

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 21 October 2015
2.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the LGA Leadership Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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LGA Leadership Board
21 October 2015

There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **2.00 pm on Wednesday, 21 October 2015**
Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

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LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2015/2016

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Cllr Gary Porter (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Hodge (Vice Chairman)	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Philippa Roe (Deputy Chairman)	Westminster City Council
Cllr Peter Fleming (Deputy Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Sean Anstee (Deputy Chairman)	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (6)	
Cllr Jim McMahon OBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Deputy Chair)	Stevenage Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Deputy Chair)	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield (Deputy Chair)	Leeds City Council
Cllr Nick Forbes (Deputy Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Anne Western (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve (Deputy Chair)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Vice-Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE (Deputy Chair)	Watford Borough Council

LGA Leadership Board – Attendance 2015/2016

	15/7/15	16/9/15		
Councillors				
Conservative				
Gary Porter	Yes	Yes		
David Hodge	Yes	Yes		
David Simmonds CBE	No	Yes		
Philippa Roe	No	Yes		
Peter Fleming	Yes	Yes		
Sean Anstee	Via video	No		
Labour				
Jim McMahon OBE	Via video	Yes		
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	No	Yes		
Sharon Taylor OBE	Yes	Yes		
Keith Wakefield	Yes	No		
Nick Forbes	No	Yes		
Anne Western	No	Yes		
Independent				
Marianne Overton MBE	Yes	Yes		
Peter Reeve	Yes	Yes		
Liberal Democrat				
Gerald Vernon-Jackson	No	Yes		
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Yes	Yes		
Observer / In attendance				
Tony Jackson		Yes		
Jacqui McKinlay		Yes		

Agenda

LGA Leadership Board

Wednesday 21 October 2015

2.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 10 December 2015, 11.00 am, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Party Conferences 2015

Purpose

For discussion.

Summary

This paper summarises the LGA's engagement with the 2015 autumn Party conferences.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board notes the LGA's engagement with the Party conferences.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Party Conferences 2015

Background

1. Each year we seek to influence the political agenda in relation to local government at the autumn party political conferences. The conferences present an opportunity to promote our policies, the important work of local government and to engage closely with key politicians and stakeholders.
2. In 2015 we worked across the conferences to meet key individuals, deliver a series of debates and evening receptions and provide support to councillors.
3. This year, members spoke at 75 events across the party conference season.

LGA events

4. With the Spending Review due to be announced on 25 November 2015 and devolutionary measures being brought forward by the Government, we held a number of debates at the conferences on our calls for the Spending Review to deliver further devolution and ensure fair funding. Our Spending Review submission, *Spending Smarter: A shared commitment*, and our *English devolution: local solutions for a successful nation* report were shared at each conference in order to highlight local government's priorities for the forthcoming Parliament.
5. We held fringe events at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative conferences which were well attended, with over a hundred delegates at each. High profile speakers secured for each including representatives from think tanks, civic leaders, and ministers or shadow ministers, including the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Greg Clark MP at our Conservative event.
6. We also supported evening receptions for councillors at the conferences at which the respective Party leaderships and LGA Group Leaders spoke about the important work of local government.
7. In addition to the events supported by the LGA corporately, the Political Group offices organised a series of debates, training sessions for councillors and meetings across each of the conferences including those held by UKIP and the Green Party. These included debates, roundtables and *Be a Councillor* workshops. The Liberal Democrat Conference also saw contributions from the party's councillors in two key policy debates – one on Public Health funding and the positive role local authorities can play, citing LGA research; and the second calling for more funding for social care.
8. Alongside our events the Political Group Offices worked with our Chairman, Group Leaders and Lead Members held a number of meetings with a series of key national politicians, stakeholders and members.
9. We were also well represented on the main platforms of the conferences. All Group Leaders spoke on the main stages of their various conferences, alongside the Chairman and a number of lead members.

Stakeholder engagement

10. As with previous years, we worked closely with a range of stakeholders from across the private, public and voluntary sectors to secure speaking opportunities for our councillors at debates, policy seminars and private meetings such as evening dinners. This year, a number of our key stakeholders reduced the amount of events they hosted as is always the case following a general election. However, despite this we still secured 75 speaking opportunities at debates and roundtables with more than 40 stakeholders.
11. The Chairman, Group Leaders and LGA Councillors spoke at events on: devolution, housing, enterprise and growth, skills, social investment, health and social care, transport, licensing, public health, and young people and children services. These events were held with high profile stakeholders such as the Care and Support Alliance, the British Property Federation, Barnardos, Ambition, the MS Society, the Charities Aid Foundation and the Enterprise Forum (please see the LGA guides to Party conferences [here](#)). Briefings were provided for each event and were a platform for members to highlight its messages on the Spending Review, devolution, housing, health and care and many other policy areas.

Promoting the LGA at party conferences

12. As with previous years we have worked hard to embrace the increasing use of digital to promote our work, events and speaking engagements across the conference season.
13. For the conferences we produced guides that were emailed out from Group Leaders to all Councillors and made available online showcasing our significant number of speakers and events over the season. These guides, attached as an appendix to this report, were downloaded **971** times for Conservatives, **1,031** times for Labour and **255** times for Liberal Democrats.
14. Twitter remained a strong channel to both promote our events, and push our messages during the busy conference season. During conference our tweets gained **13,986** average **impressions** per tweet (compared to benchmark of site average of 1,338 impressions per tweet - 10.4x greater).

Key announcements

15. Across the party conferences a series of key announcements relevant to local government were made by each of the national Parties. These included:

Conservative Party

- 15.1. **The Prime Minister David Cameron MP** used his speech to announce that the Government has secured a deal with housing associations to give their tenants the Right-to-Buy their home, with the first tenants able to start to buy their homes from next year. Mr Cameron also announced a “dramatic shift” in housing policy through the introduction of new rules for developers that means affordable homes can be built for sale as well as rental.
- 15.2. Elsewhere in his speech to Conference, Mr Cameron praised the Troubled Families Programme which he said has turned around the lives of over 100,000

families and aimed to get adults into work, arguing that the new National Leaving Wage would help create a “route out of poverty” and highlighted the poor life chances of children in care, noting that the Education Adoption Bill will increase the adoption rate and prevent children needing to be in care at all.

