

Appendix B – SIG Annual Reports

SIG Name:	County Councils Network (CCN)
Lead Member:	Cllr David Williams, Chairman
Lead Officer:	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 2019/20 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.

Director	Simon Edwards
Head of Policy & Communications	James Maker
Senior Policy Officer	Jonathan Rallings
Senior Policy Officer	Peter French
Senior Policy & Public Affairs Officer	James Holden
Media & Communications Officer	Ian Burbidge

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, including our ground breaking [Independent Review of Spending Need and Funding](#).

Key activities/outcomes over the last 12 months include:

- Winter Pressures Funding: CCN advocacy with partners across the sector highlighted winter pressures in the health and social care system. This led to the in-year investment of £240m, funding that will be repeated in 2019/20. CCN councils will receive 44% of this funding.
- Social Care Funding: This year, CCN's targeted advocacy helped the sector secure £410m of additional funding for social care. Our advocacy was directly responsible for ensuring that this funding was distributed via the adult social care relative needs formula - and contained the flexibility to be used across children's social care.
- Roads Investment: Our dedicated advocacy on the funding pressures highlighting planned reductions in road maintenance helped secure in-year investment of £420m for local highways. Our member councils received 71% of this funding, with the government distributing the funding according to road length; a direct recognition of the pressures in county authorities.
- Negative Revenue Support Grant: This year saw confirmation that Negative RSG would be cancelled. This followed a two-year campaign on behalf of those member councils affected by the policy.
- Fairer Funding: CCN has maintained and grown the momentum on our fair funding review campaign. Our advocacy resulted in the recent consultation setting out welcome proposals that have the potential to deliver a much fairer funding formula for counties.
- Social Care Green Paper: Earlier this year CCN published its own positioning paper to influence the development of the long-trailed reforms to social care. The report has been downloaded over 1,150 times and position CCN as a key stakeholder on the future of health and social care.
- High-Needs Funding: CCN research highlighted escalating overspends in high-needs education funding. In December this helped secure an additional £250m of funding over two years.
- Business Rates: 12 out of the 15 new 75% business rate retention pilots are in county areas. CCN has specifically argued that the London pilots should be reduced to the same level as those open to counties, with the resources reinvested to ensure more counties benefit.
- Social Mobility: CCN on behalf of the County APPG conducted a comprehensive inquiry into social mobility in county areas. With support from Localis and evidence submitted by member councils, the report made a major impact across the sector and Parliament.
- Housing: CCN has become a national stakeholder on housing policy, building on its advocacy on strategic planning. We launched two research reports and hosted the first national conference dedicated to the strategic role of county and county unitary authorities in housing, planning and infrastructure.
- LEP Review: Following several years of advocacy on the importance of coterminosity of LEP boundaries, the government announced in its LEP review it would seek to eliminate overlaps.
- Reform: CCN continued to shape the national narrative on local government reorganisation. We have supported Dorset Council, securing their continuing membership from April 2019 and our advocacy helped turn the Government's minded-to decision in Buckinghamshire into a final decision.
- Devolution: After officially adopting CCN's call for a more open, transparent and

structured approach to devolution through the publication of a 'common framework', the network has continued to make the case for ambitious devolution deals for counties. CCN has been engaging government to ensure non-mayoral and combined authorities' models are considered, while ensuring the integrity of county geographies.

SIG Name:	Coastal SIG
Lead Member:	Cllr Andy Smith
Lead Officer:	Bill Parker

Aims

- Support coastal councils in delivering sustainable development on England's coast
- Strengthen the capacity of coastal councils to deliver sustainable coastal management
- Promote awareness of the important role of local government on the coast

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

House of Lords and Coastal Regeneration

The Coastal SIG was asked by a House of Lords Select Committee to support their evidence gathering on Regeneration of Seaside Towns and Communities. The SIG facilitated a workshop for Leaders and Chief Executives of twenty-three authorities and with ten Lords committee members present, five of whom facilitated the workshop tables themselves. The report is now available.

