
LGA Leadership Board: Supplemental Agenda

Wednesday 19 July 2017

2.15 pm

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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LGA Leadership Board

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LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| SIG Name: | County Councils Network (CCN) |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Paul Carter CBE, CCN Chairman |
| Lead Officer: | Simon Edwards, Director |

Overview

Vision

To ensure CCN is an influential and respected network, advocating innovative policy solutions on the challenges facing local government and the wider public sector.

Aim

Ensure Counties have the powers and resources to meet the needs and aspirations of their residents on issues of particular importance to our councils and their communities.

CCN Core Functions

The 2016/17 business plan set out the 'core business' and activity that CCN delivers on behalf of our member councils as a special interest group (SIG) of the LGA, including;

National Advocacy & Representation

Our network acts as the informed and representative voice for County Councils and Unitary Counties in England. We represent and advocate on behalf of our members within the LGA; make direct representations to Whitehall departments; and collaborate closely with national stakeholders.

Research & Policy Development

Combining our national level expertise and our members' frontline policy experience we produce and commission sector-based, forward thinking, research on behalf of our members and the wider public sector to provide innovative policy solutions to key challenges facing our residents.

Sharing & Promoting Best Practice

Through various platforms, including an Annual Conference, workshops, seminars, publications, research and reports we identify and share best practice across our network to enable our members, and wider public sector, to tackle the economic and social problems faced by local communities.

National Collaboration and Commissioning

The CCN works with a wide network of industry stakeholders. This includes the LGA, ACCE, SCT, ADASS, DCN and Professional Associations, as well as think-tanks, private and public sector local government partners. We seek to commission work to support our research, policy and advocacy to supplement key skills of the CCN team.

Communications & Public Affairs

CCN acts to raise the profile of the network and represent County and County Unitary Councils in the broadcast, online and print media; articulating members' views, showcasing best practice, neutralising general threats to our members' reputation. CCN seeks to influence national stakeholders through a comprehensive public affairs strategy - engaging civil servants, Ministers and other key influencers.

Political Leadership

Each Council in CCN membership nominates four elected members to serve on the **CCN Council**, and the Leader of each member council sits on the **CCN Executive Committee**. Top up places are used to ensure political proportionality on both CCN Council and Executive Committees.

The CCN Council AGM elects the **CCN Management Committee** which comprises the Chairman and a Vice Chairmen from each of the political groups. The members of the CCN Management Committee elected at the AGM September 2016 are:

- **Chairman**
 Cllr Paul Carter (Kent County Council)
- **Vice Chairmen**
 Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire County Council)
 Cllr David Borrow (Lancashire County Council)
 Cllr Jon Hubbard (Wiltshire Council)

CCN also has eight Spokesmen who have been appointed to lead on specific issues in relation to the CCN work programme.

CCN Officer Team

The work of the network is supported by a small core team based in Local Government House in Westminster (temporarily in Layden House).

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| Director | Simon Edwards |
| Head of Policy & Communications | James Maker |
| Senior Policy Officer | Elizabeth Hunter-Gray |
| Senior Policy Officer | Michael Chard |
| Media & Communications Officer | Ian Burbidge |
| Public Affairs Officer | Victoria Moloney |
| Business Support Officer | Sara Brouillette |

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Over the past 12 months CCN has succeeded in delivering the core objectives set out in our Business Plan and Work Programme, continuing our progress as an effective membership, research and policy development organisation and delivering real, tangible changes in government policy. Reflecting the challenges at the time, and those that have emerged since, CCN has;

- Increased the national profile of CCN and enhanced its position as the leading voice for county and county unitary authorities. Our profile and engagement across Whitehall, Parliament and third-party stakeholders has been significantly improved, with CCN extending its reach within Government Departments, including DCLG, the Treasury, Departments for Education, Health, and Business.
- Commissioned and published a raft of original research to support our lobbying and advocacy objectives.
- Significant increase in the media profile of the CCN with an exponential rise in national and trade media hits.
- Ensured the financial pressures facing county authorities are taken fully into consideration during settlement negotiations. Changes to Local Government Finance and increasing focus on social care funding demonstrate that the pressures facing upper-tier councils are understood more acutely than during the previous Parliament.
- Mainstreamed the debate on fairer funding and strengthen CCN's advocacy. Working with the Society of County Treasurers (SCT), we have helped deliver a commitment to the needs-based review and recently received confirmation by the Secretary of State that the Government will consult on our preferred cost-drivers approach following CCN Advocacy.
- Consistently maintained a focus on the inadequacy of social care funding, arguing for new additional funding and highlighting the unique challenges faced by rural county authorities. Working with the LGA and other key stakeholders CCN was instrumental in helping secure an additional £2bn in funding for Social Care. Moreover, a recent Communities & Local Government Select Committee report backed our calls for the Better Care Fund to be frontloaded and for the Relative Needs-Funding Formula to be updated.
- Defended the role of county authorities in education, constructively challenging the Government over forced academisation leading to an abandonment of the policy. We have also challenged inequities in the new schools funding formula.
- Successfully intervened in the debate on local government reorganisation, producing independent and impartial evidence to inform the national debate and supporting member councils who wish to pursue this agenda.
- Positively rebranded the organisation and established a new narrative centred on the *Your County Matters* campaign. This campaign has achieved traction across the sector and put in place an effective platform for CCN to communicate our core policy positions and messages over the coming period.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|-----------------|
| SIG Name: | LGA Coastal SIG |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Andy Smith |
| Lead Officer: | Bill Parker |

Aims of the Coastal SIG

LGA Coastal SIG Mission Statement (<https://lgacoastalsig.com/about/mission-statement/>) The LGA Coastal SIG will champion and take forward the coastal strategy and represent the collective interests of all maritime local authorities by:

- a. bringing pressure on the Government to achieve a step change in the level of funding to overcome present and future problems;
- b. use every opportunity to secure full involvement of local Government at all levels of policy formulation concerning the coast;
- c. strongly oppose any changes which take responsibility and decision-making powers out of the hands of local democratic leaders.