- 15.3. **George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer** announced that all £26 billion of business rates will be kept by councils, phasing out the need for a local government grant altogether. He also announced an end to the uniform business rate, so that any local area can reduce them as much as they like to attract new business and, with the support of the business community, Mayoral Cities will be able to raise them to invest in their infrastructure. Mr Osborne also announced the creation of an Independent National Infrastructure Commission and that the 89 different local government pension funds will be replaced with six wealth funds across the country.
- 15.4. **The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Greg Clark MP**, said that building more affordable housing and the extension of Right-to-Buy to housing associations would enable more people to own their own home. He also highlighted how the Government we’re delivering on their commitments by giving power to cities, towns and counties, building more homes and giving the chance to people to become home owners.
- 15.5. **Nicky Morgan MP, Secretary of State for Education**, discussed raising standards in schools and their role within communities. Ms Morgan highlighted the speeding up of adoption, the provision of joined up support for children with special education needs, and the introduction of 30 hours of free childcare for working parents. She also said that academies had transformed thousands of schools across the country, by freeing schools from bureaucrats and providing them instead with strong sponsors. Ms Morgan said that the Government will be giving families the right to request childcare for up to a full working day, including before and after school and during the school holidays. She said that schools should take reasonable steps to accommodate requests in a way that works for them.
- 15.6. **The Home Secretary, Teresa May MP**, used her speech to announce that an Asylum Strategy will be published next year. She referenced measures such as a Community Sponsorship Scheme, a register of people and organisations that can provide houses for the settlement of refugees, and the use of the Aid Budget and other funds to take the pressure off public services.

Labour Party

- 15.7. **Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party**, used his conference speech to argue that local government cuts put social care at risk. Mr Corbyn called for an investment in council housing and affordable homes, stating that low interest rates offer an opportunity to invest in infrastructure. Mr Corbyn also said that funding for mental health should be increased, especially for children and young people, and that he wants to put an end to mental health stigma and discrimination.

- 15.8. **Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Lucy Powell MP**, announced plans to make schools accountable to local government through Local Education Authorities.
- 15.9. **Jon Trickett MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government**, called for a transformation of politics and 'democratic renewal', starting with local communities and locally elected councillors in order for more voices to be heard in politics. He said the roles of Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Shadow Minister for the Constitutional Convention have been joined to enable transformative political change to 'open up power and politics', and that the Convention will be a major plank of the Labour Party's activity in the coming years.
- 15.10. **Rt Hon John Healey MP, Shadow Housing Minister**, discussed issues affecting housing, identifying rapidly rising rents, homelessness, the high housing benefit bill and the need for more housebuilding. Mr Healey announced that Labour would oppose the extension of 'Right to Buy' to housing associations, which he argued would lead to fewer genuinely affordable homes, and would ultimately cost taxpayers more. Mr Healey announced that he has asked Peter Redfern, Taylor Wimpey Chief Executive, to lead an independent review to analyse the root causes of the decline of home ownership which will report in the summer.

Liberal Democrat Party

- 15.11. **Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party**, used the Conference to announce that his Party will give councils the freedom and power to borrow so they can start building housing, will build 10 new garden cities, will create a housing investment bank to bring cash and security to the sector. He also said the Liberal Democrats would oppose the Right-to-Buy of housing association homes. Mr Farron also used his conference speech to call on the Government to opt in to the EU plan to take a share of the refugees to be relocated throughout the continent, and to provide the necessary financial support so that local authorities can settle refugees.
- 15.12. **Norman Lamb MP**, spoke on NHS and adult social care at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference, calling for a non-partisan commission for health and social care, and a national conversation to confront the need for more resources and for change. Mr Lamb also argued for a dedicated NHS and care contribution, separated out from other taxation and clearly identified on pay-slips.

UKIP

- 15.13. **Nigel Farage, Leader of UKIP** used his address to UKIP Conference to argue that the numbers of economic migrants has put a strain on public services, highlighted a shortage of school places, increased demand for housing and further pressure on the NHS.

Green Party

- 15.14. **Natalie Bennett, Leader of the Green Party**, used her conference speech to argue that investment in public transport, through local and regional schemes would help to “rebalance” the economy, linked to local bus services under the control of local councils. Ms Bennett said that a secure, sustainable economic future is based in “strong local economies, with local needs met by local suppliers, with a rich ecology of farming, manufacturing and services supporting each other.”
16. The LGA produced a series of guides to the Party conferences which promoted our work with stakeholders. These are available to view on the LGA website:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/party-conferences>.

Next steps

17. Members are asked to note of the LGA’s Party conference engagement.

Financial Implications

18. The cost of party conferences is covered by existing communications and group office budgets.

2015 Spending Review Progress Update

Purpose of report

For information and direction.

Summary

This report highlights recent developments and next steps in the LGA's Spending Review campaign process.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board notes the content of the report and recommend any amendments to the plans.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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2015 Spending Review Progress Update

Background and the LGA's papers

1. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Spending Review will be delivered on 25 November 2015. It will be a four-year plan and will set out departmental spending limits across government and £20 billion of savings by the end of 2019/20. The Autumn Statement will also be announced on the same day. Interested parties had until 4 September to submit formal representations.
2. The LGA's work on influencing the Spending Review started with the publication of 'A Shared Commitment' at the annual conference on 30 June 2015. This paper built on its predecessors, 'Rewiring Public Services' and 'Investing in our Nation's Future' by setting out our broad vision for an array of policy areas. The formal LGA representations built on this vision, but focussed on a smaller set of proposals.
3. The grid in **Appendix A** sets out the LGA's publications, which were prepared to meet the government's deadline of 4 September. Collectively, they form our corporate representation, to the Spending Review and Autumn Statement, and are the basis of conversations with government over the autumn. The papers are being released into the public domain in a staggered way to ensure maximum media coverage in what is a crowded market due to other media stories.
4. In addition, officers are also drafting a supporting paper which advocates the case for place based finance as a way to maximise the value of the public pound, incentivise investment in prevention and avoid unintended consequences of public spending decisions, such as cost shunting. At the time of writing, this paper was to be cleared by the LGA's Lead Resources Portfolio Holders and was planned for publication in mid-October.

Policy developments since September

5. There have been a number of announcements related to the asks in our Spending Review submission. The following paragraphs summarise the main developments.

Syrian refugees

- 5.1. The LGA has been pressing hard for the Government to confirm that councils will receive additional funding to take refugees through this scheme. We recently received confirmation that there will be funding beyond 12 months for each refugee within the scheme to minimise any impact on local services. After detailed discussion, we have had confirmation that:

- 5.2. The first 12 months of a Syrian refugee's resettlement costs will remain fully funded by central government using the overseas aid budget.
- 5.3. In the expanded scheme, there will be additional funding for refugees beyond the first 12 months and we understand this will not be taken from the overall funding to local government
- 5.4. These arrangements will be applied to all cases arising since the expansion to 20,000 over 5 years was announced, so councils which come forward early will not be disadvantaged
- 5.5. Government recognises that there remain many details to work through – both in funding and in process – from the point at which refugees are assessed to their resettlement and ongoing support. We are working with Government to ensure that the new scheme can meet the needs of more people more quickly whilst minimising the impact on local communities, including a mapping of current spend on existing resettlement schemes. We are working with government to resolve this as part of the Spending Review and we are expecting that any announcement be made at the latest by the time of the 2016/17 local government finance settlement.
- 5.6. We are in separate discussions with the Home Office and DfE to develop a fairer national scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and have proposed that any unaccompanied children arriving in the UK as part of Syrian resettlement scheme be part of this.