Coastal SIG support managing the coast in a changing climate

In response to the SIG highlighting concerns, the Committee on Climate Change initiated a report on the long-term challenges facing authorities who manage England's coastline. The report concluded that the current approach to coastal management is not sustainable in the long term. Report at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/managing-the-coast-in-a-changing-climate/>

Coastal Adaptation

The SIG continues to champion this topic with government. Defra have undertaken research (yet to be published) that identifies for the first time a +ve benefit cost analysis of coastal adaptation. Work continues with the EA, Defra, MHCLG etc however government is reluctant to acknowledge and deal with this issue.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Members and officers were represented on some key focus groups that fed in to the development of the Environment Agency's FCERM strategy, which is currently under consultation till 4 July.

Coastal Concordat / Defra 25-year environment plan

The Defra 25 year plan mentions that all coastal authorities will be signed up to the Coastal Concordat by 2021. The Coastal Concordat originally developed in 2013 by the Coastal SIG and the MMO to help to streamline the planning application process and speed up application time. The SIG are now working with Defra to sign all coastal authorities up.

Fair Funding Review

The SIG has been working to ensure that maintenance of coastal assets was recognised as a local burden. Further discussions with MHCLG, Defra and EA have been focussed on finding a fairer way to allocate funds.

National Infrastructure Commission

The group have developed beneficial links with the National Infrastructure Commission, working to change the status of coast defence assets to be recognised as infrastructure.

Marine Licensing

The SIG has developed improved relationships with the MMO marine licensing team who attend two meetings a year to stay in touch with coastal authorities to maintain good understanding of the

process.

Environment Agency Large Project Review Group (LPRG)

The SIG has managed to establish representation for a local authority officer to sit on the Environment Agency LPRG. Great news so we can better understand the system and ensure l.a.s receive fair treatment.

Brexit, Ports and Planning

The SIG were invited to take part in the Department for Transport's Summit to discuss governance of Ports, Port Authorities, and the planning and regulatory systems.

Bathing Water

Many of our coastal authorities have struggled to get the excellent blue flag status that they work hard to achieve. Working through Defra, the EA have now agreed to provide resource and expert opinion to help.

Coastal waste sites

Concern has been highlighted by the SIG about erosion of historic coastal waste sites and the potential of pollution. There is both a lack of understanding of the issues nor any designated funding streams to access. Working with partner l.a.s and university researchers, this issues is now recognised and being discussed.

Sharing learning and issues

Members continue to share good practice and help a knowledge exchange at Lewes District Council.

8 national consultations were responded to: <https://lgacoastalsig.com/resources/consultation-responses/>

SIG Name:	Councils with ALMOs Group (CWAG)
Lead Member:	Manchester City Council
Lead Officer:	Rob Main – Newark and Sherwood DC (CWAG Chair)

Aims

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, 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 (NFA), the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) 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 CWAG has focussed on the following key areas:

Responding to the National Policy Agenda

With the publication of the Social Housing Green Paper in August 2018, there have been more opportunities to influence and represent our members' interests.

The Group has submitted consultation responses to both the Social Housing Green Paper and the use of receipts from Right to Buy sales. There have also been a number of opportunities to provide specialist input on key work streams arising from the Green Paper e.g. meeting with the RSH to discuss regulatory issues, discussions with MHCLG covering ALMO and TMO management issues, consumer standards and decent homes changes.

CWAG continues to work closely with the LGA, ARCH and NFA to develop a shared understanding and response across the council sector. We are also involved in a number of cross sector groups including:

- Consumer Standards Working Group – this group has been leading on a sector led response to the Green Paper proposal for the development of a workable set of Performance Measures that are meaningful for tenants in holding their landlord to account.
- MHCLG Technical Finance Group and LGA Housing Finance Group – these groups meet regularly to discuss current policy, share views and expertise as well

as acting as a sounding board on key issues e.g. Universal Credit and the issue of the 53 week year.

Providing support for CWAG Members – Networking and Sharing Good Practice

CWAG continues to provide information and support to members as well as opportunities for networking and information sharing with other councils with ALMOs who face similar issues.

Regular CWAG news updates aim to keep members up to date with important policy developments, provide briefings and relevant housing news.

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

Executive Member specialisms provide leadership and a point of contact on particular policy areas.

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

CWAG Meetings and Events

The meetings programme is a key part of the CWAG "offer" to its members. At least four events are organised each year and the cost is included in the annual subscription fee.

