

# LGA Leadership Board

## Agenda

Wednesday, 5 April 2017  
2.00 pm

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

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

## **Guidance notes for members and visitors**

### **Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

#### **Welcome!**

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#### **Security**

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Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor** of Layden House which is open access and therefore does not require a swipe enabled security pass. **Access** to the rest of the building (floors 1-5) is via swipe enabled security passes.

When you visit Layden House, **please show your Local Government House security pass to reception** and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1-5 if required. **Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

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**DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.**

**DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.**

#### **Soft Seating Area**

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#### **Accessibility**

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either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

### **Further help**

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

### **Why have the LGA's Headquarters moved?**

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for nine months and we expect to be back in LGH by September 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

LGA Leadership Board  
5 April 2017

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There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **2.00 pm on Wednesday, 5 April 2017**  
Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

**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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

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

**LGA Contact:**

Frances Marshall  
0207 664 3220 / [frances.marshall@local.gov.uk](mailto:frances.marshall@local.gov.uk)

**Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.20 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 6)</b>	
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (ACTING Vice Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Baroness Coultie of Downe Philippa Coultie (Deputy Chairman)	Westminster City Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Sean Anstee (Deputy Chairman)	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Labour ( 5)</b>	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE (Deputy Chair)	Stevenage Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Deputy Chair)	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE (Deputy Chair)	Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
<b>Independent ( 2)</b>	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE (Deputy Chair)	Cambridgeshire County Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2)</b>	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Vice-Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE (Deputy Chair)	Watford Borough Council

## LGA Leadership Board – Attendance 2016/2017

	20/7/16	14/9/16	19/10/16	8/12/16	18/01/17	01/03/17
<b>Councillors</b>						
<b>Conservative</b>						
Lord Porter of Spalding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Hodge CBE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
David Simmonds CBE	Yes	Yes	Via video	Yes	Yes	Yes
Baroness Couttie of Downe	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Peter Fleming OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sean Anstee	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Labour</b>						
Nick Forbes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Via video
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sharon Taylor OBE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Box CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Anne Western CBE	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Sue Murphy CBE	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Independent</b>						
Marianne Overton MBE	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Peter Reeve MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>						
Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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**LGA Leadership Board**

Wednesday 5 April 2017

2.00 pm

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

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 7 June 2017, 2.00 pm, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG







## **The council role in education**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

The LGA has been contributing to the Department for Education (DfE) review of the local authority role in education, through an External Advisory Board (EAB), chaired by Alan Wood, former President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services. CYP Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts and LGA Head of Policy (People) Sally Burlington represent the LGA on the Board.

As a result of the discussions that have taken place at EAB meetings, the Children and Young People Board lead members jointly wrote to the Secretary of State for Education at the start of January, setting out proposals for four key areas, including a 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools. The full letter is attached at **Appendix A**.

This paper also provides, for information and discussion, a summary of the points made in our responses to the Department's consultations on the proposed introduction of a national school funding formula and proposed changes to high needs funding.

### **Recommendations**

That the LGA Leadership Board:

- i. discuss how the proposals set out in the letter to the Education Secretary Justine Greening MP can be developed further; and
- ii. note the summary of the LGA response to the schools funding consultations set out at paragraphs 11 and 12.

### **Action**

Officers to take action arising out any discussion, as directed by members.

**Contact officer:** Ian Keating  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3032  
**E-mail:** [ian.keating@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.keating@local.gov.uk)



## **The council role in education**

### **Background**

1. The LGA supports the aim of the DfE review of the local authority role in education and children's services: to establish a clear and sustainable future role for councils. In our Autumn Statement submission, we asked that councils be given a clear and strategic role in overseeing local schools systems, accompanied by appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities.
2. Councils have responded positively to increasing school autonomy and increasing expectations that schools should become responsible for their own improvement. Using a variety of models, they have worked with schools to establish authority-wide school improvement partnerships and have encouraged and supported schools to work in local clusters, federations, Multi-Academy Trusts and Teaching School Alliances.

### **A 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools**

3. There is a cross-party view within the LGA that the current debates about school structures are increasingly a distraction from addressing the very real challenges in our education system. While the evidence can be presented to support a number of different arguments, councillors believe that structural reforms are only a limited part of the answer to raising educational standards in England.
4. We are clear that local councils support the desire for an autonomous school-led system, but have not considered themselves as 'providers' of education since the introduction of Local Management of Schools in 1990. However, we do believe that local government plays an essential role in the strategic oversight of the local schools system but currently lacks the powers to be truly effective at this job.
5. We would like to see a 'reset' that acknowledges that local councils aren't providers of education but, in return, allows us to have the powers to effectively shape and commission provision, place plan and champion the interests of the most vulnerable pupils. Councils should be freed up to convene links between schools and other key partners in an area such as employers. We want to move the debate on school structures into a place where central and local government can better work in partnership to tackle the big questions our education system faces in delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

### **LGA lobbying priorities**

6. The Government recognises that councils have an important continuing role in education. They focus on the council role in place-planning, protecting the needs of the most vulnerable children (including children with Special Educational Needs and Looked After Children) and acting as champions for children and families. We continue to lobby the DfE to ensure that councils have sufficient funding and powers to fulfil these roles effectively.

7. We have also stressed the need for a clear council role in supporting school improvement and holding schools to account for the educational outcomes for local children and young people. With 91% of council-maintained schools rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, we believe councils should be recognised as school improvement partners who can work with Regional Schools Commissioners to drive improvement in all schools, including academies.
8. We believe that the Department should reverse the planned £600 million cut to the Education Services Grant. The announcement in November of a £50 million school improvement fund for councils and a £150 million strategic school improvement support fund for schools go some way to reversing the impact of these cuts. However, we remain concerned that schools are being asked to fund the other services paid for by ESG from September, including council statutory education duties.
9. Councils have a strong record in convening local partnerships to protect and promote life-chances of children and young people, including Health and Well-Being Local Safeguarding Children's Boards. We would like to see this extended to cover education, with local education forums being responsible for tackling issues including sufficiency of school places, developing links between schools and employers and ensuring the needs of vulnerable children are met.