Housing policy

- 5.7. The LGA Chairman and Board have undertaken a range of activity over the summer seeking to lead the debate in a way that mitigates the negative impacts of recent policy developments on councils and local housing markets. This has included:
 - 5.7.1. Regular representations to Ministers and discussions on policy detail with officials
 - 5.7.2. Research and analysis on the impact of proposals, including press releases attracting national media coverage
 - 5.7.3. Activity and events, including a seminar with officials, seeking to bring together a consensus view to the Government, involving a range of councils, Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), District Councils Network, and London Councils.

5.7.4. Engagement in Parliament, including representations to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, and on the progress of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill^{1 2}

5.8. The Government announced on 7 October that it had concluded a deal with the National Housing Federation (NHF) to introduce a voluntary Right to Buy scheme for housing associations. The LGA has said that it is disappointed that the National Housing Federation has struck a deal to voluntarily deliver the Right to Buy extension on the back of forcing the sale of council homes, and by the NHF's willingness to move away from providing the genuinely affordable homes the most vulnerable in our communities need.

Business rates reform

5.9. The LGA's Spending Review Submission outlines a system for the reform of business rates. This includes proposals to modernise the valuation process through a system of self-assessment. Any new system would need to be designed to minimise underestimation, to provide greater certainty of income to local authorities and could lead to a digital by design approach to both the assessment and collection of business rates. The LGA has commissioned a piece of work to explore this further and is engaging government officials in discussions.

5.10. The LGA continues to raise with government the impact of the delays in the submission and resolution of business rates appeals. Councils have currently set aside £1.75billion against the risk of reduced income following appeals. Our self-assessment proposals referred to above would address this but government action on the rules for appeals and on speed of dealing with appeals could also reduce the uncertainty and the consequent level of funding that has to be set aside and we continue to lobby for reform in this area.

¹ For example - Social housing rent reforms to cost councils £2.6 billion, Financial Times, July 2015 <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/11714258-31e8-11e5-91ac-a5e17d9b4cff.html#axzz3m6WiVeCf>

² For example – Welfare Reform and Work Bill, Public Bill Committee evidence session, Housing of Commons, September 2015 http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal_content/56/10180/7396343/ARTICLE

5.11. Following the Chancellor's announcement at the Conservative Party Conference that by the end of the Parliament councils will be able to keep 100% of business rates raised, the LGA has been analysing what this means for the sector. A press release welcomed this as a major step forward and in line with what the LGA was pressing for in the Spending Review submission. At the same time it called for the Government to bring forward the date for implementation in the light of the fact that local authorities will face almost £10 billion of cost pressures by 2020. We added that we would expect measures to ensure local areas with less ability to generate business rates income do not suffer as a result of these changes and all councils are also given leeway to vary business rates up as well as down. We also said that it adds to the urgency for the reform of the appeals system as councils will potentially bear 100% of the risk once the Chancellor's proposals are implemented. There will be much detailed work to do to take forward what amounts to a re-design of the whole system of local government finance and discussions are underway with government officials about how this work can be taken forward with close involvement from the LGA.

Adult social care and health

- 5.12. At the Community Wellbeing Portfolio awayday on 2 October Members set out the headline points from the LGA's thematic Spending Review submission on adult social care, health and wellbeing to Minister of State for Community and Social Care, Alistair Burt. The Minister was unable to comment on any Spending Review matters but said he was fully aware of the pressures facing adult social care and support and thanked the LGA for its close working with the Department of Health on the Spending Review.
- 5.13. The Public Accounts Committee is currently conducting an inquiry on the Care Act and the LGA has submitted written evidence. A number of key points from the LGA's thematic Spending Review submission on care, health and wellbeing are made in this evidence. Furthermore, clarification is sought on whether funding allocated in this financial year to support activity in preparation for the phase two Care Act reforms (originally scheduled for April 2016 but now delayed until 2020) will be clawed back or future payments reduced or withheld.

- 5.14. On 30 September the Local Government Chronicle reported that NHS England is seeking to freeze the sum the NHS is required to pool with local government in the Better Care Fund (BCF), and ideally for it not to be uplifted with inflation. The article reports that NHS England is arguing that both the NHS and adult social care need to be properly funded independently, not through a transfer. It is helpful that NHS England recognises the need to fully fund adult social care in its own right and this remains critical alongside the continuation of the BCF. However, if the BCF is the Government's preferred vehicle for driving integration between adult social care and health then the funding allocated to the BCF will need to be maintained in real terms as a minimum alongside additional funding to fill the gap in social care funding and to invest in prevention and transformation of services.

Devolution

- 5.15. On 2 October the Sheffield City Region signed an in-principle devolution deal with Government. This is the first deal to be signed since 38 proposals were submitted to Government by places across the UK on 4 September. Once formally agreed by the councils involved, the combined authority will take on greater powers and control over funding, and will introduce a directly elected mayor.
- 5.16. The deal includes powers over transport, strategic planning, skills and employment support, trade and investment, and makes commits on supporting innovation and agreeing a gain share agreement. It includes an ambition to work towards a single pot of growth funding for the region.
- 5.17. Further deals are expected in the near future and the LGA continues to work with places to support them in their ambitions and to develop the evidence base of devolution.

Planned future activity

Communications strategy

6. The following LGA media activity to influence the Spending Review is has taken place or is planned in the run up to the Spending Review:

Sep 1	Press release: Cost pressures	Councils face £10.1 billion in unfunded burdens by 2020
Sep 1	Comment piece: Spending Review submission	Cllr Gary Porter outlines 'Spending Smarter: A shared commitment'
4 Sept	Spending Review submission to the Treasury	
4 Sept	Press release: £60bn devolution	Councils call for £60 billion worth of funding to be devolved to local areas over the SR period
Sept 11	Press release: Reserves	Council reserves would be spent in 3