Meeting topics are identified from member feedback and suggestions. In the past year the programme has covered a range of topics including:

- **Resident Engagement Challenges** - Jenny Osbourne, Chief Executive of TPAS
- **Tenancy Audits** - Karen Loweman -Director of Housing Colchester Borough Homes
- **Key themes and Challenges in The Social Housing Green Paper** - Helen Kelly and Kavneet Jolly from MHCLG
- **'Municipal Dreams' – an overview of the history of social housing and future prospects** - John Boughton
- **Finance and Business Planning Workshop** - Steve Partridge, Director Housing Consultancy, Savills
- **New build Network** - Meetings bring together representatives from ARCH, CWAG and the NFA with an interest in developing new council housing. There have been three meetings of the New Build Network during the past year reflecting the increasing focus on local authority development.

Forward Programme

This includes proposal for a CWAG commissioned project with TPAS for a 'Tenant Engagement Good Practice Toolkit' to identify good practice where tenant engagement is delegated to the ALMO but the council as landlord retains responsibility for overall performance and outcomes.

In addition, we are also looking to implement a number of changes to the CWAG website addressing feedback from members. Changes aim to make the site more user friendly, providing more streamlined user journeys and improve the site layout.

CWAG is keen to continue to receive support from the LGA on key policy areas, in

particular in respect of discussions around changes to regulation, further measures to promote local authority new-build and highlighting the ongoing impact of welfare reform on both tenants and landlords.

SIG Name:	District Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr John Fuller
Lead Officer:	Matthew Hamilton – DCN Director

Aims

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 in 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 helping to prevent 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 the quality of life by safeguarding our environment, promoting public health and leisure and creating attractive places to live, work and raise families

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

Over the past 12 months we have had numerous lobbying victories on a number of key issues such as:

- the removal of negative RSG for 2019-20 with an average saving of £380,000 per affected district
- no further increase in the new homes bonus baseline
- lifting of HRA cap
- introduction of 20% flexibility to increase planning fees
- seeing the withdrawal of proposals for funding for short term supported housing to be delivered to County councils
- seeing additional monies for DFGs being transferred directly to district councils
- confirmation of the end of the process (sunset clause) that forced unitarisation where not all councils were in agreement
- greater recognition of the district role in prevention and establishing closer partnerships with PHE and NHS England
- engaged with parliamentarians through the APPG for district councils on LEPs, housing and finance
- successfully called for High Street Funding to be available only to districts in two

- tier areas
- secured a proportion of the Brexit grant for district councils who were due to receive nothing

In 2018/19 we have delivered:

- Our Annual Conference (which achieved very high satisfaction ratings)
- 3 DCN Assemblies /AGM.
- Chief Executives' conference
- Finance seminar on Fair Funding
- 4 Staff Development Programme events
- A joint event with Homes England
- A survey on the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 6 months on
- A survey on recycling and waste services ahead of government consultation

Our total attendance for events was over 800 people for 2018/19 with 88% of our members engaging with us in this last year which is a 6% increase on engagement in 2017.

DCN Annual Conference

This was our third DCN annual conference, welcoming over 100 districts to join us in celebrating "Districts Delivering the Difference". Building on last year's success, the event was attended by high profile speakers including:

- Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Rt Hon Liz Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- Rishi Sunak MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Mark Pawsey MP, Chair of the APPG for District Councils
- Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Tom Walker, Deputy Chief Executive, Homes England
- Bill Grimsey, Author of The Grimsey Review: The vanishing high street

We are delighted with the success of the conference, with an extremely positive rating from 92% of attendees.

Publications

In 2018/19 we produced 4 high profile reports which have received national coverage and have been shared with Senior Ministers. These are:

- Transformation in Localities Toolkit - in conjunction with Grant Thornton UK LLP, this report helps districts to achieve collaborative transformation.

- Delivering the District Difference - a joint report with the APPG for district councils on the future of local government finance
- Tackling Homelessness - our report on homelessness and rough sleeping based on the results of our survey of members following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018)
- Shaping Healthy Places; exploring the district council role in health – our joint report with the LGA using case studies from a number of districts who have improved the health of their local areas.

