

## **Rewiring Public Services – The LGA’s priorities 2014-15**

### **Purpose**

For information.

### **Summary**

This report details the LGA’s Business plan priorities and provides an introduction to the Rewiring Public Services campaign, which seeks to rejuvenate democracy, transform public services and boost economic growth.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board **note** the LGA’s Rewiring Public Services document and the verbal update provided.

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

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## Rewiring Public Services – The LGA's priorities 2014-15

### Background

1. Local government has managed huge cuts in public spending and is working hard on new ways to deliver services, but the outlook for public spending tells us that more cuts are in the pipeline. That means reforms to big services, like social care are vital, but that a return to growth and growing tax revenues are needed to avoid damaging cuts to vital frontline services in future; councils must therefore play their full part in getting the UK economy back into growth, and must be given the policy levers to do so.

### Our priorities for local government

2. The LGA's Business Plan for 2013/14 sets out priorities for the organisation which are based on those issues that that matter most to our membership, and is available at [http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=e2f772ff-1c5e-4ed5-a35c-20a3d57b97e5&groupId=10171](http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=e2f772ff-1c5e-4ed5-a35c-20a3d57b97e5&groupId=10171).
3. For 2013/14 the three top priorities for local government are:
  - 3.1 **Funding for local government** – reform of the finance system so councils have confidence their financing is sustainable and fair, the opportunities to raise more funds locally, and greater ability to promote collective working across local public services.
  - 3.2 **Economic growth, jobs and prosperity** – councils are recognised as central to economic growth.
  - 3.3 **Public service reform** – independent councils are at the centre, and seen to be at the centre, of public service reform, delivering more effective services for local people and holding other providers to account.
4. These three priorities are supported and underpinned by the Rewiring Public Services campaign, which seeks to rejuvenate democracy, transform public services and boost economic growth.

### Rewiring Public Services

5. The Rewiring Public Services campaign expands on how these priorities can be achieved through ten big ideas which are:
  - 5.1 **Give people a meaningful vote on local tax and spending issues.** A local treasury in every place.
  - 5.2 **Cut red tape.** Bring local services and decision together in one place.
  - 5.3 **Reduce bureaucracy and Whitehall silos.** Merge six government departments and creating an England Office.
  - 5.4 **Share money fairly around the UK.** Replace the Barnett formula with a new needs-based funding model.

- 5.5 **Take financial distribution out of the hands of Ministers hands.** Replace it with agreement across English local government.
  - 5.6 **Strengthen local say.** Reduce Ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions.
  - 5.7 **End flawed tick-box inspections by bureaucrats.** Create local service user champions.
  - 5.8 **Boost investment in infrastructure.** Create a thriving market in municipal bonds.
  - 5.9 **A multi-year funding settlement** tied to the life of the Parliament.
  - 5.10 **Protect local democracy.** Give the local government settlement formal constitutional protection.
6. The full publication is available to download from the LGA website:  
[http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10171/4047947/PUBLICATION-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10171/4047947/PUBLICATION-TEMPLATE)