#### **Responses to the national schools and high needs funding consultations**

10. The LGA has submitted responses to both the national schools and high needs funding consultation, which closed on the 22 March.
11. The proposals set out in the national schools funding consultation focus on the various blocks that will make up the proposed formula, with some councils and their schools seeing an increase in funding where others are facing a reduction. The LGA is therefore unable to comment on the distributional proposals which will have a differing impact on member councils. Our response focuses on the following issues relevant to all councils:
  - 11.1. concern that the proposed funding formula will not deliver increases in funding commensurate with rising need; and the clear need for councils, working with schools, to retain local flexibility in determining what works best in their areas;
  - 11.2. concern that the proposal to only have one year of the 'soft' formula in 2018-19 will present a challenging timescale for schools and councils; we believe any changes should be phased in more gradually to help those facing budget reductions to adapt;
  - 11.3. doubts about the effectiveness of the proposal that maintained schools should be asked to fund, from their own budgets, council statutory duties that are currently funded from the Education Services Grant; and
  - 11.4. our belief that flexibility to move funding, with the agreement of schools forums, between the schools and High Needs Block must remain.
12. Our response to the high needs funding consultation focuses on the following issues:

- 12.1. a need to resolve the fundamental issue that High Needs Block funding has been insufficient in recent years to reflect rising needs;
- 12.2. in acknowledging rising needs, the DfE should provide additional funding to meet the pressures, to ensure councils can meet all aspects of their statutory duties;
- 12.3. the consultation is a missed the opportunity for the DfE to use their own independent research, undertaken by the ISOS Partnership, to develop a responsive formula, and have made some simplistic assumptions which cannot be justified; and
- 12.4. the impact of the proposed changes set out in the national schools funding formula consultation to ring fence the schools block, reducing the ability of councils and schools to use resources flexibly to fund high needs pressures.

#### **Implications for Wales**

13. As education is devolved there are no implications for Wales arising.

#### **Financial Implications**

14. None.

Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
SW1P 3BT

CC. Jonathan Slater, DfE Permanent Secretary  
Alan Wood

5 January 2017

Dear Secretary of State

### **The council role in education and children's services**

The LGA welcomed the DfE review of the local authority role in education and children's services and supports its aim of establishing a clear and sustainable future role for councils. In our Autumn Statement submission we asked that councils be given a clear and strategic role in overseeing local schools systems, accompanied by appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities.

Councils have responded positively to increasing school autonomy and increasing expectations that schools should become responsible for their own improvement. Using a variety of models, they have worked with schools to establish authority-wide school improvement partnerships and have encouraged and supported schools to work in local clusters, federations, Multi-Academy Trusts and Teaching School Alliances.

As representatives of the four political groups on the LGA Children and Young People Board, we thought it would be helpful to set out our views as you consider the work of the External Advisory Board chaired by Alan Wood. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you to discuss our proposals in four key areas.

### **A 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools**

There is a cross-party view within the LGA that the current debates about school structures are increasingly a distraction from addressing the very real challenges in our education system. While the evidence can be presented to support almost any argument one wishes to make, councillors believe that structural reforms are only a limited part of the answer to raising educational standards in England.

We believe that your appointment and the move away from forced academisation of schools present an opportunity for a 'reset' in relations between central and local government. Local councils support the desire for an autonomous school-led system. We haven't considered ourselves 'providers' of education since the introduction of Local Management of Schools in 1990. However, we do believe that local government plays an essential role in the strategic oversight of the local schools system but currently lacks the powers to be truly effective at this job.

We would like to see a 'reset' that acknowledges that local councils aren't providers of education but, in return, allows us to have the powers to effectively shape and commission provision, place plan and champion the interests of the most vulnerable pupils. Councils should be freed up to convene links between schools and other key partners in an area such as employers. We want to move an increasingly stale debate about school structures into a place where central and local government can better work in partnership to tackle the big questions our education system faces in delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

### **The continuing council role in education**

The Government has been clear that councils will have a continuing role in school place planning, school admissions and championing the interests of all local children and families. This includes a significant continuing role in protecting the interests of the most vulnerable children, including Looked After Children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Councils need sufficient funding and powers to discharge these vital responsibilities. This includes reserve powers in support of their place planning and vulnerable pupil responsibilities to direct schools of all types, if voluntary local agreement cannot be reached.

Councils have a good record in school improvement. 89% of council-maintained schools are good or outstanding. Maintained schools outperform academies in every Regional Schools Commissioner region. The improvement system should be 'status blind' as between council maintained schools and academies. Councils should be seen as partners in school improvement.

We do not believe there is capacity within the system to withdraw funding and powers for councils to support school improvement and hold schools to account in August 2017 as currently planned by the Government. Support available through Teaching School Alliances, Multi-Academy Trusts and Regional Schools Commissioners is not yet geographically comprehensive and does not have the track record of success that council school improvement and oversight has. We believe that councils should maintain a strategic role to help commission the improvement support necessary for schools, particularly spotting those in the early stages of failure. Councils, if they wish, should continue to be able to compete in an open market to offer traded school improvement services.

In the longer term, we believe that councils will need to retain a role in oversight of school standards, school quality assurance and school finances. They are the only local body that possesses the necessary detailed local knowledge and connection with schools.

### **The council role in supporting and convening schools and other partners**

Councils already convene a variety of partnerships in their areas to protect and promote the life chances of local children and young people, including Local Children's Safeguarding Boards; local employment partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

In order to support their future education role we propose that they should be asked to convene a local forum which should take responsibility for:

- sharing data on the needs and achievements of children in a local place, and the needs of future cohorts;

- sharing that data and information with parents, and engaging with them on key issues;
- convening links between schools and employers to help shape the career paths for young people;
- agreeing local approaches to ensuring sufficient school places;
- developing capacity for school improvement support where it is needed
- Ensuring the needs of vulnerable children can be met within the local authority area

We would welcome a discussion about the membership and the possible statutory underpinning of such a forum. We do not believe that there should be a prescriptive membership list – the forum would need to be small enough to promote a strategic discussion. But key partners should include local businesses, schools and other education providers, NHS, Regional Schools Commissioners, MAT and faith representatives.

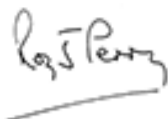
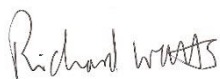
### **The council role in maintaining schools**

Councils do not control schools but they do employ staff in community schools and this has led to accusations that councils should not have a role in school oversight because they have a conflict of interest as both a provider and regulator. We think this conflict of interest is more imagined than real because maintained school governing bodies have almost complete autonomy in employing staff and setting budgets. However, we would be prepared to explore with Government the options for ending any council role that they perceive to amount to a conflict of interest.

