will be selected. Trailblazer councils carry out a three-year programme, receiving £100,000 worth of funding and expert support.
- 3.5 **Children's Mental Health:** NHS Digital released the first data on the mental health of children since 2005. It found a slight increase in the number of five to 15 year olds with a mental disorder. A quarter of girls aged 17 to 19 have a mental health disorder, with over half of those with mental health disorders reporting to have self-harmed or attempted to take their own life. The Children's Commissioner also published a briefing on children's mental health, showing that in most areas in the country children and adolescent mental health services are improving. However, it also found that the rate of progress is slow and a gap remains between what is provided, and what children need. Our response to these findings calls for an overhaul of children's mental health services, and for the NHS to work with councils to develop a system that is there for children when they ask for help. We continue to promote the recommendations in our Bright Futures campaign, including our call for councils to be given the funding they need to offer independent mental health counselling so children have access to support as and when they need it.
- 3.6 **SEND and school funding:** Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of our Children and Young People Board, gave evidence to the Education Select Committee on school and college funding on the 27 November, alongside representatives from London Councils and the County Councils Network. Our evidence highlighted concerns that the National Funding Formula and changes to High Needs Funding will exacerbate shortfalls in funding to support children and young people with SEND. To coincide with the NCAS Conference, we published research on effective local SEND systems, undertaken on our behalf by the Isos Partnership. We also briefed MPs ahead of debates on school funding. We recommended the Government should take advantage of councils' position in the community in order to give them a clear and strategic role in school improvement.
- 3.7 **Kinship carers:** Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair) met with the parliamentary taskforce on kinship carers on 21 November to outline the ways in which local authorities support kinship carers, and the challenges they face in doing this.
- 3.8 **Nurseries:** Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair) gave evidence to the APPG on Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes on 21 November to highlight the results of our survey on early years provision, and to reiterate our calls for a sustainable funding solution for maintained nursery schools.
- 3.9 **Teachers in Residential Establishments:** The National Employers have reached an agreement with the Teachers' Side on an increase of 2% (3.5% for instructors) on all allowances on 1 September 2018 for teachers in residential establishments.
- 3.10 **School Teachers Pay Award 2018:** local authorities are expected to be in a position to distribute the DfE grant to schools to fund the above 1% increases for teachers in maintained schools in this Autumn term, as published in the pay grant allocations.

Priority 4 – Housing

- 4.1 **Letwin Review:** Sir Oliver Letwin published his final report making recommendations on how to close the gap between housing completions and the amount of land allocated or permissioned on large sites. The LGA supports the overall drive to ensure that a broader range of types and tenures of housing is delivered on large sites and enabling councils to have further levers through the planning system to help deliver this. We are engaging with Government officials and councils on how this can best be

achieved. The Government is due to respond to the review in full in February 2019.

- 4.2 **Housing borrowing cap:** we have been keen to ensure that stock owning councils can fully use new housing borrowing powers as soon as possible, and the Government has now officially removed the limits on Housing Revenue Account borrowing. Confirming the change, MHCLG published a determination which revokes previous determinations that specified local authority limits on indebtedness. We will keep you up to date with any developments and continue our work in the background to ensure there are no strings attached.
- 4.3 **Affordable housing:** we commented on a new report from the CLA, the body that represents rural land, property and business owners, that found that villages in England were missing out on new affordable homes. We highlighted that councils are committed to tackling the housing crisis and delivering the right homes in the right places alongside the vital services and infrastructure. We also briefed Peers ahead of a debate on building more affordable homes, stressing the important role councils can play in achieving the Government's overall target to build 300,000 homes.
- 4.4 **Private rented sector:** we briefed Peers ahead of a debate on the Housing, Communities, and Local Government Committee's report on the private rented sector. We support the report's recommendations, which called for greater powers for councils to tackle rogue landlords. We also continued to brief Peers on the Tenant Fees Bill as it progressed through the House of Lords. We called for greater funding for proactive enforcement of the ban on letting agents' fees.
- 4.5 **Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Bill:** we briefed our support for this Bill, which introduces a strengthened legal right for tenants to challenge landlords when facing unfit and unsafe housing. We also noted that the level of funding which councils have to allocate to enforcing housing standards is inadequate and it is vital that the Government provides additional funding for environmental health services alongside this Bill.
- 4.6 **Housing Business Ready Springboard:** alongside the Housing and Finance Institute, we launched the Housing Business Ready Springboard programme. This is designed to support councils to shape the delivery of homes for their area, giving them the opportunity to present and get tips from experts in their field, including investors, professional services, housebuilders and others.