Communications and Media

- We have introduced a bi-monthly Chief Executive newsletter alongside our bi-monthly Chairman's newsletter which provides an update on DCN activities
- We have seen an 83% increase in media coverage since 2017
- We have had over 230,000 impressions through our 120 tweets on Twitter
- We have produced a video to accompany our Shaping Healthy Places report which you can find on our [website](#)

SIG Name:	F40 campaign for fair school funding
Lead Member:	Cllr James McInnes, Devon County Council
Lead Officer:	Karen Westcott

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

The f40 campaign group was launched more than 20 years ago with the central aim of influencing significant change in the way Government allocates funding to local authorities and schools. The group is made up of 42 local authorities who are among the lowest funded for education in England.

f40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live, and wish to see schools properly funded and equipped to enable them to provide a quality education to meet the future needs of Britain.

Under the current system, schools are not funded equitably. We recognise that those schools with pupils with higher additional needs should receive more funding, but the way this is applied across the country is inconsistent and unfair. Historically some schools are getting additional funding through a range of add-ons and protections and we believe that this is fundamentally wrong. All schools should receive the same core funding to allow them to operate successfully and to offer the best education possible to their pupils.

The campaign's first major breakthrough occurred when the government recognised that a new, fairer and more transparent school funding system should be introduced. Following consultations in 2016 and 2017, f40 hoped that the case for fair funding for schools had been won as the Government agreed that the funding allocation system was unjustifiable and unfair. The introduction of a National Funding Formula and additional funding of £1.3 billion for 2018-19 and 2019-20 were welcomed and f40 viewed the overall outcome as another step towards fairer funding.

However, regrettably, the group continues to have fundamental concerns about the new formula as some of the historic unfairness has been locked into the new formula. We believe the Government has replaced one unfair system with another.

The National Funding Formula falls short of what was expected, does not deliver true fairness and is, therefore, in need of fundamental change. Particular concerns are that the formula does not give enough basic entitlement to schools and allows too much for add-ons, enabling big differences in funding to occur between different local authorities and schools.

The main objectives of our ongoing campaign are:

- Urgent changes to the National Funding Formula to make it fairer, more easily understood and transparent so that it meets the aspirations for equity set out in early

consultations. We seek the removal of the historic inequalities and funding protections in the system, and the raising of basic entitlement to ensure the core cost of running a school are met.

- An immediate increase of £2.4billion in the amount invested in schools to ensure there is sufficient to meet the cost pressures facing all schools and to allow them to operate successfully and provide quality education for all children, regardless of where they live. This must be index-linked.
- An immediate injection of £1.5billion of additional funding to deal with a crisis in High Needs provision across the country. We also seek legislation to allow structural change in the way High Needs is managed by local authorities.

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. Updated modelling was presented to the Department for Education in April 2019. 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 NEU, 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.

SIG Name:	Key Cities
Lead Member:	Cllr Peter Box CBE (Leader, Wakefield Council)
Lead Officer:	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

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. Our APPG was re-launched on the 28th April 2018.

- The next APPG meeting has been scheduled to take place Wednesday 10th July 2019 with a focus on bridging the skills gap through the Industrial Strategy.

Conferences and Events

- Young People's Conference held in Huddersfield (hosted by Kirklees Council) on 25th July 2018.
- Beyond Brexit event held in London (hosted by Sunderland) on the 20th November 2018.
- Future of City and Town Centres conference on 29th January 2019. This conference was fully booked and exceeded the venue capacity of 250 people.
- NLGN "Cities in Action" parliamentary launch on 5th February 2019.
- Key Cities and Core cities "Cultural Cities enquiry" launch on 5th February 2019.
- Fringe event at the LGA's annual conference in Bournemouth 6pm-7pm 3rd July 2019.
- Joint Fringe event between Key Cities and Core cities 3rd July 8am-9am at the Marriott Hotel, Highcliffe, Bournemouth. Focus to be on tourism levies.

Media activity

- Significant press coverage around the Key Cities Future of City and Town centres conference including Open Access Government and the Guardian.
- 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, The Times (Raconteur), First and MJ.

Collaborative partnerships

- Developing relationships and linkages with think tanks, (including Onward) and universities (including Leeds Beckett University) 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.

Other projects

- Commissioned a research report on Economic Growth to be completed in partnership with New Local Government Network (NLGN).
- Commissioned a research report on Cities in Action to be completed in partnership with New Local Government Network (NLGN).