(ToR agreed 11 December 2007. Available at <https://lgacoastalsig.com/about/terms-of-reference/>)

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Relationships with Government: in furtherance of its objectives, the SIG has been fortunate to develop very close relationships with government, notably the Floods Minister Therese Coffey and the Chair of The EA, Emma Howard Boyd, and their respective staffs, and also a wide range of other NGOs.

Funding for coastal management: Concern over the future of funding to local authorities to deliver their responsibilities under the Coast Protection Act has been raised by many SIG LAs, notably Scarborough Borough Council, and via the Coastal Groups. Funding of management and maintenance of coast protection assets has been paid through formula funding within the RSG, now due to cease in 2019. RSG is in principle expected to be replaced by Business Rate Retention but it is anticipated that this will result in Coast Protection funding being lost or reduced, a critical issue for Coast Protection Authorities. In contrast, the Environment Agency has full funding for assets which they manage. The SIG have ongoing liaison with the Infrastructure & Projects Authority (IPA) at HM Treasury, to develop mechanisms in government to support this work and are preparing the case to consult with Defra and DCLG as soon as possible..

Coastal Adaptation: The SIG is significantly involved to improve decision making for new developments for sites at risk of coastal erosion or flooding, particularly as Climate

Change is realised. Some coastal communities are already at risk, and some have had to be re-located. This is an issue the SIG is working to ensure that learning is shared so that future risks and impacts are minimised. The SIG has pooled learning and issues which will be shared at the [3rd European Climate Change Adaptation Conference](#), June 2017.

Members learned at a recent meeting about the implications of [historic coastal waste sites such as landfills](#) which are becoming an increasing problem.

MMO licensing Many SIG member LAs have highlighted issues with this as a significant barrier to completing projects on time and within agreed budgets. The Chairman has highlighted this issue with the MMO Chief Executive and other senior management, and South Tyneside Council are championing this issue locally with the MMO licensing team in Newcastle so that understanding and methods of working are improved.

Skills and capacity in local authorities Engineering skills within coastal Local Authorities are being lost due to retirement and lack of replacement. Increasingly LAs cannot match wages paid by consultants. SIG Lead Officer Bill Parker contributed an [article highlighting this issue in the New Civil Engineer](#) magazine. Many LAs have been managing this situation to date by working in partnership, and the SIG is actively promoting development of this solution. A summary of the seminar hosted by the SIG in 2016 is available on the [Partnership Section of the website](#). The SIG are now planning to evidence this issue and source solutions between authorities, universities and partners.

Marine Protected Areas / Marine Litter / Bathing Waters The SIG continues to champion these topics, ensuring the LA perspective is included in decision making and sharing information and best practice.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | Co-operative Councils Innovation Network |
| Lead Member: | Sharon Taylor, Leader of Stevenage Council and Chair of the CCIN |
| Lead Officer: | Jonathan Downs, Principal Policy Officer, Oldham Council |

Aim

The Cooperative Councils Innovation Network is a collaboration between local authorities who are committed to finding better ways of working for, and with, local people for the benefit of their local community.

Our work recognises the need to define a new model for local government built on civic leadership, with councils working in equal partnership with local people to shape and strengthen communities.

This means a new role for local authorities that replaces traditional models of top down governance and service delivery with local leadership, genuine co-operation, and a new approach built on the founding traditions of the co-operative movement: collective action, co-operation, empowerment and enterprise. We provide a national voice for cooperative councils, informed by real experience and practice, with the aim of drawing on, influencing and framing national policy and political debates about the future of public services, local democracy, and communities across the country.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The CCIN work programme is split into larger projects (called Policy Labs) and smaller projects (called Policy Prototypes). Policy Labs are bigger collaborative pieces of work that CCIN members will work on together, while Policy Prototypes are smaller projects that are delivered by individual members on behalf of the network. Over the past twelve months the following Policy Prototypes and Policy Labs have been delivered:

Policy Prototypes:

1. **Welcoming and helping refugees and asylum seekers** – Cardiff Council: With the refugee crisis likely to continue, many people in Britain want to make a difference and to contribute towards a positive response, but at present do not know the best and easiest way to get involved in supporting these vulnerable people. As well as providing formal training courses, Cardiff have mobilised volunteers and local communities to come together to support refugees and asylum seekers in providing a range of additional cultural learning opportunities and community activities.
2. **Closing the education attainment gap** – City of Edinburgh Council: In partnership with CCIN Councils Edinburgh have researched, identified and shared good practice from out of school care provision across Councils. Through

identifying best practice, they have worked with the parent-led, out of school care organisations, to develop a network of support for homework opportunities within breakfast club and afterschool settings.

3. **Mental Health Day** – Telford and Wrekin Council: Through collaboration with Telford Crisis Network, Telford and Wrekin organised a Mental Health Day in April 2016. The purpose of the event was to provide a joined up approach to improve support for service users across the borough.

Policy Labs:

1. **Beyond Asset Transfer** – Newcastle City Council: For some organisations, asset transfer has opened up new and exciting opportunities, whilst others have considered the option, but have decided not to pursue asset transfer due to governance and / or financial capacity. To continue to develop the concept of cooperative asset transfer, Newcastle has conducted a study into how successful organisations have been, post asset transfer. This project will enable Network Members to strengthen their support and practice around this important agenda. It will also help to define asset transfer policy in a cooperative context.
2. **Housing Commission** – Croydon Council: Symptoms of housing stress are increasingly apparent. Affordability is a major problem with rising house prices and 4 private rents, mortgages and the deposits required to secure them out of reach of families on average salaries, landlord repossessions are currently the biggest driver of homelessness, and rough sleeping is increasing in our cities. Croydon have establish a Housing Commission to examine how local councils can best work with their local communities, house builders, land owners, funders and other partners to provide the new homes we desperately need.
3. **From Co-operative Councils' to Co-operative Places** – Oldham and Sunderland Council: From Co-operative Councils to Co-operative Places is the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network's (CCIN) latest report which sets out a strong statement of intent about the future direction of the co-operative council approach. It is increasingly time for councils to be catalysts of place, working in equal partnership with local people to shape and strengthen communities in what can feel like an increasingly fragmenting and unpredictable political backdrop.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|---|
| SIG Name: | Councils with ALMOs Group |
| Lead Member: | Manchester City Council |
| Lead Officer: | Kenny Aitchison - Wolverhampton City Council (CWAG Chair) |

Aim

CWAG is the representative body of stock owning authorities where the housing stock is managed by Arm's Length Management Organisations (ALMOs).