The Government's preferred model to end the council role in maintaining schools is for all schools to become academies. We believe that this is a costly and disruptive focus on structures, costing councils up to £320 million in legal and other expenses. We would like to discuss a more rapid process for granting wider freedoms to all schools. Any model adopted needs to be low cost and not disruptive because schools need to concentrate their energies and resources in school improvement and responding to the budgetary pressures they face.

There are very real challenges facing our school system: improving standards, particularly in 'Opportunity Areas', up to those of the best systems in the world; matching the best in the world on skills and vocational education; and providing young people with the life skills to allow them to succeed in the workplace. We believe that grasping the opportunity for a 'reset' in relations between central and local government provides a way to move the education policy debate onto how best we can address these critical questions.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the LGA Children and Young People Board

Cllr Roy Perry, Vice Chair

Cllr Liz Green, Deputy Chair

Cllr Gillian Ford, Deputy Chair







## **2017 Spring Budget**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report highlights the announcements in the 2017 Spring Budget with implications for local government. It also provides an update on the LGA's work following the Budget.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board note the report, comment on its contents, and agree any further action.

### **Action**

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

**Contact officer:** Sarah Pickup  
**Position:** Deputy Chief Executive  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3109  
**Email:** [sarah.pickup@local.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.pickup@local.gov.uk)

## Spring Budget 2017

### Background

1. At its January meeting, the Leadership Board provided helpful feedback on the LGA's draft submission to the Spring Budget. This informed the LGA's [final submission](#), which focused on three key areas:
  - 1.1. The urgent need for additional and genuinely new funding for adult social care.
  - 1.2. The crisis in housing – just as serious as the crisis in adult social care – and the need for action to tackle mounting pressure on temporary accommodation budgets, homelessness, and housebuilding.
  - 1.3. The need for the Brexit process to be used as an opportunity to accelerate growth, secure greater fiscal autonomy for councils, and pave the way for a replacement EU regional aid scheme that dovetails with business rates reform and the national industrial strategy.
2. The Chancellor's [Budget](#) was published on 8 March 2017. From now on, the annual Budget statement will take place every autumn, replacing the Autumn Statement. A Spring Statement will replace the existing Budget in March each year, in which the Chancellor will respond to economic forecasts made by the Office of Budget Responsibility. This Spring Statement is not intended to be a major 'fiscal event'.

### Main announcements for local government

3. The Budget made a number of announcements relevant to local government, the most significant of which included:
  - 3.1. £2 billion of new funding for adult social care over the next three years to “fund care packages for more people, support social care providers, and relieve pressure on the NHS locally” (see section below).
  - 3.2. A new Green Paper for adult social care “to put the system on a more secure and sustainable long term footing” (see section below).
  - 3.3. A package of support, worth in total £435 million for businesses in England facing significant increases in business rates bills from April 2017, as a result of the revaluation:
    - 3.3.1. Support for small businesses whose eligibility for Small Business Rate Relief has reduced or ended as a result of the revaluation.
    - 3.3.2. Funding for local authorities to support £300 million of discretionary business rates relief between 2017/18 and 2020/21.
    - 3.3.3. A £1,000 business rate discount for pubs with a rateable value up to £100,000, subject to State Aid limits.

- 3.4. The Government will fully compensate local government for the loss of income as a result of these measures.
- 3.5. Investment of £320 million to fund up to 140 free schools, and £216 million to improve the condition of the school estate.
- 3.6. A new 5G Strategy, including testbeds and trials in both rural as well as urban areas. Starting in 2017, the Government will also invest £200 million to fund a programme of local projects to test ways to accelerate market delivery of new full-fibre broadband networks.
- 3.7. A £690 million fund for new local transport projects, to improve congestion on roads and public transport. Councils will be invited to competitively bid for the money with £490 million made available by early autumn 2017.

#### **Activity on the day**

4. The LGA published an [on-the-day briefing](#), highlighting all key announcements relevant to local government. This was circulated to member authorities as well as MPs and Peers, including our Vice Presidents, and selected stakeholders.
5. The LGA also published a series of press releases covering the following announcements:
  - 5.1. An additional £2 billion for adult social care spread out over the next three years.
  - 5.2. £300 million to provide discretionary business rates relief.
  - 5.3. Funding for school maintenance and new school places.
  - 5.4. 5G technology and broadband projects.
  - 5.5. Competitive allocation of £690 million to tackle urban congestion.
6. LGA officers are following up with departmental officials on the detail of the announcements and providing further briefings and responses as required.

#### **Adult social care funding: further detail and subsequent activity**

7. The LGA has been leading national efforts to highlight the financial and operational pressures facing adult social care services. Ahead of the Budget we warned that by the end of the decade the service would face a funding gap of at least £1.3 billion, on top of pre-existing pressures in the provider market worth at least another £1.3 billion.
8. The additional £2 billion for adult social care is new money that is front-loaded to supplement the funding from the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). The additional funding will be worth £1.010 billion in 2017/18, £674 million in 2018/19 and £337 million in 2019/20.
9. We have welcomed the funding as a significant step towards protecting the services caring for older and disabled people in our communities over the next few years. However, we have also been clear that short-term pressures remain and the challenge of

finding a long-term solution to the social care crisis is far from over. We have argued that, to close the funding gap facing social care, additional funding needs to be recurrent and put into local government baselines.

10. The reducing profile of the additional funding, and inflation forecasts revised sharply upward by the OBR in the short term, mean that the overall funding gap facing local services in 2019/20 remains at £5.8 billion. The shortfall specific to adult social care reduces from £2.6 billion to £2.3 billion in the same year. However, it is worth noting that this is primarily due to the final instalment of the £2 billion funding announced in the budget amounting to £337m in 2019/20 and this will be phased out completely in 2020/21.
11. At the time of writing, the final DCLG conditions for the funding are still being finalised. As councils will need to pool the funding into their local BCF, the revised BCF framework and planning guidance will also refer to the money. LGA officers have been closely involved in discussions with government departments and NHS England to ensure councils have maximum flexibility in how the money is used. We have been arguing for:
  - 11.1. Recognition that the £2 billion, whilst a significant step towards protecting services for older and disabled people, cannot deal with all short-term pressures.
  - 11.2. Acknowledgement that 'additional activity' can be defined as much by spending the money on things that would otherwise not have been possible (i.e. lower than planned reductions, higher than planned provider fees) as it can by 'new activity'.
  - 11.3. Flexibility to allow councils to get on and spend their additional resources as quickly as possible, in line with the Government's expectation that councils will "take immediate action".
12. In the interests of providing councils with as much clarity as possible on the additional money, the LGA has produced an FAQ on the £2 billion, which has been circulated to all lead members of adult social care. This includes the positions the LGA has taken in discussions with Whitehall and NHS England. Separately, LGA and ADASS have written to council chief executives and directors sharing similar updates and positions.
13. The Government also announced in the Budget that it will set out proposals in a Green Paper to put the adult social care system 'on a more secure and sustainable long term footing'. The LGA is already in early discussions with officials about the expected content of the Green Paper. The Budget Book stated that the Government 'is committed to establishing a fair and more sustainable basis for adult social care, in the face of the future demographic challenges set out in the OBR's Fiscal Sustainability Report'.

