

LGA Submission to Spending Round 2013

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The 2013 Spending Round which will set out government department expenditure limits, including one for local government, for 2015/16 will be published on 26 June 2013. Following a submission to government on the Spending Round in March 2013, the LGA submitted a series of more detailed papers to government departments on 29 April.

Recommendation

The Executive is invited to discuss the LGA's submission and plan for taking the work forward.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

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Background

1. In advance of the March 2013 Budget the LGA submitted a paper to central government to influence early discussions on the 2013 Spending Round. This submission and plans for a more detailed submission in late Spring were discussed by members of the Executive during the meeting in March.
2. In Budget 2013, the government reconfirmed that total spending in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 will continue to fall in real terms at the same rate as during the Spending Review 2010. Individual department spending plans, known as departmental expenditure limits, for 2015-16 will be announced as part of the 2013 Spending Review announcement on 26 June 2013. This will include expenditure plans for local government funded through the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).

The LGA Submission

3. On 4 April 2013, Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, wrote to the Chairman of the LGA inviting us to submit views on the 2015/16 Spending Round on behalf of the sector by 29 April 2013.
4. In response to this letter, the LGA developed a series of 12 papers to influence the forthcoming Spending Round. These include a summary of the LGA's asks of government for the 15/16 Spending Round, and a paper outlining how a typical council has dealt with the funding reductions to date, its contribution to growth, the impact of further reductions in 2015-16 and how our proposed measures would help the council. The LGA produced 10 themed papers on the following areas:
 - 4.1. Local government finance;
 - 4.2. Adult social care;
 - 4.3. Children's services;
 - 4.4. Culture, sport and the digital economy;
 - 4.5. Energy;
 - 4.6. Fire and rescue services;
 - 4.7. Growth;
 - 4.8. Housing;
 - 4.9. Waste; and
 - 4.10. Transport.

Item 1

5. Community budgets was a theme that underpinned all of the papers. Views of the sector were sought on a number of these papers, and the overview paper. Each of the themed papers was cleared by the relevant Boards and Panels and Group Leaders cleared the case study style paper, the local government finance paper and the overview. Prior to this, the themes and approach were agreed by Leadership Board in April.
6. The themed papers were sent only to ministers and officials in the relevant government departments. All 12 papers were sent to ministers in HM Treasury and CLG. The papers, which were sent to ministers on 29 April, are attached at **Appendix A**.

Conclusion and next steps

7. The LGA has requested a number of meetings with ministers on the Spending Round and some of these will take place in May. The LGA will also seek meetings with other organisations that can support our case and will continue to meet with government department in advance of the Spending Round announcement on 26 June. Opportunities to influence discussions between government departments will be explored and maximised.

Financial Implications

8. This is within existing LGA resources.