		years if used to plug funding gaps.
Sept 11	Statement: PM's Spending Review speech	Call for widespread devolution and fairer funding
Sept 21	Press release: Devolution and growth	Devolution is the key to unlocking growth and productivity
Sept 21	Statement: ADASS, CSA, NHS Confederation	Spending Review needs to provide adequate funding to adult social care
Sept 26	Press release: Bus funding	Councils are being forced to cut post-16 bus routes
2 Oct	Press release: LGA response to Govt sports strategy	Rebalancing of funding away from national sports bodies to councils to drive up participation rates and calls to improve facilities and boost public health.
Oct 3	First magazine	2 page feature on Spending Review submission
Oct 3	Press release: Youth offending cuts	Funding cuts impacting negatively on preventative work of local authorities and youth justice partners
Oct 4	Press release: RTB extension	Extending Right to Buy to cost £6 billion by 2020
Oct 5	Statement: Business rates	Councils will get to keep 100 per cent of business rates
Oct 6	Comment: SR Submission	Polly Toynbee on the LGA's analysis of £10 billion cost pressures facing councils by 2020
Oct 8/ 9	Press release: Social care thematic SR submission (joint with ADASS)	Councils calling on government to close the funding gap by cutting other government departments
Oct 10	Press release: Tree disease	Trees at risk without funding to address tree disease.
W/C Oct 12	NCAS Press release: Winter pressures	Council funding for winter pressures is inadequate. The Government gave councils £25 million last year and NHS £700 million.
W/C Oct 12	NCAS Press release: Learning disabilities	Social care for working age people with learning disabilities is a third of social care spending. Number of pupils with learning disabilities to rise 23 per cent by 2023. Extra cost pressure coming.
14 Oct	NCAS press release: savings from prevention	Spending £1 on prevention would save £1.90. Councils calling for a £2 billion prevention transformation fund
14-16 Oct	NCAS Conference	
TBC	Press release: Pay to Stay	Pay to Stay policy will lead to people having to leave London and South East
TBC	Press release: business rates avoidance	Councils lost almost £250 million a year on business rates avoidance. Need

		tougher powers to crackdown on fraudsters and cheats
TBC	Press release: EU funding	Councils need full control over £5.3 billion of EU funding. Vital growth-boosting schemes at risk as Whitehall decides on what projects to fund.
TBC	Press release: Work Programme	Devolve £620 million Work Programme to local areas to achieve better outcomes
TBC	Press release: Sustainable services	LGA report exploring the unintended consequences of cutting expenditure on prevention and of silo based decision making
TBC	Press release: Welfare	Government to merge benefit payments. LGA analysis into how much that should be.
TBC	Press release: Waste collection	Improving recycling targets to cost councils by 2020.
TBC	Press release: Roads funding/Winter readiness survey	Councils need influence over how all national roads funding is spent. Close funding gap between local and national roads. Bad winter will mean road chaos?
25 Nov	Spending Review	

Political meetings

7. A number of meetings/exchanges of letters between the LGA's politicians and ministers discussing the Spending Review have taken place already:
 - 7.1. Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.
 - 7.2. Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Communities Secretary.
 - 7.3. Brandon Lewis MP, Minister for Housing and Planning.
 - 7.4. Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office.
 - 7.5. Rt Hon Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform.
8. A range of political meetings are still in the pipeline for the Chairman and other lead members, including:
 - 8.1. Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP, Education Secretary.
 - 8.2. James Wharton MP, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse.

8.3. Andrew Jones MP, Minister for Transport.

Officer engagement

9. Officers are engaged in a number of ongoing conversations with a range of relevant departments in Whitehall. The following are some examples of ways the Spending Review messages are being shared and promoted:
 - 9.1. The Head of Programmes for Local Government Finance and the Deputy Chief Executive have arranged a regular programme of meetings with senior officials from the Treasury and the Department for Communities and Local Government over the coming months to discuss the Spending Review, the Local Government Finance Settlement and other local government finance issues. These include discussions on the move to 100% business rates retention and the LGA's proposal to move business rates valuation towards self-assessment.
 - 9.2. The Head of Policy and Principal Policy Adviser for devolution have arranged regular meeting with senior officials at DCLG to discuss progress on devolution deals.
10. Officers will prepare an on-the-day briefing on the Spending Review on 25 November in line with other government set piece announcements.

Financial Implications

11. This is core work for the LGA and is budgeted for within the 2015-16 LGA budget.

Appendix A. LGA's Spending Review representation

Name of paper	Main recommendations	Publication timing
'Spending Smarter: A Shared Commitment'	The main LGA submission which is calling for: An appreciation of cost pressures facing local government over the next four years (£10 billion); Devolution of, or greater local influence over, £60 billion of central government spending to spur local growth, infrastructure and employment; An introduction of a Single Local Public Services Fund as part of at least five devolution deals; A sustainable and integrated adult social care and health system (see entry below); A self-assessment mechanism for administering business rates; and A managed introduction and implementation of the Government's housing policies.	Already published
'Adult social care, health and wellbeing: A Shared Commitment' (joint paper with Association of Directors of Adult Social Services)	Full funding of the adult social care funding gap, growing by just over £700 million a year on average; Introduction of a £2 billion annual prevention transformation fund, with part of the money used to invest in a prevention strategy (see box below); A considered expansion of the Better Care Fund which learns from what has worked well and what has not.	Week commencing 5 October
'Prevention: A Shared Commitment'	This is a supporting document which sets out the case for a new prevention strategy, drawing from smaller scale interventions that have been shown to be successful locally. Research indicates this could generate a net return on investment of 90 per cent over a five year period.	14-16 October (to coincide with the National Children and Adult Services' Conference)
'A service for the future - 670,000 opportunities to add value' (prepared by the Chief Fire Officers Association but supported by the LGA)	This paper has been prepared by the Chief Fire Officers' Association and endorsed by the LGA. It calls for a funding settlement for fire services based on risk, not demand and presents a case for fire and rescue services to play a community wellbeing role due to their reach and trust by the communities they serve.	Week commencing 5 October

Policy Priorities

Purpose of report

For information and direction.

Summary

The Leadership Board met in July 2015 and agreed a small number of priorities which needed a clear corporate overview from the leadership of the association. These were devolution, housing, health and social care and finance. All Boards have been asked to consider their contribution to these cross-cutting priorities and lead Boards were asked to develop detailed work plans at their first meeting in September. Lead Board/Portfolio Chairs were asked to present these work plans to the Leadership and executive for comment.

At this meeting, the Chair of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, Cllr Peter Box CBE, will report back on the housing policy priority and the Chair of Community Wellbeing Portfolio, Cllr Izzi Seccombe, will report back on the health and social care work.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board note the particular issues raised by Cllr Peter Box CBE and Cllr Izzi Seccombe.

Action

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

For noting and discussion.

Summary

This report sets out how the Community Wellbeing Portfolio will take forward the cross-cutting work it is leading on promoting health and wellbeing.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board notes the work programme agreed by the Community Wellbeing Portfolio for its cross-cutting work on promoting health and wellbeing.

Action

Officers to progress as directed by Members.

Contact officer:

Mark Norris

Position:

Principal Policy Adviser

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Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Background

1. At its meeting in July, the Leadership Board agreed four cross-cutting areas of work for relevant Boards to lead in 2015-16. The Community Wellbeing Portfolio was commissioned to lead work on promoting health and wellbeing, with contributions from other Boards and other parts of the public sector.
2. The key issues identified for this cross-cutting work included the further integration of health and care systems, and building the business case for council-led investment to keep the pressure off the NHS and more acute care. They also included examining the role other local services such as schools, children's services, the fire service, public health, housing, transport, and leisure can play in promoting wellbeing and keeping people physically and mentally healthy during their life time, thereby reducing demand for health and care services.