### **Recommendations**

14. Members of the LGA Leadership Board are asked to note this report, comment on its contents and agree any further action.

### **Financial Implications**

15. This is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for.

### **Implications for Wales**

16. The Budget has implications for the public sector across the United Kingdom. However, the on-the-day briefing focussed on issues that have an impact on English local government. Funding announced in the Budget for England will have Barnett Formula consequences for Wales. Business rates revaluation does apply in Wales as well as England, but it will not affect council funding in the same way. Business rates policy in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Government.





## **Further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This report provides an update on the LGA's work on further business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review, including the progress of the Local Government Finance Bill and the Government's current consultation on further business rates retention.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board to note this report, including the LGA lobbying activity on the Local Government Finance Bill, and support the wider communication of the LGA activity on further business rates retention and fair funding.

### **Action**

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

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## **Further Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review**

### **LGA Activity to date**

1. Since the announcement of a move to further business rates retention for the sector and a review of fair funding, the LGA has been working with councils and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to take the work forward in the interests of the whole sector.
2. In order to ensure that all parts of local government are engaged in this work and are able to have a say, a number of groups have been set up. A technical steering group drawn from all representative groupings of councils has been established jointly with DCLG to oversee both business rates retention and fair funding work. There are also a number of working groups with similarly broad membership. A full list of members of the members of the steering group and the four working groups and the groups they represent is available at **Appendix A**. You will see that the special interest groups representing different council types as well as associated treasurers societies are all represented.
3. All the papers from the meetings are published on the LGA's business rates retention hub [online](#), accessible from the front page of the LGA's website. In addition, the LGA has set up a member task and finish group on business rates retention, including fair funding, to provide a steer to the Leadership Board on these matters. The membership of this group is drawn from all of the LGA's boards and all types of councils are represented. A full list of members is available at **Appendix B**.
4. Following the publication of the first consultation document in summer 2016, the LGA and DCLG held a number of regional consultation events attended by over 200 people which helped to shape the LGA's response and influence the content of the Local Government Finance Bill published in January, discussed further below.
5. In relation to the fair funding work, the LGA is concerned to ensure that views from across the sector are taken into account in the design of any new formula and to ensure that any methods used are robust and technically feasible and can be explained. It also wishes to ensure that a range of options are explored and offered for consultation. Inevitably any formula that differs from the current one will lead to winners and losers and the LGA will not take a view on the final selection of allocation mechanism. The Leadership Board and task and finish group in December had lively discussions about the different factors that affect need to spend and views have been fed into the needs working group for consideration.
6. Within the joint work overall the LGA is focused on firstly making sure councils have a voice, secondly on the mechanics of the new business rates and fair funding system and thirdly pushing for newly retained resources to first be used to fund pressures and for any new responsibilities to be fully funded and to build on what local government already does well. The inclusive and representative composition of all the working groups provides equal opportunity for special interest groups to clearly express their opinions, state their priorities and influence the way forward.



7. The fair funding work is still at a relatively early stage but we are expecting the government to publish a consultation document on this shortly, which we expect to seek views on the factors that influence need to spend.

#### **Local Government Finance Bill and LGA activity**

8. As reported at the last Leadership Board meeting, the Local Government Finance Bill which provides the enabling legislation for further business rates retention, began its passage through the House of Commons on 13 January. The Bill entered Committee Stage on 31 January which ended on 21 February. At the time of writing, we are awaiting a date for the Report and Third Reading stage in the House of Commons. A 'carry-over motion' for the Bill has been approved, which means the Bill will be able to continue its passage in the next session of Parliament following the Queen's Speech, which is expected in mid-May 2017. The Bill is expected to complete its passage through Parliament in late 2017.
9. We are working alongside Parliament, Government and with councils to set out how the new system can work effectively and maximise the potential it offers to our local communities and businesses. This includes implementing it in a way which balances rewarding councils for growing their local economies, but avoids areas less able to generate business rates income suffering as a result.
10. The Bill does not set out proposals for redistribution as the implementation of a new fair funding mechanism does not require legislation. The LGA and DCLG are working with members of the steering group and needs working group to develop options for consultation. Until more detailed work has been done, it would not be in the interests of local government to seek to tie down details of a fair funding mechanism. As mentioned above, we expect there to be an initial consultation on factors influencing need to spend in the coming weeks.
11. The LGA worked with MPs to table amendments to the Bill in four areas:
  - a. Removing the powers of the Secretary of State to force authorities into pools against their will.
  - b. Removing council tax referendums. The Bill allows for them to be set over a number of years.
  - c. Giving councils more flexibility to target multiplier reductions.
  - d. More discretion on reliefs.
12. We provided a wide range of [briefings](#) for MPs and made a formal submission to the Committee considering the Bill. This included our Senior Vice-Chair Cllr Nick Forbes who gave evidence to the Committee on behalf of the LGA. We have used the Bill as an opportunity to highlight the challenging overall funding gap facing local government by 2019/20. We have highlighted that local government must be able to use its extra business rates income to plug these funding pressures before additional responsibilities are transferred to be funded through business rates retention. Once existing funding gaps are addressed, councils should then be able to invest the rest into services which support local economies and drive local growth, such as closing skills gaps and improving public transport.
13. Our analysis was quoted extensively by MPs and led to the Local Government Minister Marcus Jones MP committing in the Committee stage to "work with the LGA, the Charity

Commission and others to explore what legislative and non-legislative steps we might take to protect the system and tackle business rate avoidance”.

14. As is often the case with Government-led legislation, no substantive amendments were made to the Bill at the House of Commons Committee Stage. We will therefore continue to work with MPs and Peers to explore options for improving the Bill as it progresses through the House of Commons and moves into the House of Lords. This will include exploring whether there is a way in which the wording of the Bill could allow all authorities to acquire the power to raise an infrastructure supplement in the future. Currently the Bill only permits this for the GLA and Mayoral Combined Authorities.