As a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), CWAG is keen to work with the LGA to inform and influence policy activity on housing so it reflects the needs and concerns of Councils with ALMOs.

The Group aims to provide an effective link between member authorities and government departments, and others with a national policy and operational remit affecting councils with ALMOs.

CWAG aims to have an active role in influencing the national policy agenda, particularly in respect of ALMOs.

CWAG aims to develop positive partnerships with ALMOs and the National Federation of ALMOs to ensure best outcome for tenants / leaseholders.

The Group is also a forum for member authorities, providing mutual support, facilitating the exchange of ideas and sharing best practice between members.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

During the past year the CWAG work programme has focussed on the following areas:

1. Policy Briefings and Analysis

Given the level of uncertainty around the implementation arrangements for a number of key policies, for example, the higher value assets levy, 'pay to stay' and fixed term tenancies, CWAG has focussed on providing timely briefings and updates to members on these issues along with regular wider updates on housing policy at CWAG General Meetings.

2. Working with Others

Throughout this year CWAG has continued to work with the Local Government Association (LGA), National Federation of ALMOs (NFA) and the Association of Retained

Council Housing (ARCH) sharing information on the emerging policy agenda. In addition to regular 'catch-up meetings', we have also met jointly with DCLG officials.

3. Providing Support for CWAG Members – Networking and Sharing Good Practice

The group continues to provide opportunities for members to network and share information with other councils with ALMOs who face similar issues.

The members' survey and other feedback provide the basis for planning events and setting the priorities within the work programme.

The CWAG website (<http://www.councilswithalmo.org.uk>) includes a 'members' area with noticeboard, discussion forum, document library and topic areas where information, case studies and other material from member authorities can be shared.

4. CWAG Meetings and Events

CWAG continues to offer a programme of General Meetings and workshops, with input from guest speakers and sector experts as well as practical case studies from CWAG members.

Topics are identified from member feedback and suggestions. In the past year the programme has included presentations covering housing policy; welfare reform; improving joint working between housing and health; and practical case studies and examples of good practice.

Topics covered in the past 12 months

- Update on the Housing and Planning Act 2016 - Andrew Barry-Pursell – Westminster CC
- Housing and Planning Act' What Next? - John Bibby, CEO of ARCH –Keynote presentation AGM
- The Housing White Paper – implications for councils with ALMOs? - Catherine Hand, Trowers and Hamlin – Presentation and discussion.
- Universal Credit – One Year On Findings from the 2016 NFA & ARCH Welfare Reform Survey - Chloe Fletcher – NFA Policy Director
- Initiatives for under 35s - Case study Solihull MBC
- Cornwall Housing 'U' Can stock-wide tenant profiling pilot. Case Study
- Health and Housing Workshop led by Gill Leng - National home and health advisor for Public Health England.
- Making best use of the Hometrack Market Intelligence Tool. - Rob Owens - Propositions Analyst Hometrack

Looking Forward

With the forthcoming General Election, the housing sector now faces a period of uncertainty. CWAG will continue to represent the interests of councils with ALMOs, working through the established partnership with the LGA.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | District Councils Network |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Neil Clarke (DCN Chair until 4 July) |
| Lead Officer: | Matthew Hamilton – DCN Director |

Aim

The aim of the District Councils' Network is to be the national voice of District Councils, working with our authorities, partners and government to deliver national growth and prosperity and services at a scale that make sense to local communities.

The DCN strives to support the development of innovative and collaborative solutions for people and places. We do this through:

- Collaboration and Networking
- Influencing national policy
- Commissioning evidence based research and developing new ways of working with our member organisations and partners
- Using our connections to our communities to give real-life, real-time perspectives

The DCN has four priority areas:

- Driving national growth and prosperity - making sure Districts are best placed and incentivised to drive national productivity through business and housing growth
- Devolution and the future of local government in localities- Putting Districts at the heart of devolution and the transformation of public sector delivery, delivering those services that matter to residents the most.
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our communities - ensuring Districts have a key role in the integration of health and social care and delivering preventative services.
- Resourcing a new local government sector- Transforming local government finance to support local decision making, enhanced self-sufficiency and freedoms, flexibilities to generate new income streams, and providing incentives for growth

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

This has been another busy and productive year for the DCN. Over the last year we believe the DCN has gone from strength to strength in representing and reflecting the views of district councils and Local Government more widely at national level. We look forward to continuing to ensure that our collective voice is heard loud and clear over the coming year at a time when the New Government will be taking forward measures on a range of issues that run to the very heart of what we do as districts councils including implementing the Housing White Paper, the Industrial Strategy and 100% retention of business rates.