Community Wellbeing cross-cutting work and priorities

3. The Community Wellbeing Portfolio considered this cross-cutting work alongside the priorities it had identified over the summer at its Away Day at the start of October. It agreed four overarching themes to cover them: the future vision for health and care systems; funding for social care and support; the role of councils and place-based leadership in promoting health and wellbeing; and vulnerable people and older people.

Future vision for health and social care

4. The Portfolio agreed that it will look to lead the national debate on the future of health and care, and that as part of this work it would develop and promote a clear vision of the local authority role in the health and care systems. The integration of health and care will be at the centre of this work, with the case being made for the expansion and improvement of the Better Care Fund. Members also wanted to see health and wellbeing boards leading a place based approach to both health and social care commissioning as part of this closer integration. Councils will be supported on this agenda through an offer to support negotiations around the devolution of health resources and through the grant funded Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP).

Funding for social care and support

5. With the funding shortfall for adult social care growing by £700 million a year the Portfolio agreed lobbying around the closing of this gap was vital. Within this wider work members discussed looking specifically at the impact of winter pressures, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and the implementation of the Living Wage would have on adult social care budgets and the sustainability of the provider market, while supporting councils with implementation of Phase 1 of the Care Act. The Portfolio also saw this work as contributing to the LGA's work on the Spending Review, and would be supported by the setting up of a joint working group to create a common understanding of the future challenges in both adult and children's care.

The role of councils and place based leadership in promoting health and wellbeing

6. Portfolio members felt the greatest opportunity over the longer term for maximising citizens' health and wellbeing, while reducing the financial pressures on the health and social care systems, was by addressing the factors and behaviours that determine how much support people need, especially as they age. The Portfolio therefore agreed that a

significant part of its work will focus on the prevention of poor health and wellbeing outcomes for people, and in making the case for increased investment in public health.

7. The work in this area will look across the life-course, and seek to draw in contributions from the other Boards to capture the full range of local government services that contribute to people's health and wellbeing including housing, leisure and culture, and skills and employment – for example in maximising the health of employees and understanding the importance of pathways into work for people with long term conditions and health problems. Members also agreed this work will seek to identify partner bodies and stakeholders (and any levers they have) that local government and the LGA engages with in other spheres who, knowingly or not, have an impact on health and wellbeing.
8. Within this package of work the Portfolio agreed to:
 - 8.1. map the contributions made by different services and agencies to health and wellbeing;
 - 8.2. better understand the cost benefits and economic case for investing in prevention programmes;
 - 8.3. educate different sectors about what local government is trying to achieve, how they can help and highlight the benefits of doing so – for example the impact on the NHS; and
 - 8.4. examine what more councils and other key stakeholders can do to encourage the public to take a greater role by living well and providing self-care. This will involve a mixture of policy, campaigning and improvement related work.

Vulnerable People and Older People

9. At the Away Day the portfolio members heard from a service user about the impact personalisation of budgets and the co-production of services could have in improving care. Members therefore agreed to assist councils in supporting carers, improving dementia and mental health services, tackling the challenges and exploiting the opportunities of an aging population, and better supporting those with autism and learning difficulties. The Portfolio also agreed to continue its work with councils around the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

New ways of working

10. As well as discussing its priorities and work programme the Portfolio also considered how it would work over the year ahead. Members agreed that there would be nominations by the groups to key areas of work grouped under the four overarching themes. There was an extensive discussion about how the Portfolio could better connect with member authorities and councillors. These discussions covered making better use of the range of electronic communications available including the use of social media, but members also supported building stronger links with regional networks and agreed to appoint ambassadors to do so. In addition there was agreement that the Portfolio should seek the views of lead members in councils on how best the portfolio could involve them in its work and communicate with them, and this will be discussed with member authorities at the first of the portfolio forums, which is being held on Thursday 15 October at the National Children's and Adults Services Conference in Bournemouth.

Financial Implications

11. The work described will be undertaken within existing resources.

Housing and Planning

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets how the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board will take forward the cross-cutting work it is leading on housing and planning.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board is asked to consider the implications for councils of government's recent housing proposals and to consider and agree the approach to the LGA's Housing Commission.

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

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Housing and Planning

Housing context and new housing policies

1. Housing is central to the economic and social wellbeing of communities and its supply has an important role to play in enabling growth in local areas. The supply of houses has fallen below demand for many years. It is estimated that the UK needs to build around 250,000 homes to meet demand (a number which has not been achieved since 1976); in 2014-15 160,000 houses were built in the UK (134,000 in England).
2. The LGA has continued to make a strong, pro-active and positive offer to the government on behalf of councils that want to be able to increase housing supply. This has included arguing for the powers and flexibilities to invest in building and to bring forward development, for instance calling for powers over the wider public estate, and making the case for council housing expenditure and borrowing to be excluded from counting against the UK index of public debt
3. The government has indicated that it wants housing supply and home ownership to grow and housing benefit to fall and through its manifesto and Summer 2015 Budget it has brought forward a number of housing policies including:
 - 3.1. The extension of right to buy to housing associations, with the associated sale of high value council houses to pay for discounts;
 - 3.2. A one per cent reduction in social rents a year over four years;
 - 3.3. A commitment to build 200,000 starter homes, with discounts paid for by rescinding section 106 and CIL payments to councils;
4. These policies have been brought forward to support the government's overall aims, but our independent research indicates that individually they have unintended consequences which will have negative impacts on communities and council tenants and collectively they potentially interact to frustrate the aim of increasing housing supply.
5. The LGA Chairman and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board have undertaken a range of activity over the summer seeking to lead the debate in a way that mitigates the negative impacts of recent policy developments on councils and local housing markets. This has included:
 - 5.1. Regular representations to Ministers and discussions on policy detail with officials
 - 5.2. Research and analysis on the impact of proposals, including press releases attracting national media coverage
 - 5.3. Activity and events, including a seminar with officials, seeking to bring together a consensus view to the government, involving a range of councils, Association of Retained Council housing (ARCH), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), District Council Network (DCN) and London Councils

- 5.4. Engagement in Parliament, including representations to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, and on the progress of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

Sale of High Value Council Homes

5. The LGA has argued that the extension of the Right to Buy should not be funded by forcing councils to sell off their homes. The LGA and individual councils have made representation to government on the need for councils to be able to manage their assets independently and to retain 100 per cent of capital receipts to reinvest in building houses, including a [press release](#).
6. The National Housing Federation has struck a deal with government, the terms of which make it unlikely that replacement homes will be for social rent. The LGA has stated publicly that it is disappointed with the National Housing Federation's actions which voluntarily deliver the Right to Buy extension on the back of forcing the sale of council homes, and by its willingness to move away from providing the genuinely affordable homes that the most vulnerable in our communities need.
7. Independent analysis commissioned by the LGA has forecast that around 24,000 housing association tenants a year will buy their home with an average discount of £63,271 under the Right to Buy extension - the discount would cost £1.5 billion a year. Housing Associations balance sheets are robust and they could be required to manage their assets effectively to help fund the right to buy extension.