Priority 5 – Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution

- 5.1 **Combined Authorities:** we have continued to provide tailored capacity support to a number of established and aspiring combined authorities. During the reporting period, officers have organised meetings of all the CA senior officer networks, including the CA Chief Executives Network and the inception meeting of the CA HR Network.
- 5.2 **Local growth:** we have continued to engage Whitehall on key areas of local growth policy, including the LEP Review, Local Industrial Strategies, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the devolution framework.
- 5.3 **Post-Brexit England Commission:** since the publication of its interim report at LGA Annual Conference, the Post-Brexit England Commission is continuing to host roadshows across non-metropolitan England to shape the direction of its final report and in turn help influence the public debate on the future of public service provision outside our major cities. Events have already been held in the East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and North West, with future events planned in the South East, North East, Yorkshire and Humber and East of England. More information is available on the LGA events website.
- 5.4 **Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs):** the Government has announced that it will bring forward

the date by which the maximum stakes for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) will be cut, from £100 to £2, from October to April 2019. This announcement is extremely welcome and comes after a cross-party campaign by MPs, the LGA and councils to bring the date forward. We have campaigned both in Parliament and the media for this reduction, making the case that any delay would limit councils' efforts to reduce problem gambling.

- 5.5 **Modern Slavery:** in November, we held an event for more than 70 delegates to discuss how community safety and regulatory services can disrupt modern slavery. The session heard from the National Crime Agency, Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. Cornwall Council and the London Boroughs of Waltham Forest and Croydon also presented their respective experiences of: disrupting modern slavery through regulatory tools; disrupting criminality through a selective housing licensing scheme, and developing a council action plan to tackle modern slavery. The LGA has recently commissioned a series of council case studies on modern slavery, which will be available in early 2019.
- 5.6 **Domestic Abuse:** the Home Affairs Committee has published its report into domestic abuse. We gave evidence to the inquiry to highlight councils' role in tackling abuse and providing support to victims. Responding to the report, we reaffirmed how seriously councils are taking this issue, and the work many are doing to invest in more early intervention and prevention schemes.
- 5.7 **Civil resilience:** we have recently published two documents providing guidance on civil resilience and emergency planning. We have updated our 2016 councillor guide to incorporate the learning from the high profile emergencies that councils and their partners have responded to since then; additionally, we have produced a new joint document with SOLACE looking at councils' experience of preparing for, responding to and recovering from two specific emergencies.
- 5.8 **Serious Violent Crime:** at the Conservative Party Conference, the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP announced the Government would be launching a consultation on the new legal duty to underpin a public health approach to tackling serious violence. He also announced the Government would be investing in a new £200 million youth endowment fund aimed at 10 to 14 year olds who are most at risk of youth violence. There will also be an independent review of drug misuse. These announcements were discussed at the Serious Violence Taskforce meeting and officers are taking forward discussions with the Home Office. The LGA also submitted written evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry on serious violence.
- 5.9 **Knife Sales:** with the latest official figures showing a 40 per cent rise in knife crime in England and Wales in the past two years, we called for plans in the Government's Serious Violence Strategy to fund councils to prosecute retailers for breaches of knife sale laws to be brought forward as soon as possible.
- 5.10 **Enhancing Community Safety Conference:** in October, Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Morris Bright spoke at the Inside Government Conference on enhancing the relationship between the police and local authorities. He spoke about the importance of strong partnerships and multi-agency working to tackle crime. On serious violent crime, he said that early intervention and prevention would be key to tackling the root causes of serious violence.
- 5.11 **FGM:** recently released child protection statistics show the number of assessments which featured FGM has more than doubled to 1,960 compared to the 2016/17 figures. Abuse linked to faith and belief also increased by 12 per cent. Cllr Anita Lower wrote to officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Safeguarding in Faith Settings regarding the work of the National FGM Centre and met with Chair of the Safeguarding in Faith Settings All-Party Parliamentary Group, Sarah Champion MP.