Despite its small core team the DCN has continued to benefit from working collaboratively with resources from individual district councils , the LGA and other bodies such as think

tanks and universities and we have taken forward many initiatives over the last year including

- A new All Party Parliamentary Group for District Councils has been established, chaired by Mark Pawsey MP. The APPG has hit the ground running and has conducted an Inquiry in relation to collaboration and devolution which saw representations from over 7 councils as well as four high profile oral evidence giving sessions with input from District Councils and MPs alike. The Report will be launched on the 12 July at the House of Commons
- The DCN also hosted its first National Conference on the 2-3 February 'District Delivering Growth' and we were delighted that over 180 people attended this high profile and successful two day event which featured two Secretaries of State, Sajid Javid MP and Greg Clark MP, as well as Gavin Barwell MP and Sir John Peace. The event was a resounding success with excellent feedback from delegates, strong endorsement of the work and importance of district councils by Ministers and the opportunity to reach a wider audience. The joint working with the LGA on this event was key in the professional level of delivery we achieved. In response to demand the DCN Conference will become an annual event
- Launch of our new, user friendly website

We have also had success in influencing government in particular in terms of the Planning and Housing and the Housing White paper. Specific example of this include :

- preventing the privatisation of planning departments and securing an uplift in planning fees (to be confirmed)
- calling for greater fiscal freedoms and compulsory purchase order powers in relation to housing
- Shaping the reform of business rates for example by agreeing and setting out a collective set of principles for business rates with CCN and RSN,
- Continuing to lobby for greater recognition of the importance of district councils in prevention and Early Help service for example by establishing a DCN Public Health Taskforce and Healthy Towns and Villages Network and holding two high profile Conferences on the district role in tackling dementia and shaping the district role in improving peoples health
- Clarity over the DFG funding in national guidance as it relates to district councils
- emphasising that when it comes to the future of local government in localities, one size does not fit all - a phrase which the Secretary of State himself used at our DCN Conference.
- Providing tailored briefings and policy seminars to our membership on a wide range of key issues and responding to over 20 consultations, including the Housing White Paper, Industrial Strategy and business rates

The DCN will continue making the forceful argument to government about the value district councils deliver to those that they serve which we will do throughout the coming year.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| SIG Name: | F40 |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Ivan Ould, Leicestershire |
| Lead Officer: | Doug Allan, Secretary |

Aim

To organise an all-party campaign for fairer funding for schools in the worst funded authorities in England.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

f40's central aim over more than 20 years has been to influence a significant change in the way the government allocates funding to local authorities and schools. The allocations for primary and secondary pupils in the authorities in the f40 group are among the lowest in the country. Our initial success came when the Coalition government recognised that a new, fairer and more transparent school funding system is needed and we were pleased when this policy was maintained by the subsequent Conservative government.

f40 has welcomed some additional resources allocated to education in recent years. In particular, we welcomed an interim allocation of £390million for 2015-16 shared between authorities identified as being among the poorest funded. Of this amount, £210million was allocated to f40 authorities. However, f40 argued that the allocation of the extra cash was based on the use of inappropriate data and we argued that different calculations could and should have been used. We were pleased when the extra cash was baselined into the schools budget. However, this increase was only a "down payment" against a future new national funding formula. The important thing is that the awarding of this down payment indicated that the case for fair funding for schools had been won: the government agreed that the existing system is unjustifiable and unfair.

The government initially promised a new national funding formula for 2017-18 but this was delayed for a range of reasons, first because of the May 2015 general election and then because of the London Mayoral elections. Further delay occurred when the new Secretary of State for Education announced she needed time to fully understand the issues before moving forward with a new national funding formula.

A first stage consultation on the principles of fair funding was held in the Spring of 2016 and a second stage consultations containing proposals for change was announced in December 2016 and by then the implementation date had been delayed until 2018-19.

f40 welcomed the stage 2 National Funding Formula (NFF) consultation and commended the government for honouring its manifesto commitment to introduce fairer funding for all

children in state funded schools in England. We also acknowledge that the proposed funding formula indicated a total gain of £183 million for f40 member authorities once the national formula was fully implemented from 2019-20. But f40 had not anticipated that some poorly funded authorities would not gain and that many schools, both primary and secondary, within poorly funded authorities will lose out.

So f40 informed the government that its proposals fell short of what was expected, that they will not deliver true fairness and, therefore, that they require substantial revision. There are four key elements of the proposals that f40 is unhappy about and has asked the government to consider, namely:

- the proportion of weighting given to additional needs rather than basic entitlement
- the 3% funding floor, which 'locks in' historical differences
- the amount invested in education funding and the cost pressures facing all schools.
- the weakness of evidence used to support the proposals.

f40 has undertaken significant work on updating its own formula proposals which are based on a 'bottom up' construction of the real costs of running a school. This work has been presented to the Department for Education and we hope that it will have favourable consideration.

The government is due to announce the outcomes of its NFF consultation in advance of the parliamentary recess, though the announcement of a snap election in June 2017 may impact on this schedule

Over the last few years MPs representing f40 constituencies have increasingly been supportive and we have worked harder than ever to develop our campaign through links with the LGA, CCN, individual local authorities, schools, governors, schools forums and education professional organisations including the NAHT, ASCL and NGA.

We have maintained our media relations at both national and regional levels. There has been extensive coverage of our activities on television and in the press.

Key Cities Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | Key Cities Group |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Paul Watson, Sunderland City Council |
| Lead Officer: | Jill Laverick, Sunderland City Council |

Aim

The purpose of Key Cities is to provide focus, collaboration of learning and a unified voice to ensure that those cities within the group are more visible and consistently represented in economic policy-making at a national level in order to help create vibrant cities which can compete across Europe and the globe for business and growth.

The key roles of Key Cities will be:

- To tackle common issues and provide a single voice;
- To lobby Government on issues of importance to the cities;
- To influence key national and international strategies;
- To raise the profile of the cities with businesses and investors;
- To commit to working across local administrative boundaries to develop and share knowledge, ideas, and information;
- To recognise the diversity of the group and ensure the strengths of individual cities are maximised

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Key Cities APPG

The All Party Parliamentary Group for Key Cities launched on Wednesday 8 February 2017.

The Group is pursuing clear policy commitments to promote economic opportunity– including those that could potentially be offered through the emerging industrial strategy.

<http://www.keycities.co.uk/powerful-new-voice-key-cities-launched-parliament>

Industrial Strategy

Before January's Green Paper release, the Group was already considering how it could help shape the Government's emerging Industrial Strategy in line with the best interests of Key Cities.