SIG Name:	Local Authority Pension Fund Forum
Lead Member:	LAPFF Executive Committee
Lead Officer:	Doug McMurdo, LAPFF Chair (Acting)

Aim

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is the UK's leading collaborative shareholder engagement group. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together 80 public sector pension funds and six pools 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 platform for discussion of investment issues and shareholder engagement for local authority pension funds and LGPS pools. Member investment activities have important implications for beneficiaries, local communities and the wider economy. The collective influence gained by members collaborating on issues of common concern has an impact in relation to the companies in which they invest.

- During the year under review, LAPFF undertook 166 company engagements with 98 different companies including over 40 face-to-face meetings with companies. In the 2018 AGM season, LAPFF attended eight AGMs and issued 12 voting alerts. The alerts primarily related to carbon risk reporting. LAPFF's work was been covered by a wide variety of UK and global media outlets.

- LAPFF's presence in the policy domain was maintained through a number of consultation submissions. A response to the FRC on revisions to the corporate governance code referred to companies' culture as well as commenting on issues with the FRC's own culture. The Forums critique focused on the relevance of the FRC's failings in the context of the collapse of Carillion. In April 2018 the Secretary of State announced that Sir John Kingman would lead a review of the FRC. LAPFF was invited to meet Sir John early in his inquiry and then made a full submission. This included that the FRC cannot be remodelled and it should be disbanded.

- The Forum engaged with a number of companies on employment standards including Ryanair. As strikes by Ryanair crews widened, factors identified in the Forum's previous public statements outlining the flaws in the Company's governance and working

practices were realised. A LAPFF Executive member attended the company AGM and recommended opposition to the re-election of Chair David Bonderman. Other related engagement on employment standards was with Sports Direct International. The Forum had opposed the re-election of Keith Hellowell as Chair since 2015 when concerns increased about the Company's poor employment standards. At the AGM in September 2018 the company announced that Mr Hellowell would step down.

- LAPFF continued to advocate for strategic resilience in the face of the climate crisis. A meetings with National Grid explored the company's approach to sustainability in light of the ongoing 'energy revolution'. In its work towards the development of a net zero carbon economy, the Forum issued a Climate Change Investment Policy Framework to help member funds and others guide their policy approach to investment risks and opportunities related to the impact of climate change. A newer theme on environmental risk was the impact of plastics, for asking Unilever about its strategy for reducing single use plastics.

- A recurring concern for the year under review was that of cyber security and the risks to investors that poor management of the issue represents. LAPFF responded by increasing its engagement with companies, meeting with the chairs of Lloyds Banking Group and WPP to discuss their related governance and risk management arrangements.

- LAPFF continued to extend its reach through regular meetings of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Local Authority Pension Funds. The APPG is chaired by Clive Betts MP, chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. Pooling remained a prominent topic for discussion alongside opportunities for members in infrastructure investment. LAPFF also continued its programme of fringe meeting events during the party political conference season with meetings organised at the Labour, Conservative and Scottish Nationalist Party conferences.

- Support for LAPFF's work has resulted in membership growing to 80 funds and six pools.

SIG Name:	The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA)
Lead Member:	
Lead Officer:	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

2018/19 was another successful year for NABMA. Engagement with Government was through the All-Party Markets Parliamentary Group and Bob Neil MP was welcomed as the new Chairman.

The Love Your Local Market campaign went worldwide, promoting entrepreneurship, and the involvement of young people in markets. We continue to work with partners in WUWM that enabled the concept of Love Your Local Market to go global.

NABMA had a sustained membership and our Conferences and other events attracted a large number of delegates.

The Annual Conference at Stratford Upon Avon attracted a record number of delegates and the One-Day Seminar at Birmingham was highly successful with Mark Lloyd, the Chief Executive of the LGA presenting the Great British Market Awards.

The Great British Market Awards, promoted by NABMA, provided a wide range of entries for each category and demonstrated the quality and innovation clearly evident at many markets across the UK.

NABMA continues to emphasise that markets should not be seen in isolation. This is now particularly important with the launch of the Future High Streets Fund when NABMA has provided references for many members in their bidding for the important funding that is available.

