

Paying for places – local authority budgets in 2012-13 and beyond

Purpose of report

For information and discussion

Summary

1. The landscape of local government finance is changing rapidly. The summer has seen major consultations on the relocalisation of business rates and the localisation of council tax benefit. More recently, the government has announced proposals for a council tax freeze grant for 2012-13, and a consultation on council tax discounts and exemptions.
2. As all of this change is taking place in the context of substantial cuts in local authorities' funding, the budget setting rounds for the next few years are likely to be more than usually challenging. This session provides members with an opportunity to discuss some of the issues that are likely to feature in most councils' local debates.
3. The session will present new analysis from the LGA showing how councils responded to the cuts in 2011-12 and how the Local Government Resource Review and council tax benefit localisation might significantly change the way in which councils will think about their budgets in future.

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