The report was completed and submitted to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in April 2017.

http://www.keycities.co.uk/sites/default/files/publications/oce21075%20Key%20Cities%20United%20and%20Industrious%20Report%20A4%20%283%29_0.pdf

Inclusive Growth Commission

Key Cities agreed to sponsor the RSA's Inclusive Growth Commission in 2016 and the final report was launched on 6 March this year. We have responded to its call for evidence and worked closely on communications activity at key stages of the commission's progress.

[Inclusive Growth Commission: Making Our Economy Work for Everyone](#)

Core Cities

Core Cities and Key Cities joint working on topics of mutual interest during 2017. The overall aim for this work is to get policy for cities and devolution back onto the decision-making agenda and media radar during a busy political year, which is nevertheless critical to urban policy.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|---|
| SIG Name: | Local Authority Pension Fund Forum |
| Lead Member: | LAPFF Executive Committee |
| Lead Officer: | Councillor Kieran Quinn, LAPFF chair |

Aim

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is the UK's leading collaborative shareholder engagement group. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together 73 public sector pension funds from across the UK with combined assets of over £200 billion, representing a majority of funds under management by local authorities.

LAPFF exists to promote the investment interests of local authority pension funds in the UK, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.

Forum members meet quarterly to discuss and debate a broad range of investment issues concerned with shareholder responsibilities and engagement activities. During the year, members discuss papers on a wide range of topics, with meetings being serviced by PIRC Limited, as the appointed research and engagement partner to the Forum. Keith Bray, formerly County Treasurer at South Glamorgan County Council and Director of Finance at the City of Cardiff Council, is the Forum officer with the role of promoting the work of LAPFF generally and amongst existing and prospective members.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

LAPFF provides a unique opportunity for discussion of investment issues and shareholder engagement by for local authority pension funds. Member fund investment policies have important implications for beneficiaries, local communities, council tax payers and the wider economy. The powerful influence gained by funds acting together on issues of common concern has considerable potential in relation to the companies in which they invest.

- During the year under review, LAPFF has participated in over one hundred company engagements. This has included sending at least 700 letters to companies and attending over 30 meetings with companies. This engagement has taken place across 11 domiciles, and has included consultation responses. LAPFF also actively engaged in the 2016 AGM season, attending over 20 AGMs and issuing six voting alerts. These alerts primarily related to carbon risk reporting. LAPFF's work has also been covered by a wide variety of different UK and global media outlets during the past year.
- Throughout the year LAPFF has provided a much needed forum for discussion amongst the English and Welsh funds on pooling. Alongside pooling guidance, Government consulted on a kind of 'deregulation' of Investment Regulations Sharing

experiences amongst member funds has been vital in sharpening approaches to the challenges of pooling.

- This year has seen even more evidence to show that the Financial Reporting Council's position on the 'true and fair view' requirement relating to accounts of companies required by Company Law is incorrect. As a result, LAPFF wrote to FTSE 350 Chairs advising them to disregard the position of the FRC and that the safe option, without risk of illegality, was to follow the position of LAPFF's Counsel.
- Forum members continued to promote strategic resilience in the face of climate change, co-filing shareholder resolutions to Rio Tinto, Anglo-American and Glencore. Supported by the company boards, all received 96% support or greater. LAPFF has also produced information for funds to guide their strategy for high carbon investments, including in collaboration with Carbon Tracker, the report '*Engaging for a Low Carbon Transition*'
- The Forum engaged with a number of companies on employment standards. One of these companies was Sports Direct. A LAPFF Executive member attended the Sports Direct AGM and LAPFF supported the shareholder resolution on human capital management filed with the Company.
- The LAPFF Executive has begun to consider the impact of Brexit on LAPFF's areas of focus. The main areas of focus are changes to the source of authority for company law and governance regulation, both of which have been affected by various Directives and Regulations since the UK joined the EU.
- LAPFF has this year extended its reach through an important initiative with the formation of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Local Authority Pension Funds. The APPG is chaired by Clive Betts MP, chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee with vice-chairs including Lord Kerslake, Ian Blackford MP, Lord Godard and Mark Prisk MP. In addition to the APPG, LAPFF has continued its attendance at fringe meeting events during the party political conference season with meetings organised at the Labour, Conservative and Scottish Nationalist Party conferences.
- Growing support for LAPFF's work has been evidenced by membership growing from 70 to 73 funds.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|---|
| SIG Name: | New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Geoff Holdcroft – Deputy Leader Suffolk Coastal District Council |
| Lead Officer: | Katherine Potts – Project Manager, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, Suffolk County Council/Suffolk Coastal District Council. |

Aim

NNLAG's primary aim is to share knowledge, information and best practice regarding new nuclear, and to provide a mechanism for local authorities, as elected representatives of local areas, to discuss and make representations direct to Government regarding the development of new nuclear and of nuclear-related connection/transmission projects.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

1. In accordance with our Terms of Reference (revised 2015-16), Cllr Geoff Holdcroft was elected as Chairman of NNLAG at the NNLAG Spring conference in March 2016. He is expected to serve for a period of 2 years.
2. During 2016-17 we held officer meetings in June 2016, Nov 2016 and March 2017. These take forward the sharing of knowledge and information as the new nuclear build picture emerges nationally, we have also sought an NNLAG view on certain issues that are raised by government.
3. The coordination of the group has also moved with the Chairmanship. Suffolk County and Suffolk Coastal District Council now coordinate the group. The coordinator charges members an annual fee to cover the costs of organising and administering the group. The fee for 2016-17 was £500
4. There are work streams established in the Group, to allow those members with specific expertise and issues to exchange information and keep up to date with emerging policies or changes. These include: Community Benefit, Resourcing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, GDA and Housing and Accommodation. Much of this information is shared using the Knowledge Hub site.
5. The group have written to central Government on several issues of common interest. – for example Community Benefit, and the decision regarding the final investment decision on Hinkley.
6. A successful Spring conference was organised in March 2017, hosted by Copeland Borough Council in West Cumbria. Councillors and Officers heard from a wide range of speakers and from senior officials at the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. Links between NNLAG and BEIS are now stronger.

Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | NuLeAF |
| Lead Member: | Chairman – Cllr Brendan Sweeney, Barrow in Furness Borough Council |
| Lead Officer: | Executive Director – Philip Matthews |

Aim

NuLeAF's **Aims** are set out in the **Terms of Reference** document

"The Aims are:

- to seek to ensure that all nuclear, waste management and decommissioning activities operate to the highest safety, security and environmental standards
- to raise the profile of debate within local government on any issue with very significant implications for any area affected by future proposed radioactive waste development
- to increase and aid 'capacity building' within local government and enable informed responses to Government and the NDA from a broader based local government grouping
- to be an interface with government and the NDA on future strategic radioactive waste policy, decommissioning and liabilities management issues
- to confer greater democratic legitimacy on Government and NDA engagement processes in the decommissioning and legacy management sphere
- to add weight and credibility to the current local government input into the radioactive waste, decommissioning and liabilities engagement processes now in hand
- to effectively utilise the democratic legitimacy of local government and increase influence over policy and strategy proposals that will be critical to national progress on nuclear industry legacy issues
- to provide representatives on Government and NDA consultation, stakeholder and advisory bodies reporting back to local government through the SIG mechanism
- to lever resources, in addition to those conferred through the establishment of a SIG, to enable 'capacity building' within local government so that Government policy can develop with broad based democratic consent."

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

- Held 4 Steering Group meetings including AGM and 4 meetings of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Meeting topics included: impact of Brexit, Small Modular Reactors, decommissioning at current operating nuclear power stations.
- Published 8 newsletters for contributing member authorities and 4 e-bulletins issued to full mailing list.
- Responded to 6 consultations, circulating draft responses to members both for comment and as a resource for their own responses.
- In liaison with Low Level Waste Repository Limited organised 3rd Annual Local Government/Operator meeting to discuss national developments in the management

of Low Level Radioactive Waste.

- In liaison with RWM Ltd arranged and co-hosted fringe event at LGA Conference 2016.
- Provided input to NDA on their work on the use of administrative controls for the management of former nuclear sites following surrender of the nuclear site license, and on Proportionate Regulatory Control.
- Provided feedback to RWM Ltd on the outputs from the national geological screening exercise.
- Contributed to RWM organisational awareness workshops ahead of launch of Geological Disposal Facility siting process in 2018.
- Worked with BEIS to encourage participation in meetings regarding changes to regulations, and to engage in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process, and on their review of UK radioactive waste policy and infrastructure.
- Engaged with EDF on their decommissioning programme; and the Nuclear Industry Association and Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) to identify areas of shared interest.
- Gave presentations to NFLA and Scottish Council for the Control of Radioactive Substances.
- Carried out a survey of NuLeAF members to review the delivery of our services.
- Reviewed and revised all Briefing Papers.

Attended and participated in the following meetings

- 4 plenary meetings of the Committee of Radioactive Waste Management as observer.
- 5 liaison meetings with DECC/BEIS and RWM regarding the Geological Disposal Facility and met with Managing Director of RWM to discuss work proposals.
- Attended the final meeting of the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP) Advisory Group meeting.
- 7 Theme Overview Group meetings on Site Restoration, Integrated Waste Management and Critical Enablers.
- Workshop on the development of the Appraisal of Sustainability associated with the Geological Disposal siting assessment process.
- 4 Low Level Waste Regulatory Group meetings.
- Welsh government Geological Disposal Facility siting process awareness raising workshop.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | Public Transport Consortium |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Harold Davenport |
| Lead Officer: | John Pope |

The Consortium aims to:

- act as a forum for discussion and promotion of public transport issues affecting local authorities outside metropolitan areas;
- promote the exchange of experience and good practice between member authorities and in liaison with other bodies;
- advise appropriate committees or other executive bodies of the LGA on public transport issues; and
- represent interests of member authorities to Government, the Local Government Association, operators and other organisations involved in public transport
- provide advice and guidance to member authorities concerning Passenger Transport policy and operations

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Responded to the following consultations:

- a. Public Transport Block Ticketing Exemptions
- b. 2018 Periodic Review of Network Rail
- c. Intercity West Coast franchise
- d. Wales & Borders franchise Inquiry
- e. Freight Network Study
- f. Greener Journeys Transport Knowledge Hub
- g. Govia Thameslink timetable
- h. Office of Rail & Road consultation on draft guidance on Network Rail's strategic business plans
- i. Bus Services Bill consultation on draft regulations & guidance

Considered the following:

1. Rail franchise information
2. HS2 developments
3. Rolling stock perspective 2nd edition
4. Impact of congestion on Bus Passengers
5. Transport Focus – demand responsive transport
6. Competition, co-operation & partnership in local bus markets
7. School transport matters – report on school transport provision across the UK 2010 – 16
8. Bus & Community Transport services in Wales
9. Voluntary Welsh Quality standards
10. Transport Focus National Rail Passenger Survey Spring & Autumn 2016
11. Bus Services Bill updates from DfT
12. DfT Rail Freight Strategy
13. The value of the bus to society

14. Bus use statistics England
15. Concessionary Travel statistics England
16. Future of Rail – improving the Rail Passenger experience
17. A green bus for every journey
18. Wheelchair access on buses
19. Network Rail Control Period 6
20. Rail franchising Transport select committee reports
21. Office of Rail & Road periodic review of Network Rail – guidance on Network Rail’s strategic business plans
22. Welsh Affairs Committee
23. Wales & Borders Rail franchise report
24. Modernising the Great Western Railway – Public Accounts Committee
25. Transport Focus – Bus Service reviews: consulting on changes to local services
26. Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership – any journey is greener by bus