### **100 per cent business rates retention - Further Consultation Document on design of the new Retention System**

15. As outlined in the previous report to Leadership Board, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published its second [consultation document](#) on further business rates retention on 15 February.
16. The LGA and the DCLG are organising six regional events for local authority members and officers on the current consultation paper, the Bill and the Fair Funding Review. The events build on similar events for the first consultation last August and September, which were well received. They provide an opportunity for members and officers to hear from DCLG officials and LGA officers about the current proposals and give their views about the plans for the business rates retention system and to hear about progress and contribute to work on the fair funding review.
17. The LGA’s response to the consultation document is being developed in line with the views of the DCLG and LGA steering and working groups and will be cleared by the LGA’s task and finish group on business rates retention and Group Leaders. The deadline for responses to be submitted to DCLG is 3 May.

### **Recommendations**

18. Members of the Leadership Board are asked to note this report, including the LGA lobbying activity on the Local Government Finance Bill, and support the wider communication of the LGA activity on business rates retention and fair funding.

### **Financial Implications**

19. This is part of the LGA’s core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for.

### **Implications for Wales**

20. There are no direct implications for Wales arising from this report. All of the measures in the Local Government Finance Bill apply to England only.

## Appendix A: Business Rates Retention Officer Steering Group and Working Groups Membership

These membership lists include all non-LGA / DCLG members of the groups. Each of the main Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the LGA were invited to nominate a representative to the steering group and each of the working groups. Similarly the treasurer societies, which are members of the Association of Local Authority Treasurers Societies (ALATS), were invited to make nominations. Additional members have been added to groups, where relevant, to ensure the groups benefit from individual expertise, as well as maintaining regional and authority balance and including relevant stakeholders, such as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV).

<b>Steering Group</b>	
<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>Name</b>
County Councils' Network (CCN)	Pete Moore
District Councils' Network (DCN)	Sandra Dinneen
Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)	Frances Foster
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)	Paul Martin
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)	Pat Ritchie
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)	Richard Flinton
Society of London Treasurers (SLT)	Alison Griffin
Society of Municipal Treasurers (SMT)	Paul Wildsmith
Society of County Treasurers (SCT)	Sheila Little
Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT)	Norma Atlay
Society of Unitary Treasurers (SUT)	Nicole Jones
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Sean Nolan
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)	Andrew Edwards
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	David Magor
Combined Authorities	Richard Paver
Greater London Authority (GLA)	Martin Clarke
London Councils	Guy Ware
Chief Fire Officers Association Finance Network	Duncan Savage

<b>Systems Design Working Group</b>	
<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>Name</b>
County Councils' Network (CCN)	Lorna Baxter
District Councils' Network (DCN)	David Cook
Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)	Geoff Winterbottom
Society of London Treasurers (SLT)	Steve Mair
Society of Municipal Treasurers (SMT)	Paul Wildsmith
Society of County Treasurers (SCT)	Carolyn Williamson
Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT)	Rob Bridge
Society of Unitary Treasurers (SUT)	Stuart McKellar
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Caroline White
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)	Charlotte Sewell
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Gordon Heath
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Carla-Maria Heath
Greater London Authority (GLA)	Martin Mitchell
London Councils	Paul Honeyben
Collection Fund Network	Cagdas Canbolat
Birmingham City Council	Michael Furness
Hartlepool Borough Council	Chris Little
Sheffield City Council	Mike Thomas
Manchester City Council	Christine Buxton

<b>Needs and Distribution Working Group</b>	
<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>Name</b>
County Councils' Network (CCN)	Dave Shipton
District Councils' Network (DCN)	Sally Marshall
Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)	Geoff Winterbottom
Society of London Treasurers (SLT)	Duncan Whitfield
Society of Municipal Treasurers (SMT)	Nikki Bishop
Society of County Treasurers (SCT)	Sean Pearce
Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT)	Nick Eveleigh
Society of Unitary Treasurers (SUT)	Alan Cross
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Laura Deery
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Carla-Maria Heath
Greater London Authority	Martin Mitchell
London Councils	John Bray
Rural Services Network (RSN)	Dan Bates
Society of County Treasurers (SCT)	Jenny Owens
Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs)	Geoff Maren
North East Combined Authority	Paul Woods
Kettering BC	Graham Soulsby
Plymouth City Council	David Northey

<b>Responsibilities Working Group</b>	
<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>Name</b>
County Councils' Network (CCN)	Anthony May
District Councils' Network (DCN)	Allen Graham
Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)	Barry Hastie
Society of London Treasurers (SLT) - ALATS	Leigh Whitehouse
Society of Municipal Treasurers (SMT) - ALATS	Alison Greenhill
Society of County Treasurers (SCT) - ALATS	Joanna Walker
Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT) - ALATS	Steve Richardson
Society of Unitary Treasurers (SUT) - ALATS	Sean Clark
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Joanne Pitt
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Alistair Townsend
Greater London Authority (GLA)	Jeremy Skinner
London Councils	Peter O'Connell

<b>Accounting and Accountability Working Group</b>	
<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>Name</b>
Society of London Treasurers (SLT)	Jonathan Bunt
Society of Municipal Treasurers (SMT)	Steve Powell
Society of County Treasurers (SCT)	Nicole Wood
Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT)	Simone Hines
Society of Unitary Treasurers (SUT)	Mel Creighton
CIPFA Code Board	Joseph Holmes
CIPFA Code Board	Conrad Hall
CIPFA Code Board	Paul Boden
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Laura Deery
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Sarah Sheen
Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)	Gary Watson
Greater London Authority (GLA)	Matthew Beals
London Councils	Guy Ware
National Audit Office (NAO)	David Aldous

**Appendix B: Business Rates Task and Finish Group Membership**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>LGA Board/Portfolio</b>
<b>Conservative (5)</b>		
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council	Resources Board
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council	People & Places Board
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council	Community Wellbeing Board
Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	City Regions Board
Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council	Improvement & Innovation Board
<b>Labour (5)</b>		
Cllr Claire Kober OBE (Chair)	Haringey Council	Resources Board
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council	City Regions Board
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Cllr Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw District Council	Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council	Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
<b>Independent (1)</b>		
Cllr Clarence Barrett	Havering London Borough Council	Resources Board
<b>Liberal Democrat (1)</b>		
Cllr Michael Headley	Bedford Borough Council	



## **LGA Perceptions Survey 2016/2017**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

This report provides members of the Leadership Board with a summary of the findings from our annual perceptions survey of our membership.