Reductions on social rent

8. The proposed reductions in social rent will lead to councils losing around £2.6 billion in planned revenue over the four years up to 2019/ 2020, with a gap of £1 billion per year thereafter; taking account of the lower rent base and assuming that CPI+1 per cent is reintroduced from 2020/2021. The annual £1 billion gap is equivalent to 25 per cent of the controllable expenditure in the Housing Revenue Account. The LGA published this analysis in a [press release](#). If implemented this policy will have implications for planned investment in housing and in maintaining existing stock.
9. Council tenants already pay the lowest rents across all housing providers. On average, English councils charged £82.44 per week in 2012/13, whereas Private Registered Social Landlords charged £95.54 per week, and the private rented sector charged £137.31 per week. Renting a council home is already 13 per cent cheaper than renting a Housing Association home and 40 per cent cheaper than renting in the private sector. Few council tenants will benefit from the proposals directly, as 70 per cent claim Housing Benefit. Instead, it will be reflected as a short-term Housing Benefit saving for the Department and Work Pensions.
10. The LGA has proposed that a more sustainable way to reduce Housing Benefit is to increase housing supply. This could be achieved if councils had a greater role in managing and disposing of publicly held assets. The public sector holds more than £300 billion worth of land and buildings. While local government is set to achieve £13.3 billion land and property sales up to 2018, the government had a target of realising just £5 billion by 2020. The government should match the scale of ambition and pace of change achieved by local government on management of assets and raise its own target to £13 billion by 2020. If councils had a 'power to direct' the sale of government-owned public

land and the ability to retain 10 per cent of receipts, they could deliver 180,000 new homes across the government-owned land.

A commitment to build 200,000 starter homes

11. Starter Homes are defined as new homes available for first time buyers under 40 at 20 per cent less the market value, with an initial price cap at £450,000 in London and £250,000 outside. Starter Homes will be defined as affordable homes. It is proposed that the 20 per cent discount will be in part funded by exempting Starter Homes from section 106 affordable housing contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
12. The Housing and Planning Bill includes a duty on councils to promote Starter Homes, with an option for the Government to introduce regulations to determine that councils only grant planning permission if a specific Starter Home requirement is met. Regulations may vary this requirement for different areas. The legislation is likely to include provisions ensuring that a proportion of homes on every 'reasonable sized' site (size yet to be determined) are Starter Homes.
13. Starter Homes are being promoted by the Government as an alternative to other housing tenures, such as shared ownership, social rent, discount market rent. Councils need the powers and flexibility to shape the supply of genuinely affordable homes to meet needs of different people in their area, in line with their local plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
14. The delivery of 200,000 Starter Homes will put additional pressure on local infrastructure. Exempting Starter Homes from Community Infrastructure Levy and other tariff-based contributions to general infrastructure pots will reduce the amount of funding for infrastructure in some areas. Furthermore, delivery through the planning system will create significant new burdens on council planning teams, and so should be fully funded.

Overall implications of recent housing policy

15. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board has commissioned Savills to evidence the overall impact of the recent housing policy changes on housing markets, in particular affordable housing, housebuilding and home ownership. The LGA has begun to publish some initial findings looking at the potential costs of different policies, for instance included in recent press releases arguing against the forced sale of council homes. This work is still ongoing and is being used as a basis for engagement with the government and partners.
16. Reforms impacting on overall social and affordable rented stock may also impact on the capacity of councils to fulfil duties to the homeless. 13,850 households were accepted onto council waiting lists between 1 April and 30 June 2015, 5 per cent higher than during the same quarter of 2014. The total number of households living in temporary accommodation while awaiting placement in a settled home on 30 June 2015 was 66,980 households; this is 12 per cent higher than at the same date in 2014.

The Housing and Planning Bill

17. The Housing and Planning Bill was published on 13 October 2015, the LGA briefing is available [online](#). The Bill sets out in broad terms how the government is seeking to

implement its housing and planning policies summarised above, however, much of the detail has been reserved for determination by the Secretary of State through regulation.

The Housing Commission

Background

17. Much of the public discussion on housing policy has naturally focused on the recent proposals from government and the LGA has been active in seeking to influence these proposals. However, there is also a need to take a longer view to consider housing within a wider social context and the role that councils should have in shaping supply
18. As part of the recent member-led review of governance, the LGA Executive and Leadership Board have been asked to commission work from our Policy Boards where a clear corporate priority has been identified or where an important policy issue straddles more than one Board. The Leadership Board met in July 2015 and agreed that housing was one of the corporate priority areas.
19. The Leadership Board asked that the housing commission be led by the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board. EEHT Board met on 1 October and agreed the aims, focus and governance arrangements for the Commission.
20. The EEHT Board also agreed that the group leads on the Board would act as the leads for the Commission. An outline work programme has been agreed by the group leads and is set out below.

Aims

21. The EEHT board agreed that the Housing Commission will set the debate for the future of housing as critical to resolving a number of central public service challenges. It will take a medium-term view in understanding the key opportunities for housing the nation, and make recommendations for bringing forward housing as part of a strategy for driving growth and reducing demands on public services. Within that, the Commission will focus on the role of councils in: building more homes, delivering affordable homes to drive growth and employment and reduce welfare spending, and help meet the housing needs of an ageing population.
22. The work of the commission will cover four themes
 - 22.1. House building
 - 22.2. Place shaping and community building
 - 22.3. Employment and social mobility
 - 22.4. Health and an ageing population

Timing

23. The Housing Commission will begin its work this month allowing time to take on board the implications of the Housing Bill - and building upon the LGA's work to understand and influence the cumulative impact of the government's proposals – with a view to starting a

new housing debate beyond the implementation of the Housing Bill reforms. The Commission will have a number of outputs over the next 6 months to reflect the four themes and will pull these together into a final report in summer 2016.

Governance

24. The Housing Commission will be led internally by the lead members of the EEHT Board. The Board representatives will appoint a panel of advisers who will help to steer the commission, support the commission's enquires and shape its conclusions.
25. The panel will be drawn from the experts covering the Commission's four key themes. Invites are now with prospective panel members.
26. The commission will also work with Community Wellbeing and Resources portfolio holders.
27. The expert panel will be asked to draw on their extensive networks to enrich the advice and guidance to the commission.

