

## Our priorities – 2011/12

We work with members through the nine programme boards of the LG Group, with whom we have identified the following priorities:

	<b>achieving greater devolution for local government</b>	<b>helping councils tackle their challenges</b>
<b>children and young people</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education reforms</li> <li>• Children's health – linked to NHS reforms</li> <li>• Youth Justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective approach to sector-based support in children's services</li> <li>• Safeguarding children – councils have a clear framework</li> <li>• Support to achieve increased productivity in children's services</li> </ul>
<b>community wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS White Paper</li> <li>• Public Health White Paper</li> <li>• Future funding of adult social care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective approach to sector-based support in adult social care</li> <li>• Safeguarding adults – councils have a clear framework</li> <li>• Support to achieve increased productivity in adult social care, health and wellbeing services</li> <li>• Support to ensure that councils are effective in promoting fairness and tackling inequality in their communities</li> <li>• The Ageing Well programme (grant-funded)</li> </ul>
<b>economy and transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New powers to commission public transport locally</li> <li>• Councils' economic development role - ensuring councils and LEPs have real funding and roles in infrastructure, employment and skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to councils and LEPs to take full advantage of the opportunities available including building capacity to work with partners and engage with the private sector</li> <li>• Support to enable councils to use innovative financial mechanisms, programmes and powers to develop infrastructure</li> </ul>

	<b>achieving greater devolution for local government</b>	<b>helping councils tackle their challenges</b>
<b>environment and housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reformed planning system (Localism Bill, new National Planning Policy Framework, financial incentives)</li> <li>• Provision, allocation and regulation of social housing including vulnerable people</li> <li>• Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation and Feed in Tariffs</li> <li>• Waste Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement and self-regulation for energy and climate</li> <li>• Support to enable councils to seize opportunities and manage the risks arising from the changes to planning, working through the Planning Advisory Service (grant-funded)</li> <li>• Support and advice to ensure that councils are effective in flood risk management</li> </ul>
<b>safer and stronger communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill</li> <li>• Emergency Planning policy and strategy development</li> <li>• “Breaking the Cycle” Green Paper</li> <li>• A flexible and locally-set license fee structure</li> <li>• Fire – redefining roles and responsibilities to improve local services while protecting national resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective approach to sector-based support in community safety through Community Safety Partnership peer reviews and other peer support</li> <li>• A programme of fire peer reviews</li> </ul>
<b>culture, tourism and sport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new approach to local community sport</li> <li>• LEPs’ role in the visitor economy</li> <li>• Councils’ concerns arising from the 2012 Games</li> <li>• Digital inclusion and superfast broadband, linking with Post Office and community services</li> <li>• A more flexible approach to live music licensing</li> <li>• Ensure the new quango landscape understands and works well with councils</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support through the Future Libraries programme</li> <li>• Sector-led approach to museums improvement</li> <li>• New Heritage Modernisation programme</li> <li>• 2012 Games – peer mentoring and sharing good practice</li> </ul>

	<b>achieving greater devolution for local government</b>	<b>helping councils tackle their challenges</b>
<b>European and international</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise UK take of structural funds budget</li> <li>• Review of EU procurement law</li> <li>• Working time directive review</li> <li>• EU targets for energy and water efficiency</li> <li>• EU waste/recycling laws</li> <li>• New EU VAT rules</li> <li>• The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive</li> <li>• Council of Europe review of local/central relations in the UK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning from international practice</li> <li>• Help councils respond to demand for support from the developing world</li> </ul>
<b>workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National pay and conditions bargaining - ensure an affordable and flexible pay and rewards framework</li> <li>• Develop an affordable and fit for purpose pension scheme</li> <li>• EU and national workforce and employment policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice, advice and support to help councils develop a productive, flexible, skilled and appropriately structured workforce</li> <li>• Advice on approaches to executive pay, pay strategies and total reward</li> <li>• With leading edge councils, practical advice, support and guidance on working jointly with other employers within a place</li> </ul>
<b>improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government self regulation and improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LG Inform - support for benchmarking, analytical capacity and analytical capacity</li> <li>• Data and transparency</li> <li>• Direct support to councils</li> <li>• A comprehensive programme of peer challenges and peer support</li> <li>• Leadership support programmes</li> <li>• Productivity programme</li> </ul>

**We have also identified the following cross-cutting priorities:**

	<b>achieving greater devolution for local government</b>	<b>helping councils tackle their challenges</b>
<b>local government finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Resource Review</li> <li>• Innovative ways of funding infrastructure/capital spending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to councils on ways to reduce their borrowing costs</li> <li>• Support to councils in meeting legal and funding challenges around fees and charges</li> <li>• Continuing support on Icelandic banks litigation</li> </ul>
<b>localism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government's decentralisation policies including the Localism Bill, public services reform white paper, and community budgets</li> <li>• Councils seen by government as having a central place in delivering its "Big Society" approach</li> <li>• Welfare reform - in the interests of improving services to local communities and local employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct support to councils on community budgets to develop learning for the sector</li> <li>• Support to councils with implementing the Localism Bill</li> </ul>