As a Special Interest Group, NABMA can only operate successfully if there is a framework within the LGA which enables the LGA and Special Interest Groups to work together where the flow of information is both effective and meaningful. Discussions have taken place with the LGA to achieve this but, with the Future of the High Street so high on many agendas then NABMA believes, as a key organisation, that it is worthy of a seat at the table when town and city centre strategies, and consultations are promoted.

2019 is a landmark for NABMA as it celebrates its centenary. It has appointed a new Chief Executive who will take up office in October 2019. It now operates as a separate company in terms of trading but its aims, objectives, and work programme remain consistent with its heritage.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

In summary, 2019 is a very important year for NABMA and as such dialogue and involvement with the LGA to promote markets in a wider forum is regarded to be essential.

SIG Name:	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Holdcroft, East Suffolk Council (until 2 May 2019)
Lead Officer:	Lisa Chandler, East Suffolk 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. The last elected Chairman, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, was replaced following Local Council elections by Cllr Rivett. At the annual NNLAG conference to take place in June 2019, the Isle of Anglesey County Council has agreed to take over the Chair, and this will take place at the annual conference on the 20 June 2019. The Isle of Anglesey County Council will therefore takeover the secretariat role including responsibility to report to the LGA annually. The Chair is expected to serve for a period of two years.
2. During 2018-19 officer meetings were held in June 2018, November 2018, and March 2019. 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. The annual NNLAG conference is being held in June 2019 in Somerset and will be hosted by Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council and Somerset County Council. Councillors, officers and invited guests, including promoters from new nuclear development sites, will hear from a wide range of speakers and panels and (hopefully – yet to be confirmed) from a senior official at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
4. The co-ordination of the group is now with East Suffolk Council (following the merger of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council). There is an annual charge to members to cover the costs of organising and administering the group. The fee for 2018-19 was £500. Additional costs such as delegate rates for meeting attendance and conference attendance are charged at cost to the appropriate attending authority.
5. 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.
6. 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.

SIG Name:	NuLeAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum)
Lead Member:	Cllr Brendan Sweeney (Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council)
Lead Officer:	Philip Matthews, Executive Director, NuLeAF

Aim

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 3 meetings of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Meeting topics included: annual review with Magnox Ltd of their work programme, the prospectus for the Geological Disposal Facility siting process, and the Site Evaluation process for the same, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) work programme, in-situ disposal of radioactive waste; joint working between local authorities and site operators to produce a site masterplan, and socio-economics and nuclear skills with BEIS and NDA.
- Published 8 newsletters for contributing member authorities, 4 e-bulletins issued to full mailing list and responded to 6 consultations, circulating draft responses to members both for comment and as a resource for their own responses.
- Reviewed all NuLeAF Briefing Papers and Policy Statements prior to revision where necessary.

Geological Disposal Facility

- Gave evidence to UK Parliament Select Committee on National Policy Statement.
- Presented to Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) staff on the local authority issues and views of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Supported RWM at LGA Conference 2018 to raise awareness amongst local authorities of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Provided updates to LGA policy officer following the launch of the Geological Disposal Facility.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- Engaged with NDA on their work on socio-economics and the development of a new socio-economic strategy
- continued engagement with government on work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls (PRC) and in-situ disposal of radioactive waste for nuclear licensed sites;
- Assisted NDA is attracting a local authority audience to their Stakeholder Summit in Gloucestershire, including a delegation of European local authority representatives.

Other meetings attended and other workstreams:

- Inaugural meeting of reconvened Radioactive Substances Policy Group
- 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 workstreams; plus 4 meetings and 2 teleconferences with RWM to discuss specific issues. Also met with senior staff of RWM to discuss work proposals.
- 7 NDA Theme Overview Group meetings on Site Restoration and Integrated Waste Management.
- 4 meetings of the Low Level Waste National Waste Programme Group and 3 meetings of the Integrated Radioactive Waste Programme Group.
- Visited underground facilities in Dessel, Belgium and held meetings with European Commission and Parliament. Participated in AGM of Group of Municipal Facilities with Nuclear Sites, and at their request carried out review of their future work programme.
- 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.
- Attended networking event with Nuclear Industry Association Decommissioning Group