The work programme

28. The Commission will:
 - 28.1. Put out a call for evidence in October 2015 seeking submissions from councils, house builders, health bodies, the voluntary and community sector and other key stakeholders.
 - 28.2. Survey councils on the opportunities and challenges for housebuilding
 - 28.3. Hold evidence gathering seminars on the four key commission themes (these will be held in venues around the country to ensure that we get good regional and local coverage for the commission)
 - 28.4. Commission specific pieces of research to support the themes.
 - 28.5. Publish short pieces of analysis and recommendations for each of the four themes
 - 28.6. Pull the analysis and recommendations together in a final report.
29. The work plan themes are set out in Table 1.

Next steps

30. Members are asked to:
 - 30.1. consider the implications for councils of government's recent housing proposals and to consider and agree the approach to the LGA's Housing Commission
 - 30.2. Agree to receive further updates at a subsequent meeting.

Dates	Activity/Theme	Potential areas of focus/comment	Outputs
End of Oct	Appoint Advisory panel and Network	Appoint advisory panel of 5 or 6 leading figures to shape and influence the direction of the commission and its focus for each theme Invite partners to sit on an Advisory Network to input into the development of policy ideas virtually and through seminars	Panel and Network appointed
Oct - Dec	All – Open call for evidence	Capturing activity, barriers & solutions - what are councils seeking to achieve (following the Elphicke-House and Lyons reviews what - what are the key opportunities and risks - what more do councils need to deliver	Summary of evidence
Nov - June	Best practice studies	Develop and write up a range of good practice studies demonstrating how councils are putting housing at the centre of resolving wider public service challenges.	Case evidence
Seminars to be hosted and chaired by EEHT lead members			
Oct – Jan	House building	Building the right homes in the right places - councils role in building and supporting building - what are councils doing (i.e. housing finance innovations) - how to enable and shape house building across all areas	Evidence seminar Case study work Report / analysis Recommendations
Nov – Feb	Place shaping and community building	Homes for communities and economies - the importance of place-shaping and planning, creating jobs and growth - what are councils doing - what works and what are the barriers - how enable good practice in all areas, lessons for government and councils	Evidence seminar Case study work Report / analysis Recommendations
Jan – April	Employment and social mobility	Homes for families and supporting the vulnerable - role of housing in employment, social mobility and welfare reform - what are councils and others doing that works - how to incentivise this in the system	Evidence seminar Case study work Report / analysis Recommendations
March – June	Health and an ageing population	Homes, health and demographic change - role and value of housing in supporting an ageing population - current and future challenges and barriers to utilising stock - what are councils doing and what more can they do - what does government need to do	Evidence seminar Case study work Report with analysis Recommendations
May-July	Report		Final report

LGA Business Plan and Performance Monitoring

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA currently produces an annual business plan, agreed by the Leadership Board and LGA Executive and published in April each year, alongside the annual budget. Within the priorities set out in the plan, Boards agree their work programmes in September each year. Formal monitoring is undertaken via four quarterly reports to Leadership Board and to the Senior Management Team.

This paper proposes that we roll forward the current business plan to September 2016, subject to the inclusion of an additional priority on “Promoting Health and Wellbeing”, and in future adopt a high level rolling three-year business plan, supported by an annual work programme, with a streamlined performance reporting framework.

A copy of the business plan, with the additional priority and an updated foreword to reflect the change in Chairman and Chief Executive will be circulated on a supplemental agenda.

Recommendations

That the Leadership Board:

1. Agree to move to a 3-year rolling business plan;
2. Agree to roll forward the current 2015/16 business to September 2016, with the inclusion of one additional priority “Promoting Health and Wellbeing”; and
3. Agree the proposed performance monitoring framework set out in paragraph 8.

Action

Head of Corporate Services to put in place revised business planning and performance monitoring arrangements.

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LGA Business Plan and Performance Monitoring

Background

1. The LGA Business Plan is agreed by the Leadership Board and Executive in March each year along with the budget.
2. The Business Plan sets the strategic priorities for the LGA. In 2015/16 these are:-
 - 2.1. Funding for Local Government;
 - 2.2. Devolution;
 - 2.3. Economic growth, jobs and housing;
 - 2.4. Sector-led improvement; and
 - 2.5. Our own efficiency and effectiveness.
3. In 2015, “Public Service Reform” was replaced with a new “Devolution” priority. The remaining four have remained unchanged over the past four years.
4. The LGA’s Revenue Support Grant (RSG) bid is prepared and submitted in the Autumn, with confirmation of the allocation in December. Increasingly, the bid is made up of a series of specific services that the LGA undertakes to deliver over the 12 month period.
5. The LGA Boards and portfolios set their work programmes in September/October each year, on the basis of commissions agreed by the Leadership Board in July. In July this year, Leadership Board agreed four priority commissions:
 - 5.1 Devolution and the future shape of local government;
 - 5.2 Housing;
 - 5.3 Finance; and
 - 5.4 Promoting health and wellbeing.
6. With the exception on 5.4, these map onto the current strategic priorities of the Business Plan.

The proposal

7. Given the high level nature of the Business Plan, and the important role of the LGA Annual Conference in engaging our membership, launching campaigns and setting future policies and direction, it is proposed that the LGA moves to a three-year rolling Business Plan, agreed in September each year.
8. As an interim step, it is proposed that the 2015/16 Business Plan is rolled forward to September 2016, subject to the addition of one further priority – “Promoting Health and Wellbeing” - to align with the priority commissions agreed by Leadership Board in July 2015.

9. The Business Plan will be underpinned by an annual work programme, with key performance indicators, covering
 - 9.1. RSG-funded commitments;
 - 9.2. Board/portfolio work programmes (agreed annually in September);
 - 9.3. Organisational priorities, including commercial activities; and
 - 9.4. Corporate health targets.
10. The work programme will form the basis of the annual budget setting, with the LGA budget continuing to be agreed in March.
11. Monitoring will be undertaken by the Leadership Board and Strategic Management Team (SMT) and will comprise:
 - 11.1. Quarterly monitoring reports to SMT;
 - 11.2. 6 month and 12 month exception reports to Leadership Board;
 - 11.3. 6-weekly Chief Executive reports to Leadership Board; and
 - 11.4. Annual membership survey.

Next steps

12. A report setting out the Leadership Board's recommendation will be taken to the December Executive meeting. The work programme and budget will be presented to Leadership Board in March 2016.

Communications Update

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This report summarises communications activity between April and June 2015.