Priority 6 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 6.1 **Post-Brexit trade:** we continue to engage with Parliament to make the case for local government's role in post-Brexit decision-making, including trade. Officers have sought to build an updated evidence base of council trade and investment activity by undertaking a sector-wide survey to better understand the role that local government might play in building trade and investment links with the world as the UK prepares to leave the EU. We have further raised the profile of council trade, inward investment and international engagement activities, through engagement with the Department for International Trade (DIT) and wider elements of the LGA's international work. Officers are working with DIT to support councils to deliver trade and investment activity, and a procurement process is underway to appoint a provider to develop a toolkit for councils seeking to attract foreign capital investment in their area.
- 6.2 Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of our Brexit Taskforce, appeared before the Commons International Trade Committee. Cllr Bentley told MPs that the Government must continue to consult with the LGA, WLGA, NILGA and COSLA once we leave the EU, and that local government's role in the UK's future trade negotiations should be formalised. He also highlighted the important role councils can play in attracting inward trade and investment to regional economies.
- 6.3 A detailed update of all of our work in preparation for Brexit is covered by another item on the Agenda.

Priority 7 – Supporting Councils

- 7.1 **Vice-President briefings:** we hosted our Independent, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Vice-President briefings. These brought our Vice-Presidents together to discuss key government announcements and our priorities for local government.
- 7.2 **Cyber Security:** by now councils will have received the conclusions from their Cyber Security Stocktake. All councils are now eligible to use their assessment to unlock further support or funding. You can find out more about how to do this on our website. This is being funded by the Cabinet Office as part of the National Cyber Security Strategy.
- 7.3 **Resident satisfaction polling:** we have published the latest round of resident satisfaction polling. While trust in councils remains high, overall satisfaction and satisfaction with key services are showing some of the lowest levels since we started polling in 2012. Many councils will use this to compare to their own resident satisfaction.
- 7.4 **Fire events:** in early November the LGA launched booking for five regional Masterclasses early in the New Year for members of Fire and Rescue Authorities. These events are part of the Diversity priority of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee. Additionally, on 28-29 November the LGA held the latest Leadership Essentials. The programme, aimed at members of Fire and Rescue Authorities, was well attended and covered all the major topics including Effective Scrutiny, Inclusion and Diversity, Fire Reform, Fire Safety, Public Relations and a session the new inspections regime.
- 7.5 **Arts Council England funding:** we are working in partnership with Arts Council England to offer councils the opportunity to undertake a peer challenge of their cultural or library services. Supported by the Arts Council, these challenges are an opportunity for councils to benefit from experts in the field who will help address the issues faced in libraries or cultural services. Similar to previous years, these peer challenges can be tailored to council's individual needs and come highly recommended from those who have participated in them previously.
- 7.6 **Digital government:** Councillor Peter Fleming, Chairman of our Improvement and Innovation Board, provided evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, as part of its inquiry into digital government. In our evidence, we have highlighted the need for greater collaboration between central and local government on digital platform-building.

7.7 UK Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA): the UK Municipal Bonds Agency is gearing up for its first bond issue in the next few months. This is a council-owned borrowing route which will be offering rates below PWLB. 56 councils and the LGA are shareholders of the agency. By now, seven councils have told us of their intention to borrow through the UKMBA in the current financial year, and the total amount of borrowing has grown from the initial £55m to £140m. However, the market is telling us that the best possible rate for councils can be achieved if this amount is increased to £200-250m.