SIG Name:	Public Transport Consortium
Lead Member:	Cllr Harold Davenport
Lead Officer:	John Pope

Aim

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;
- represent interests of member authorities to Government, the Local Government Association, operators and other organisations involved in public transport; and
- provide advice and guidance to member authorities concerning Passenger Transport policy and operations

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Hosted 6 plenary and 3 executive meetings

The Consortium has responded to the following consultations:

Consultation on the use of Section 19 & 22 Permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain

DfT Registration process and appeals mechanism

Easier Fares consultation

Cross Country passenger rail consultation

Cross Country franchise

Bus Services Act 2017 – Accessible information

Bus Services Act 2017 – Open Data

Government response to Consultation – Registration of local bus services in an Enhanced Partnership Area.

Rail Industry review (Williams)

Taxi & Private Hire Licensing consultation on Statutory Guidance for Licensing Authorities

DfT Pay as you go rail fare consultation

East West Rail consultation

Welsh Government White Paper on legislating for reform of bus services and taxi and private hire vehicle licensing

Liaised with:

Department for Transport on a variety of topics such as Open Data, the Use of Section 19 & 22 permits

Greengauge 21, including involvement in the organising of the Plymouth Seminar on 28 February,

Transport Focus

Confederation of Passenger Transport regarding the KPMG report on Trends in English

Bus Patronage
Rail Delivery Group
Transport Knowledge Hub, including representation on the Board.

Arranged a regional meeting and study tour to Durham for members, touring the Hitachi train depot at Newton Aycliffe and the Beamish Museum

SIG Name:	Rural Services Network
Lead Member:	Councillor Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council)
Lead Officer:	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, and we also recognise Rural Vulnerability as a cross cutting issue.

- 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 to £81 million, an increase of £16million more than was planned for 19-20 which was £65Million.

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 2018-2019 the SPARSE-Rural and Rural Assembly collective debated:

- Brexit – the impact on rural communities
- Sounding Board survey on access to cash difficulties
- Rural Conference 2018
- Community Banking
- Rural Bus Services
- Findings of the Rural Crime Survey
- Time for a Rural Strategy Campaign
- Business Rate Retention Consultation
- Needs and Resources Consultation

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 House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy, the challenges facing the rural economy, the long - term funding of adult social care, the use of assisted health and social care technology in Shropshire and Hampshire and a presentation from the Bank of

England.

The RSN hosted a successful conference at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham in Sept 2018 which focused on “Delivering services differently in rural areas”. This enabled the member authorities to attend and hear from expert speakers and debate key issues around rural service delivery.

We hosted six free seminars/networking meetings 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 Rural Economy.

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

SIG Name:	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Keith Artus (Chairman)
Lead Officer:	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.
- xiii. To instigate and design, in collaboration with external partners, innovative policies

and methodologies for identifying, measuring and addressing effectively the noise, health, social infrastructure and wider strategic planning impacts of airport development.

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

- Although the Department for Transport's Aviation 'External Advisory Group' (EAG), which SASIG is a member of has been suspended in favour of a Brexit 'Roundtable', which we are not, SASIG is now recognised as a 'strategic stakeholder' by DfT and its views are actively sought during consultations.
- Evidence of this is that in late 2018 the SASIG Chairman was invited to sit on the board of the DfT's new Airspace Strategy Board chaired by the Aviation Minister. The first meetings were held in October 2018 and February 2019 both of which our Chairman attended.
- SASIG regularly attends the DfT's Airspace & Noise Engagement Group (ANEG). The last two meetings were held in September 2018 and March 2019 with the next meeting scheduled to be held in July 2019.
- The CAA also continues to seek SASIG's views on its programme of work, particularly now on how decisions on airspace change should be made and, once again, invited SASIG to attend the meeting of its Board on 7th November 2018 along with other selected industry stakeholders.
- SASIG also regularly attends the CAA's Community Discussion Forum (CDF). The last meeting was held in July 2018. The date of the next meeting is yet to be advised.
- 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 to be advised.
- SASIG met with Aviation Minister, Baroness Sugg in November 2018 to highlight its work and promote future mutual co-operation with Government officials.
- In June and July 2018, SASIG attended a number of DfT focus groups regarding

airspace modernisation and noise issues.