A hyperlink to the full detailed report will be circulated to members once it has been published. In the interim, a draft version is available upon request.

### **Recommendations**

That the LGA Leadership Board:

- i. notes the results of the 2015/2016 perceptions survey; and
- ii. agrees the draft action plan at **Appendix A**.

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

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## **LGA Perceptions Survey 2016/2017**

### **Introduction**

1. This is the fifth consecutive year we have undertaken a perceptions survey of our membership. This comprehensive, cross-cutting research provides us with a benchmark to inform future work and gives us a good understanding of the current views of member authorities. In addition, it helps us to better understand their views on the benefits of membership, their priorities, sector-led improvement, how well informed they feel about our work and areas for improvement.
2. Last year, based on the previous year's survey, members agreed an action plan to help support some of the key findings, in particular, work to help improve the awareness of the LGA and our work amongst front-line councillors.
3. The Group Offices have continued to support our overall membership offer through their work with members and improvement teams have further developed our offer to include, as well as corporate support, bespoke support on issues such as finance, children's services and communications.
4. Our programme of visits to councils, at both senior political and managerial levels has also supported our work to raise awareness of the work we undertake with and on behalf of councils.
5. We have introduced new initiatives such as free places for front-line councillors at the LGA annual conference, allocated through the group offices and worked to encourage more input from them into First magazine, which remains the main way they receive information about the LGA and our work.
6. Based on this year's results, we have included an updated draft action plan at **Appendix A**.

### **Summary of Results**

7. Overall, the 2016/17 results show that the improvements made since 2012 have been maintained. Respondents have a high level of awareness of the LGA and the work we undertake on their behalf; there are high levels of advocacy (those who would speak positively about the LGA); satisfaction with the work of the LGA remains high; and all but two respondents (of 862) find at least one of the activities undertaken by the LGA useful, with *providing up-to-date information about local government*, *lobbying on behalf of local government* and *providing a single voice for local government* seen as particularly useful.

Key Findings

8. Overall, nine in 10 understand the our purpose and how we work for local government, this ranges from **98 per cent** of Chief Executives to 82 per cent of Frontline Councillors.
9. Nearly three-quarters (**74 per cent**) of respondents say they would speak positively about the LGA to others (either spontaneously or if asked), in line with results since 2013. Only **3 per cent** would speak negatively about the LGA. Chief Executives remain particularly likely to say that they would 'speak positively about the LGA' (**89 per cent**), and Leaders are now significantly more likely to do so than was the case in 2015/16 (**96 per cent**).
10. Close to three-quarters (**73 per cent**) are either fairly or very satisfied with the work of the LGA on behalf of local government, this maintains the direction of travel established in the last few years. Leaders are most positive (**92 per cent**) followed by Chief Executives (**83 per cent**).
11. When it comes to LGA activities, respondents are most likely to find the LGA's role in providing up-to-date information about local government useful (**91 per cent**). High proportions also believe that the LGA's lobbying on behalf of local government and providing a single voice for local government are useful (both **89 per cent**). Results are in line with 2015/16, with the same three activities regarded as most useful. However there has been a drop in the proportion finding the provision of legal advice and co-ordination of legal action for councils useful, a reduction, from 72 per cent in 2015/16 to **64 per cent** in 2016/17.

Question	2012	2013	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	change from 2015/16
How well do you know the LGA?	61%	72%	73%	<b>73%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>+2%</b>
Understand the LGA's purpose and how it works for local government	89%	91%	92%	<b>94%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>-5%<sup>1</sup></b>
I would speak positively about the LGA	63%	73%	72%	<b>75%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Satisfied with the work of the LGA on behalf of the local government sector	62%	70%	75%	<b>76%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
How well informed do you feel about the work of the LGA	69%	77%	79%	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> This is not a significant decrease, however there has been a significant decrease in those that understand 'a great deal' from 43 per cent to 36 per cent.

Question	2012	2013	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	change from 2015/16
How useful are the following LGA activities to your council or local government as a whole?						
Providing a single voice for local government	90%*	94%*	91%*	<b>87%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>+2%</b>
Lobbying on behalf of local government	90%	92%	92%	<b>90%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Managing local government's reputation in the national media	90%*	93%*	91%*	<b>83%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Providing advice and information through the political group offices	72%	78%	78%	<b>78%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

\* Prior to 2015/16 respondents were asked whether or not these activities were *important* and are therefore not directly comparable.

### Priorities

12. Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed that a range of issues should be a priority for the LGA. Consistent with 2015/16, the top two priorities were funding for local government at **94 per cent**, and economic growth, jobs and housing at **90 per cent**.

13. **Seventy three per cent** agree that devolution should be a priority, a decline on the 81 per cent who agreed in 2015/16. Similarly there has been a decline in levels of agreement that sector-led improvement should be a priority (from 84 per cent to **77 per cent**), however **86 per cent** of officers agree that it should be.

14. The following sets out the priorities, in order, with variations by authority type:

#### **Funding for local government: 94 per cent**

- 14.1. 76 per cent strongly agree
- 14.2. There is no variation by authority type

#### **Economic growth, jobs and housing: 90 per cent**

- 14.3. There is no variation by authority type

#### **Adult social care and health: 88 per cent**

- 14.4. 65 per cent strongly agree
- 14.5. Agreement is lowest amongst districts (86 per cent) compared to 96 per cent of London boroughs and 97 per cent of county authorities.

**Children's services and education: 86 per cent**

- 14.6. Agreement is lowest amongst districts (83 per cent) compared to 93 per cent of metropolitan authorities and 95 per cent of county authorities.

**Sector led improvement: 77 per cent**

- 14.7. Agreement is higher amongst unitary and metropolitan authorities (82 per cent and 84 per cent respectively), compared to 70 per cent of London boroughs.

**Devolution: 73 per cent**

- 14.8. 84 per cent of London boroughs agree compared to 70 per cent of districts.

Support

15. Respondents were asked whether they thought the LGA should continue to provide support in a number of areas. Ongoing support from the LGA is valued in all of the areas outlined in the survey:

- 15.1. **91 per cent:** continue providing support in saving money/making efficiencies compared to 63 per cent in 2015/16;
- 15.2. **91 per cent:** continue providing training for councillors;
- 15.3. **90 per cent:** continue providing peer challenge and peer support;
- 15.4. **83 per cent:** continue providing support in transforming/digitising services compared to 57 per cent in 2015/16;
- 15.5. **78 per cent:** continue providing support in identifying and delivering commercial opportunities compared to 64 per cent in 2015/16;
- 15.6. **75 per cent:** continue supporting devolution.