Liaised with LGA transport policy officers

Regional meeting & study tour held in Cardiff

Speakers at Plenary meetings included representatives from Department for Transport (Bus Services Bill & Rail Fares), Greener Journeys, Network Rail (digital railway/ review of Network Rail structure), Welsh local authorities & operators, TAS partnership

Regular meetings with DfT regarding content of Bus Services Bill

The Consortium is also a member of the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Bus & Rail

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | Rural Services Network |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council) |
| Lead Officer: | Graham Biggs MBE |

Aim

The rural areas of England cover 79% of its land mass and some 20% of the English population live here. England's rural areas are however spread in differing areas and pockets throughout the country. Our aim is to bring them together in one network to facilitate sharing of best practice, knowledge exchange and national representation and work on rural issues and concerns. It is vital that there is an independent organisation that wholly represents the rural service and governance issues and we now act alone in that role as other larger organisations who have been doing this have now largely, as a result of the austerity measures, ceased to exist. Our ambition therefore is to cover with our paid services not just member areas but eventually those of all councils with a significant rural area in their operational patch. There is a need in what are really difficult times for all English rural areas to be working together.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The Rural Services Network is the collective name for work coming from a range of areas and the organisation has a wide range of subgroups. Whilst the Rural Assembly meetings bring together general rural argument in the way the previous LGA Rural Commission once did, the Sparse Rural group concentrates on rural funding not only in relation to Local Government but also concerning Health and Public Health, Transport, Housing, and Social Care. In this connection we work with the Rural Fair Share Group of MPs at Westminster. The Assembly works at Westminster through the Rural Services APPG and we also seek arrangements in the Commons on Rural Vulnerability and a Rural Panel of members of the House of Lords. Other sub groups exist for Rural Fire and Rescue Services and Rural Health, Social Care and Vulnerability, and for service deliverers outside Local Government (The Rural Services Partnership Ltd).

We hold an Annual Rural Conference in Cheltenham in early September, and we now plan two (Health and Public Health) Conferences a year. We also have five (free to members) Seminars a year and both The Rural Assembly and Sparse Rural meet twice yearly at the LGA. We also have sub arrangements dealing with Rural Crime, Housing, Economic Development and Transport.

Currently as said we have 147 rural local authorities in membership. Our workload is heavy. In 16/17 our meetings dealt with:-

- Rural Services Overview
- Annual Financial Settlements

- Business Rate Retention and the accompanying needs assessment
- Rural Vulnerability
- Social Care
- Priority Services Listing
- Economic Growth
- Rural Transport Services
- Rural Doctors
- Housing in the Countryside
- Broadband and Mobile Phone Services
- Rural Fuel Poverty
- Rural Post Office and Royal Mail Services
- Development in Rural Areas
- Small Businesses in Rural Areas

If an authority is in membership, we give free community service to their Parish and Town Councils. Our weekly news Digest therefore goes out to 23,000 e mail addresses each week. We also have periodic newsletters specialising on rural issues concerning young people, older people, heart of the village, health, vulnerability issues, grant availability, and current consultations.

Recognising that attendance at meetings for Councillors from rural areas is not always possible we run sounding boards on rural issues to obtain consensus views on issues as they happen both at principal council and parish level. We wish to widen these sounding boards to also cover rural small businesses, school governors, and younger people. Eventually we wish to achieve a representatively balanced Rural Panel so that there can be no longer any difficulty in rural getting across a consensus view on rural issues.

Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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| SIG Name: | Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) |
| Lead Member: | Cllr Jamie Macrae (Chair) |
| Lead Officer: | SASIG Secretariat c/o Northpoint Aviation |

Aim

SASIG's objectives are:

- to promote the need for long-term, sustainable aviation policies that lead to a reduction in the environmental impact of aviation whilst securing appropriate social and economic benefits;
- to increase understanding of the local and global impacts of aviation on the environment and communities;
- to identify and promote the changes needed to move towards sustainable aviation practices within the industry and Government; and
- to work with other organisations and the Government on the formulation of policy advice.

SASIG Policy Principles

- i. To give the people of the UK the social and business opportunities to travel from their nearest airport where feasible.
- ii. To capture, not stifle, the social and economic benefits of aviation using robust and objective evidence.
- iii. To direct aviation growth to locations where it will assist sustainable economic regeneration.
- iv. To minimise adverse impacts – social, economic and environmental – by protecting people and non-transferable habitats.
- v. To ensure that the air transport sector rather than local communities pays the full costs of the impact of all air journeys.
- vi. To offer the aviation industry tough but realistic parameters based upon associated impacts around which to secure growth.
- vii. To ensure that good quality surface access links are provided to airports, particularly public transport links that create integrated transport hubs.
- viii. To promote better point to point air services from regional airports, with sensitive control over all impacts.
- ix. To work with Government and other bodies to ensure that noise impacts as a result of airport growth, airspace changes and flight path changes on local communities are minimised and mitigated.
- x. To support the coordination and integration of the full spectrum of national policies on issues relating to aviation. This must accord with international and regional policy-making and implementation.

- xi. To promote investigation of the impacts of the air freight industry, supporting the development of air freight infrastructure where it is the most appropriate mode.
- xii. To encourage Governments and the aviation industry to make greater efforts to reduce aviation's impacts on climate change.

SASIG strongly supports the Government's work towards a new national aviation policy that:

- Is based on the need to control the impacts rather than the aviation activity.
- Has considered in detail all options for providing capacity to meet forecast demand, and for providing for other, lower levels of demand.
- Embraces the concept of integrated transport provision.
- Audits the parameters that should be used in any forecasts of future demand.
- Adopts an assessment process for aviation developments that explicitly includes all associated costs.
- Sets effective environmental limits for the aviation industry to meet, taking the appropriate form – regulation, charges, taxes, etc.
- Considers and mitigates against the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Develops the economic analysis of aviation, and in particular improves valuation of the net impact – benefits and disbenefits.
- Coordinates with other transport policies and with other associated national policies, such as climate change, and energy policies.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

SASIG meetings and dates held:

SASIG full meetings: July (AGM) and November 2016 & January 2017.