- In March 2019 the Chairman met with Catherine Adams, Deputy Director, Aviation Strategy, Department for Transport

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. In December 2018, the SASIG Chairman met with the newly appointed Head of the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN). In March 2019, the Head of Secretariat met with Stephen Dark, Deputy Director Tourism at DCMS.

Conferences and Public Fora

In July 2018 SASIG attended the UK Airport Infrastructure Development Forum in London. The SASIG Chairman was also a guest speaker at the Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: Priorities for the UK Aviation Strategy in April 2019.

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 Name:	SIGOMA
Lead Member:	Sir Stephen Houghton
Lead Officer:	Frances Foster

Aim

To lobby central government in order to help secure sufficient, sustainable and fair funding so that our members can maintain vital services and continue to invest in improving their local areas.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

- Representing our member's interests on business rates working and steering groups.
- Responding to a range of consultations and inquiries including the recent Review of Local Authorities' Relative Needs and Resources and consultation on Business rates retention reform.
- Participating in conference calls with government departments and other sector representatives to help facilitate information sharing in preparation for a possible no deal Brexit, raising our members concerns and passing on the latest guidance.
- Organising meetings of our officers and leaders groups to share our research and detail the progress of our campaigns, providing an opportunity for our members to feed in their views and ideas.
- Creating videos and infographics to better communicate our key messages that local government funding must be sufficient, sustainable and fairly allocated.
- Producing PR and Op-ed pieces to communicate our stance in the local, regional and national press.
- Building an active and growing presence on social media in order to ensure our content reaches an even wider audience.
- Delivering creative campaigns across print, online and social media.
- Providing a regular email bulletin service to help SIGOMA finance officers keep abreast of the latest policy developments, legislation changes, funding allocations and technical insights in local government.
- Providing insights, analysis and advice to finance officers regarding the local government finance settlement, spring and autumn statements and other milestones in the local government calendar.
- Issuing official correspondence and FOI requests to ministers and other organisations to ensure our members have a clear understanding of central government policy and to seek to hold power to account.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board

17 July 2019

SIG Name:	Unitary Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE – Leader of Bracknell Forest Council
Lead Officer:	Stuart McKellar – Borough Treasurer of Bracknell Forest Council

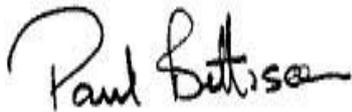
Aim

To promote, support and represent the aims and ambitions of the Unitary Councils of England.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The past year has been one of consolidation for the Unitary Councils' Network, establishing itself as the unique voice and representative body of unitary councils throughout England to ministers and their civil service officials. Meetings and regular dialogue have been set up with ministers and MHCLG officials, as well as MHCLG briefing the network at its own regular meetings.

To further the relationship between UCN and MHCLG, the services of an independent consultant have been engaged to further work on the unique offer that UCN can make to MHCLG in the furtherance of joint ambitions.



Councillor Paul Bettison OBE
Leader of Bracknell Forest Council
Chairman of the Unitary Councils' Network

SIG Name:	World Heritage UK (WH UK)
Lead Member:	Bath and North-East Somerset Council
Lead Officer:	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.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

WH UK continues to liaise closely with Historic England, DCMS, and the UK UNESCO National Commission which provides for information exchange, training and support, and contact with Parliamentarians. We have collaborated with Cadw and Historic Environment Scotland in arranging meetings and are appreciative of the sponsorship offered by all these bodies.

Within the period of this report we held two major events to meet our Objects;-

1. A two day national World Heritage Conference at The Tower of London WHS on the subject of "Setting the Scene for World Heritage". Over 100 delegates attended, including the Minister. Controversial issues, such as tall buildings in WH Sites, were debated;
2. A technical skills development workshop at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre focussing on youth involvement.

They have all elicited very positive feedback and have given us confidence that we are achieving success as a charity, and also learning from our members. Over the period we grew our membership in terms of both voting and non-voting members, and disseminated

a large number of news blogs in relation to the subject matter.

The Review of the UK's WH Sites is underway under the direction of our President, Chris Blandford. This focuses on the needs of the UK's WH 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.

In connection with the Review a successful application has been made to the HLF Resilience Fund. A Project Manager is to be appointed.