16. When asked if they would like to see new areas of support provided by the LGA, there were high level of interest in each area:

- 16.1. **84 per cent:** provide support for local economic growth;
- 16.2. **79 per cent:** provide support for increasing housing supply;
- 16.3. **71 per cent:** provide support in relation to building community cohesion.

Communications

17. More than four in five (**83 per cent**) believe that the LGA keeps them very/fairly well informed about their work which maintains the uplift seen in 2015/16. Only 3 per cent believe that 'they are not told much at all'. Leaders are most likely to feel well informed (**95 per cent**).

18. As with previous years, respondents are most likely to find out about the work of the LGA through 'first' magazine (mentioned by **76 per cent** of respondents); although media work/press releases; LGA website; and events and conferences are also mentioned by **over half** of respondents.

19. At **39 per cent**, there has been an increase in respondents that mention face-to-face contact compared to 32 per cent in 2015/16; and the Parliamentary bulletin (**33 per cent** compared to 27 per cent).
20. This year there were fewer respondents that said they find out about the work of the LGA through publications (**40 per cent** compared to 50 per cent in 2015/16) and whilst **86 per cent** of surveyed Chief Executives find out about the LGA's work via the LGA Chief Executive's email and **75 per cent** of Leaders from the LGA Chairman's weekly email there were decreases in others accessing these materials (46 per cent down to 39 per cent and 33 per cent down to 27 per cent respectively).

#### Sector Led Improvement

21. Half of respondents (**51 per cent**) indicate that they have heard about the sector-led improvement approach either a lot, or a moderate amount. At **90 per cent** Chief Executives are the most likely to have heard the most.
22. In terms of agreement that the approach to sector-led improvement is the right approach in the current context, **70 per cent** of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'agree'. By role type, Chief Executives remain particularly likely to agree that the approach to sector-led improvement is the right approach in the current context (**84 per cent agree**).
23. When thinking about the resources that the LGA offers, **61 per cent** of respondents feel that these have had a positive impact on their authority; consistent with 2015/16. Conversely, **32 per cent** feel that these LGA resources have had a small impact or none at all. Chief Executives continue to be most likely to view the resources as having a positive impact on their authority (**84 per cent**).

#### Local Partnerships<sup>2</sup>

24. Consistent with 2015/16, **50 per cent** of respondents have heard of Local Partnerships. Awareness varies significantly by role, ranging from **90 per cent** of Chief Executives, to **37 per cent** of Portfolio Holders.
25. Of those aware of Local Partnerships, over a third (**35 per cent**) are aware that their council has used Local Partnership services in the last year and is significantly higher among those in Metropolitan Districts (**58 per cent**). Of those who have used services provided by Local Partnerships, **69 per cent** express satisfaction with them, which is a decrease of 10-percentage points from the 79 per cent who were satisfied in 2015/16 although similar to the levels of satisfaction in 2014/15.

#### Differences by role

26. As with previous years there are some variations by role. On the whole, Chief Executives, Directors and Leaders have a greater knowledge of the role and services

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<sup>2</sup> In order to reduce the survey size Local Partnerships and Centre for Public Scrutiny questions are now asked on alternate years. CfPS will be included in the 2017 survey.

provided by the LGA and of Sector Led Improvement (SLI) compared to that of Frontline and Frontbench Councillors. This year, there have been significant increases in satisfaction and knowledge by Leaders, however in contrast, there has been a decrease in knowledge amongst Frontline Councillors.

27. Overall nine in 10 understand the LGA's purpose and how it works for local government. Significant changes by role since last year: Frontline Councillors who would agree 'a great deal' have declined from 35 per cent in 2015/16 to 22 per cent in 2016/17, and there has been a small decline among Directors, from 44 per cent to 35 per cent.
28. Nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) of respondents say they would speak positively about the LGA to others (either spontaneously or if asked), in line with results since 2013. Significant variances by role.
  - 28.1. Chief Executives remain particularly likely to say that they would 'speak positively about the LGA' (89 per cent), and Leaders are now significantly more likely to do so than was the case in 2015/16 (96 per cent compared to 85 per cent).
29. Close to three-quarters (73 per cent) are satisfied with the work of the LGA on behalf of local government. Significant variances by role:
  - 29.1. Leaders are most positive in this respect, with none indicating dissatisfaction at any level, and more than nine in ten (92 per cent) either fairly or very satisfied, a significant increase on the 80 per cent for this group in 2015/16.
  - 29.2. There has also been an increase in levels of satisfaction among Chairs of Scrutiny, from 61 per cent in 2015/16 to 73 per cent in the latest survey.
  - 29.3. Levels of satisfaction have declined significantly among Portfolio Holders (from 84 per cent to 72 per cent) and Frontline Councillors (from 72 per cent to 62 per cent), although this is due to an increase in the proportion who indicate a neutral rather than a negative opinion in this respect.
30. Seventy per cent of respondents 'strongly agree' or 'agree' that the approach to sector-led improvement is the right approach in the current context. Significant variance by role:
  - 30.1. 64 per cent of Frontline Councillors agree, this is a significantly lower proportion than was the case in 2015/16 (73 per cent).
31. When thinking about the resources that the LGA offers, 61 per cent of respondents feel that these have had a positive impact on their authority. Significant variance by role:
  - 31.1. Portfolio Holders are significantly less likely to feel this is the case than they were in 2015/16 (59 per cent compared to 73 per cent).

### **Objectives**

32. The overarching aim of the research is to provide insight into how councillors and senior officers in LGA-member authorities view the LGA and how we engage with them, and to explore their feelings about LGA support for sector led improvement.
33. More specifically the research aims to explore the following:
  - 33.1. Perceptions of the LGA across the board;
  - 33.2. Views of how the LGA communicates and engages with members;
  - 33.3. Whether there are groups of councillors and/or officers who have different levels of knowledge and engagement, and, if so, in which areas they lack knowledge/have minimal engagement;
  - 33.4. Perceptions of the service and benefits members get from the LGA, and whether there are other services and benefits they would value, or that would promote and improve the sector most effectively in the future.