Chair's Advisory Group (CAG) meetings: April, June and October 2016 & January and March 2017.

SASIG Surface Access Technical Working Group: April, Sept. & December 2016 and March 2017.

SASIG Environment, Planning & Airspace Technical Working Group: April, October & December 2016 and March 2017.

SASIG Airports, Cities & Economic Growth Technical Working Group: May & October 2016 and January & March 2017.

National Representation: The ways in which SASIG is represented publicly emphasises the national nature of the membership and thus the sphere of interest. This has included:

The Airports Commission and 3rd runway decision

SASIG was actively involved in the Airports Commission's programme before the Government decided to award Heathrow the decision to expand, in October 2016

Department for Transport, CAA & Defra

- SASIG continues as a member of the Department for Transport's Aviation 'External Advisory Group' (EAG). The group last met in July 2016 and SASIG attended.
- SASIG attended two DfT focus groups in June 2016 regarding night flights at Stansted and Heathrow.

- The CAA continues to seek SASIG's views on its programme of work and particularly now on how decisions on airspace change should be made.
- SASIG is a member of the DEFRA Noise and Nuisance Team external stakeholder panel and attended a meeting on 12th July 2016. Date of the next meeting tba.
- SASIG met with the Aviation Minister, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 21st March 2017 to highlight its work and promote future mutual co-operation with Government officials.

Advisory Board member - 'Runways UK'

Runways UK is an organisation established to provide a platform for public debate about the aviation sector and organise key conferences. It was recognised by the Airport's Commission and has a Board full of senior industry figures. SASIG continues to be an advisory Board Member. The Runways UK 2016 event was postponed due to uncertainty regarding the third runway decision.

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

SASIG's Secretariat has met with, and is continuing to liaise with, other prominent stakeholder groups including the LEP Network, Key Cities, Sustainable Aviation, Aviation Environment Federation and Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign.

Conferences and Public Fora

SASIG Chair gave a presentation titled: "Assessing the Role of Local Communities" at the Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: "What Now for Airport Expansion in the South East?" on 5th September 2016. A representative from SASIG Secretariat presented at the RAeS's 'Greener by Design' Conference in October 2016 to give SASIG's views on the management and regulation of noise. SASIG also attended the DfT External Advisory Group (EAG) in June 2016 which focused on outlining EAG's intentions in respect of the Modernising Transport Bill and update of the Airports Policy Framework (APF). SASIG was represented at the initial meeting on 24th January 2017 of the Airspace and Noise Engagement Group (ANEG) established following feedback from last year's focus groups and also attended the initial meeting of the CAA Community Discussion Forum held the same day. This quarterly forum aims to unite representatives from areas most impacted by aviation across the UK. SASIG attended CAA Airspace Change Information Sessions throughout February 2017 and Airspace Change and National Policy Statement (NPS) Consultation regional events in April 2017.

SASIG Newsletter

This is a core service emailed monthly by the SASIG Secretariat to members. It contains: editorial; an events diary; 'Monthly Highlights' section; Parliamentary Q & A's on aviation matters; news articles from the month covering Parliamentary News, Government News, London and South East News, Regional News, National and Other Industry News and European News and updates to the SASIG website (publications/ industry documents, etc). It provides a valuable resource, allowing Local Authorities to remain well-informed and take an active role in the aviation debate.

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

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|----------------------|---|
| SIG Name: | The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (Outside London) within the LGA |
| Lead Member: | Sir Stephen Houghton |
| Lead Officer: | Frances Foster |

Aim

To represent the interests of our members, seeking to influence, in particular, fairer funding and better growth opportunities on their behalf. This core aim is supported by the following ongoing objectives:

- To analyse current and proposed government policy for its impact on member authorities.
- To brief SIGOMA member authorities, at appropriate levels, on the impact of current and proposed policy
- To obtain wherever possible the consensus views of members and represent these to the LGA, government departments and the government of the day
- To work with the LGA, government departments other authority representatives and other stakeholders to ensure that regulations and other policy initiatives are considered and effectively and efficiently implemented with regard to member interests
- To engage with members of all political parties via our parliamentary group so as to represent the particular issues facing our membership and the impact upon them of policy proposals.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Local government funding

- Involvement in the design of the local government finance systems most notably the Business Rate Retention Steering and Working Groups, ALATS and the CLIP finance group
- Continuing to analyse the unequal impact of funding cuts on different authority types, arguing that greater account should be taken of the unbalanced burden falling on high needs and low tax base authorities
- Hosting officer and leader group meetings to explore and highlight the plight of Councils facing financial distress
- Responding to all funding consultations including the 2016 Spending Review consultation, December 2016 settlement and Business Rates consultations
- Supplying on the day briefing notes on the 2016 Spending Review, the 2016 Autumn Statement and the 2016 Budget to members, MPs and Chief Officers

- Engaging in national debates on funding issues.

Education

- Canvassing and representing member views on National Fair Funding Formula
- Responding to consultations on the Schools National Funding Formula and High Needs reform
- Assessing the impact for members; obtaining and publicising their views.

Adult Social Care

- Published articles, maintained active engagement on social media and wrote to the minister regarding the underfunding of Adult Social Care and its impact on our members.

Housing

- Canvassing member views on the impact capping allowances at LHA rates would have on supported housing, using feedback received to respond DCLG's Funding for Supported Housing consultation.

General

- Creating a new website and giving all members access to its secured private members' area and the opportunity to interact on a members blog
- Maintaining and improving an active presence on social media
- Representing member' views at Business Rate Implementation Working Group
- Attitude and impact polls within SIGOMA
- Providing updates on the progress and potential impact of Brexit
- Other press opinion articles and technical explanations to press
- Technical updates and information sharing to officers and Members within SIGOMA
- Hosting Regular officer meetings
- Website publications