7.8 Insurance Mutual: we have been working with councils to develop a cost effective alternative to conventional insurance. As part of this work the Local Government Mutual has been established with the LGA and 9 councils registered as founding members. More are to follow in the coming weeks. The Mutual has appointed Local Government Mutual Management Services Ltd (LGMMSL) to provide management services to the Mutual. LGMMSL is a joint venture between LGA Commercial Services Ltd and Regis Mutual Management Ltd. Plans are in place to allow the Mutual to open for business next year. We are also working to implement a range of activities to raise awareness of the Mutual among the LGA member councils to enable them to consider this option alongside other insurance offers. A number of LGA member authorities are going through the process of obtaining a priced offer of cover from the mutual, without commitment, to consider whether it is a cost effective option for them. The offer of undertaking this process is open to all LGA members.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

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 member authorities have now completed their applications to be admitted as a member authority to the new LGA.
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. Approval has now been received from the required minimum of two-thirds of councils in full LGA membership.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

Chief Executive	
18-19 October	SOLACE Conference
30 October	Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council
7 November	Combined Authorities Chief Executives
8 November	Member Peer Conference, Nottingham
8-9 November	European LGAs meeting, CoSLA, Edinburgh
14 November	District Council Chief Executives
26 November	Chief Executive, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
29 November	Chief Executive's Sounding Board
<i>Forward Plan</i>	
30 November	Joint SMCE/ACCE Conference
10 December	Chief Executive, North Yorkshire County Council
13 December	District Council Chief Executives
Deputy Chief Executive	
23 October	South Gloucestershire Council
9 November	NW Chief Executives Network
14-16 November	NCAS Conference, Manchester
21 November	WIG-HM Treasury and LGA event
Head of Improvement	
15 November	Chief Executive, Lancashire County Council

Media

Funding for local government
Chairman Lord Porter was interviewed on BBC News channel and BBC Radio 5 Live to give the LGA's response to the Budget (Independent, City AM)
LGA Labour Group Leader Cllr Nick Forbes, along with Deputy Leaders Cllr Lib Peck and Cllr Michael Payne, co-wrote an opinion piece calling on the Government to use the Budget to reverse funding cuts to councils planned for next year (Huffington Post)
The BBC's Andrew Marr Show referenced the LGA's analysis that local government has seen a

reduction of £14.8 billion in central government funding since 2010, in its pre-Budget interviews
LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on BBC Radio 5 Live Investigates about business rates avoidance
60p out of every £1 of central government funding will have been lost over the past decade by 2020 (FT Online)
The LGA's lines that local government operates national collective bargaining and that national employers recently agreed a two-year pay deal to raise the minimum hourly rate next April (Guardian)
Response to Allied Healthcare's decision to transfer or sell its contracts after concerns were raised over its financial viability (BBC Online)
Funds increasingly being diverted to meet an unprecedented surge in demand for children's and adult social care, after council spending on libraries fell for a fifth successive year (i paper)
Adult social care and health
Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Ian Hudspeth was interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about the LGA's press release to launch the findings of its adult social care green paper (Independent, i paper, Sun)
Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's You and Yours programme about councils' contingency plans in relation to the potential collapse of care provider Allied Healthcare. (i paper online)
Community Wellbeing Chairman Cllr Ian Hudspeth on Sky News Radio news bulletins in response to an All-Party Parliamentary Group report on food and drink marketing, which included calls for councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising to help combat child obesity. (ITV Online, Mail Online)
Polling by the LGA that found only 15 per cent of people were making plans to pay for their future care costs (Independent, Express, Mail Online)
The LGA's estimates that adult social care faces a £3.5 billion funding gap by 2025 (BBC Radio 5 Live's Wake Up to Money and Breakfast programmes, Observer Online)
LGA's response to a Public Accounts Committee report on integrating health and social care. (Mail Online, ITV Online, Huffington Post)
Calls for a reversal of public health budget cuts which could affect councils' ability to meet further increases in demand, after sexual health clinics saw a 13 per cent increase in visitors between 2013 and 2017 (Mirror, Metro)
Alzheimer's Society's warning that eight out of ten people are oblivious to the financial burden of dementia (Express)
Children, education and schools
Response to Children's Commissioner report on over 50,000 children living in environment where a "toxic trio" of abuse, mental health issues or addiction placed them at risk and LGA's warning about the significant financial pressure which children's services are now under (BBC Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Independent Online, Mail Online, Sun Online Sky News' Lunchtime Live)
Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Anntoinette Bramble on Sky News Radio, Talk Radio and BBC Radio 5 Live about latest figures showing social workers are starting new cases for more than 1,000 children each day (Telegraph, Mirror, Independent Online)
Front page story about how crisis in funding for children with special educational needs is putting councils deeper into the red and forcing parents into lengthy legal battles to secure support (Observer)
Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Anntoinette Bramble interviewed on LBC about the pressures facing councils providing support for children with special educational needs.
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble interviewed on Sky News Radio about warning that services which support children with special educational needs and disabilities face a potential funding gap of more than half a billion this year (Guardian Independent Online)
Children's services face a £3 billion funding shortfall (Guardian, i paper, BBC Online, ITV Online,

