

Item 2

Spending Review Submission

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The LGA's Spending Review submission was sent to the Treasury, Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and other Government Departments on 29 April. Officers will provide a verbal update at the Panel meeting on the early reaction from Government.

Recommendation

The Panel are invited to discuss the submission and the follow up with Ministers.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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Spending Review Submission

1. The LGA's Spending Round submission was sent to the Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) and CLG on 29 April, following a request in a recent letter from Brandon Lewis MP to the LGA Chairman to submit evidence that day (which was also the deadline for departmental submissions to HMT).
2. The Finance Panel commented on:
 - 2.1. an overview of the LGA Spending Round submission;
 - 2.2. a paper on local government finance; and
 - 2.3. a paper showing how a typical council has been affected by the funding reductions in SR10, its contribution to growth, the impact of further reductions in 2015-16 and how our proposed measures would help.
3. There were also 9 other themed papers on: adult services; children's services; culture, sport and the digital economy; energy; fire; growth; housing; transport; and waste.
4. Community Budgets was a theme running through all of the papers.
5. These 9 papers were cleared through the relevant LGA Boards. The main asks of the Government for the Spending Round was covered in the overview. The main themes, and the approach, were agreed by Leadership Board on 10 April.
6. Individual themed papers were sent only to Ministers in the relevant Department or Departments (not to all Departments). CLG and HMT received all of the papers plus the overview and the impact on a typical council paper.
7. Follow up meetings with Cabinet Ministers are now beginning to take place, along with meetings with other lobbying bodies who can support our positions. We are keen to continue working with Government Departments in the run up to decisions being taken before the outcome of the review is announced on 26 June.
8. In particular, we are seeking an outline of the process until then. We will identify the key decision points - the bi-laterals between the Chief Secretary and Spending Ministers, and meetings of the group within Cabinet that take the final decisions - and time our interventions to influence them too.
9. Copies of the full LGA submission are attached at **Appendix A**.