Since 2013, and following the publication of our communications plan and strategy, a monitoring and evaluation system has been developed to allow tracking and recording of our main communications activity. As well as volume of media activity, it also allows the tone of coverage (positive or negative) and ratio of proactive and reactive coverage to be measured. We also record and measure activity across digital, parliament and a range of other channels used to influence the political agenda and to ensure local government's voice is heard.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the communications activity for the period April to September 2015.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Communications Update

1. The main results for April to June 2015 are:

- 1.1. National media coverage down 12 per cent year-on-year from **295** in the same period for 2014 to **264** in the first quarter of 2015. This is mainly attributable to purdah restrictions from March 30 up to the General Election on May 7.
- 1.2. **84 per cent** of coverage was through pro-active media work against our target of 75 per cent.
- 1.3. **89 per cent** of our national coverage was positive, a year-on-year increase of 10 per cent compared to 79 per cent in the same period last year.
- 1.4. The LGA secured positive commitments from the political parties in their General Election manifestos.
- 1.5. The LGA was mentioned **51 times** in Parliament between in this period.
- 1.6. 932,501 website page views by more than 238,800 unique users.
- 1.7. 11,952 twitter followers with 9.5 million potential impressions.

2. The main results for July to September 2015 are:

- 2.1. National media coverage up by nearly a quarter year-on-year from **438** in the same period for 2014 to **544** in 2015. **This period saw us exceed our highest ever number of media mentions for a single calendar month, in September.**
- 2.2. **84 per cent** of coverage was through pro-active media work against our target of 75 per cent.
- 2.3. **86 per cent** of our national coverage was positive.
- 2.4. The LGA has been mentioned **139 times** in Parliament between July and September.
- 2.5. The LGA has submitted formal written evidence to **15 Select Committee inquiries.**
- 2.6. The LGA hosted debates on devolution across the party conferences and our councillors spoke at a wide range of events hosted by over **40 stakeholders.**
- 2.7. The 'Better Devolution for the whole of the UK' inquiry which the LGA is providing the secretariat for took evidence from the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.
- 2.8. 836,887 website page views by more than 201,242 unique users.
- 2.9. 12,834 twitter followers with 19.3 million potential impressions.

Other key activity

Campaigns

Be a Councillor

3. In July, we launched a localised Be a Councillor campaign, working with Rotherham Council. As part of the campaign, a new website was developed; marketing materials – including leaflets, detailed guides and animations – were produced.
4. To date, the Rotherham pages on the new website have had 1,933 page views against a target of 2,000 and almost one in four visitors (483) took a 'quiz' designed to give an overview of the role of a councillor in the council against a target of 250.

Future Funding

5. The Future Funding campaign, launched ahead of the General Election focuses on securing sustainable funding for local government ahead of the Spending Review in November.
6. 'A Shared Commitment: Local government and the Spending Review', was launched at Annual Conference and has been downloaded 4,788 times in addition to 2,000 hard copies which were distributed to members, officers and stakeholders. In addition, our Future Funding Outlook has been downloaded 9,983 times from the LGA website.
7. 'Spending Smarter: A Shared Commitment' which formed the technical Spending Review submission to the Treasury has been downloaded 11,524 times whilst 700 hard copies have been distributed.

DevoNext

8. DevoNext was launched ahead of the General Election. Our main campaign document has been downloaded 25,666 times to date and 1,660 hard copies have been given out to delegates, members and stakeholders. In addition, a public health focused publication – 'English devolution: local solutions for a healthy nation' – was produced and has been downloaded 12,430 times to date, with 500 publications printed and distributed.
9. To accompany the publications, a DevoNext hub was created on our website. This hub pulls together information and tools for councils that are building devolution deals and is regularly updated. Over Q1 and Q2, the hub received 9,693 page views from 1,792 unique visitors.

Refugees

10. In response to the Syrian refugee situation in addition to our negotiation, media and public affairs work, we created an online hub, pulling together frequently asked questions along with guidance for councils. The web page has been well received, with 8,343 page views (average views for pages on the website are around 2,000), 4960 unique visitors and 1,116 returning visitors which indicate that the page is being well-used as a reference resource.

11. Those visiting the site included councils, central government and the media. In addition, 'single-issue' bulletins have been sent to leaders and group leaders; chief executives; and heads of communications. These have had a positive response with good open rates.

Further information

12. A full report outlining the quarterly results from April to June 2015 in more detail can be viewed [here](#) if Members would like further information.

LGA Forward Plan

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA Leadership Board is responsible for driving the Association's activities and business, taking a lead in developing and overseeing delivery of the business plan and identifying the emerging and key issues to highlight to the LGA Executive.

As part of this, Members are invited to consider which items they would like to see on future agendas of the LGA Leadership Board, LGA Executive and Councillors' Forum.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board endorses the Forward Plan and specifies topics and items for future meetings of the LGA Executive, Leadership Board and Councillors' Forum.

Action

Officers to brief Members and officers in line with steer.

Contact officer:

Frances Marshall

Position:

Manager, Member Services

Phone no:

020 7664 3220

E-mail:

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LGA Forward Plan

December

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 10.12.15	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Local Government Finance Settlement	To endorse the response to the Finance Settlement agreed by Resources Portfolio.
Local Government Finance	To receive a report on the cross cutting work on local government finance led by the Resources Portfolio.
Devolution	To receive a report on the cross cutting work on devolution led by the City Regions and People and Places Boards.
LGA Business	
Performance Report	To review six month performance report.
LGA Financial Strategy	To include: feedback on the last financial strategy and update on AMA pensions and budgets.
LGA Budget	To note a proposed budget framework prior to a full report in January 2016.
LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year.
Appointments to Outside Bodies	To note the list of bodies to which the LGA is appointing.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
PART 2	CONFIDENTIAL
Commercial Advisory Board	To consider a report from the Commercial Advisory Board.
Layden House	To receive an update on the Layden House refurbishment.
Local Government House	To consider the outcomes of the feasibility report into options for Local Government House.

THERE IS NO COUNCILLORS' FORUM IN DECEMBER.

LGA Executive 10.12.15	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Autumn Statement	To discuss the Autumn Statement and the LGA's response
Local Government Finance	To receive a report on the cross cutting work on local government finance led by the Resources Portfolio.
Devolution	To receive a report on the cross cutting work on devolution led by the City Regions and People and Places Boards.
LGA Business	
LGA Business Plan	To agree an updated Business Plan.
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

January

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 20.01.16	
Item	Summary/ Purpose
LGA Business	
Performance Report	To review the third quarter performance report.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity in the third quarter.
Treasury Management	To consider the performance of treasury management over the last year.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Audit Committee Minutes	To note Audit Committee minutes of its last meeting.
Part 2	CONFIDENTIAL
Commercial Advisory Board	To note the Commercial Advisory Board minutes of its last meeting.

Councillors' Forum 21.01.2016	
Item	Summary / Purpose
TBC	TBC
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA Executive 21.01.16	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Local Government Finance Settlement	To consider a summary of LGA activity on the LG Finance Settlement and endorse the LGA response (agreed by Resources Portfolio).
LGA Business	
Note of LGA Leadership Board Meeting	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting the previous day
Note of the last LGA Executive meeting	To agree the note of the last meeting.

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LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych

3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