Independent Online, Mail Online, Huffington Post)
Call for some of the National Citizen Service funding to be devolved to councils for local youth services (Guardian)
Country faces a secondary school places emergency (Mail)
Response to figures showing the number of children in local authority care is at a 10-year high and call for significantly more money for councils to cope with rising demand for support (Times)
Housing
LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton was interviewed live on Talk Radio's Julia Hartley Brewer show, about councils' efforts to build more homes
Improvement and Innovation Board Chairman, Cllr Peter Fleming was interviewed by BBC Radio 5 Live and Sky News Radio about how a new generation of council housing could raise £320 billion over the next 50 years for the country's economy (Times)
Resources Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts was interviewed on BBC Panorama about evidence which shows a significant rise in rent arrears in households on Universal Credit and the risk that poses to council housebuilding. (Independent, Express Online, Sun Online, Huffington Post)
Response to Country Land and Business Association report which suggests more than 2,000 villages have been overlooked for affordable homes (Guardian)
Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
The LGA's response to an RAC survey which found that more than a third of motorists believe councils outside London should be able to enforce 'yellow box' junctions (Times, Mail Online LBC)
Response to package of measures announced by the Department for Transport to improve cyclist safety, including giving councils powers to tackle dangerous parking in mandatory cycle lanes (Mail Online)
Britain's exit from the EU
Councils are being warned to be prepared for three months of disruption in the event of a no-deal Brexit, according to a leaked briefing given to a Local Resilience Forum (Mirror Online)
Response to a Cavendish Coalition report raising concerns about the impact of Brexit on the health and social care workforce and warning that adult social care represents one of the sectors most vulnerable to changes in migration rules (Independent Online)
Supporting councils
Improvement and Innovation Board Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was interviewed live on Sky News and BBC Radio 5 Live warning people not to buy cheap, illegal fireworks from suspect outlets in the run-up to Bonfire Night
Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett's previous comments about councils being able to issue increased fines to those who drop litter (Express Online)
The LGA's scheme, which lets licensing departments check taxi drivers for convictions they may have accrued elsewhere in an attempt to tackle the issue of convicted drivers, has been praised by the National Private Hire and Taxi Association (BBC Online)
LGA analysis which suggested only one third of the UK's plastic food container waste is recyclable and some councils have seen their recycling costs increased by £500,000 (Mail, ITV Online, BBC Radio 2 news bulletins)
The LGA's lines that councils should be asked to take asylum seekers based on their capacity, rather than on the cost of accommodation in their area (Guardian Online)
Response to Gambling Commission survey which found that 89 per cent of pubs failed to prevent children accessing 18+ gaming machines (Telegraph, Mail, Independent, i paper, Guardian Online)
A single voice for local government

The LGA's concerns about the lack of engagement with local government and local partners about the next phase of implementation of Universal Credit (Guardian)
Call for councils to be given more planning powers to tackle the issue of the clustering of fast food premises and combat obesity (i paper)
61 councils have so far signed up to the LGA and Citizens Advice Bureau protocol on council tax collection, with some pledging to stop the use of bailiffs (FT Online)
Response to government decision to bring forward the cut in the maximum stake on fixed-odds betting terminals, to April 2019 (Sun Online)
Almost one million crimes of fly-tipping were reported by councils across England during 2017/18, the first fall in five years (BBC Online)
Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn was interviewed on Sky News Radio and Improvement and Innovation Board Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming featured on Sky News warning motorists to be wary of buying used cars with fake mileage, after a rise in 'clocking' was reported (Telegraph, Independent, i paper, ITV Online, Mail Online, Express Online, Mirror Online, Talk Radio.)