### **Methodology**

34. Interviews were undertaken with a sample of 862 representatives from councils across all regions. The majority of interviews were undertaken over the telephone and 32 were undertaken online. These included:
  - 34.1. Council leaders
  - 34.2. Portfolio holders
  - 34.3. Chairs of scrutiny
  - 34.4. Backbench councillors
  - 34.5. Chief executives
  - 34.6. Directors
35. This has given a strong, representative sample allowing detailed analysis by role and region. The sample size has a maximum standard error of +/-3.3% at the 95% level of confidence, giving these findings a high level of accuracy. Interviews took no longer than 22 minutes and explored:
  - 35.1. Our offer and current provision;
  - 35.2. Our current role and priorities and how these can be developed;
  - 35.3. Effectiveness of our communications and preferred methods of engagement; and
  - 35.4. Sector-led improvement within local government, our support offered to members and how it can be developed/improved.

### **Response Rates**

36. Each year, it has been increasingly more difficult to engage members and officers to take part in the survey – lack of time available is the most frequent response.



37. In an effort to reduce the burden of the survey on our member authorities the survey was reduce from 22 minutes to 15, with some questions cut from the survey, whilst others were decided to only ask biennially.
38. In addition an online version of the survey was offered to accommodate those who did not wish, or did not have the time available, to complete the survey over the telephone. This option was offered only to those respondents who indicated that they would not be able, or were not prepared, to complete a telephone interview within the fieldwork window, those who requested a call back at an unspecified time on five or more occasions, or those who specifically requested this option for completion. Online interviews represented 4% of the total. Most of these were Directors (24) or Chief Executives (5), indicating that this option did help to improve the response within these groups. Differences between telephone and online completion results reflect differences by role rather than method of completion.
39. As the results of the online survey were in line with that of the telephone survey it is suggested that a full mix method approach is implemented next year.

Amalgamated role: Role:	Officers		Frontbench Councillors			Frontline councillors	Regional Total
	Chief Executives	Directors	Leaders	Chairs of Scrutiny	Portfolio Holders	Frontline councillors	
East	12	30	16	12	19	41	130
East Midlands	9	37	11	11	11	32	111
London	4	16	1	9	9	32	71
North East	1	8	1	4	2	13	29
North West	4	19	6	12	10	42	93
South East	10	44	15	17	19	62	167
South West	6	21	12	9	13	35	96
West Midlands	13	26	11	9	11	33	103
Yorkshire and the Humber	4	20	4	7	7	20	62
<b>Role Total:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>862</b>
<b>Amalgamated role Total:</b>	<b>284</b>		<b>268</b>			<b>310</b>	<b>862</b>

## Conclusions

40. This year's results show that we are broadly maintaining the improvements we have achieved over the last four years.
41. Satisfaction with our work, our priorities and the way we work on behalf of councils remains high.

42. The issue of engaging frontline councillors remains a challenge for us and is the main focus of our action plan for the year ahead.
43. Our members continue to feel well informed and this has a positive impact on overall satisfaction results.
44. Our sector-led improvement offer remains well regarded and seen as the main way for local government to drive improvement. Levels of awareness and agreement that it is the right approach remain high.

**Appendix A: Perceptions survey 2016/17 - Action plan**

Recommendation	Actions	Timescale	Owner
<b>A. Improve council understanding of the LGA, our work and our support offer</b>			
<b>1. Visits to councils</b> – Face-to-face contact with councillors and officers is highly valued	<p>Further develop our programme of visits to councils</p> <p>Ensure during council visits front-line councillors are involved wherever possible</p> <p>Offer to provide feedback to full council/front-line councillors from peer review work in councils</p> <p>Explore regional induction events for new councillors</p> <p>More widely promote our collective action/legal work on behalf of member councils.</p> <p>Target communications to raised awareness of key areas of our work, as raised in the survey.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SMT/Group Offices/ Principal Advisers</p> <p>SMT/Group Offices/ Principal Advisers</p> <p>SMT/Group Offices/PAs/Improvement Team</p> <p>Principal Advisers/Group Offices</p> <p>Legal/Communications</p> <p>Policy/Finance/Communications</p>
<b>B. Improve access to information for all councillors</b>			
<b>2. Research</b> – better understand the views of front-line councillors	<p>Undertake further research with front-line councillors to better understand their views about the LGA and what they would find useful from us.</p> <p>Undertake focus groups with front-line councillors</p>	<p>September 2017</p> <p>September 2017</p>	<p>Group Offices/communications</p> <p>Group Offices/communications</p>

<p><b>3. First magazine</b> – Maximise First as this is the main channel front-line councillors prefer for receiving information from the LGA</p>	<p>Repeat last year's initiative for a personal letter to go out to all councillors with July edition of First from the LGA Chairman. This will help encourage front-line councillors to contribute and will promote letters page.</p> <p>New 'from the front-line' column to be introduced for front-line councillors.</p> <p>Explore regular 'sector led improvement' page in First</p> <p>Further develop First on-line as an alternative/addition to the printed copy and explore tablet and smartphone versions.</p> <p>Explore costs and feasibility of printing additional copies of First to be distributed at all major conferences and events (currently only distributed at annual conference)</p>	<p>July 2017</p> <p>September 2017</p> <p>September 2017</p> <p>June 2017</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Improvement Team/Communications</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Communications</p>
<p><b>4. Membership packs</b></p>	<p>Work to improve bespoke membership packs for all councillors has continued. Undertake a further review.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Corporate Services/Executive Office/Group Offices/Communications</p>
<p><b>5. Member bulletins</b></p>	<p>Review all bulletins, including group bulletins to ensure they are relevant and useful to target audiences.</p>	<p>September 2017</p>	<p>Communications/Group Offices/Policy</p>
<p><b>6. Targeted emails</b></p>	<p>Explore development of targeted emails which involve all councillors (polls, consultation and so on).</p>	<p>September 2017</p>	<p>Communications/Group Offices/Policy</p>
<p><b>7. LGA website</b></p>	<p>Launch new website, based on research from our membership. New website will allow content to be</p>	<p>April 2017</p>	<p>Communications</p>

	<p>tailored to an individual's specific interests to ensure they can access relevant content for their needs</p> <p>Promote widely to all councillors and officers</p>	April 2017 – March 2018	Communications
<b>8. Engagement</b> – Further develop opportunities for engagement with the LGA	More personal communication with front-line councillors to involve them more in initiatives such as #OurDay and Local Democracy Week.	October/November 2017 and ongoing	Communications/Group Offices/Member Services
<b>C. Develop an events' programme that is relevant for all councillors</b>			
<b>9. Ensure events programme continues to reflect members' interests</b>	Ensure we deliver target of 60% free events for LGA members.	Ongoing	Communications
	Further develop our annual conference offer to front-line councillors of five free places per group.	Ongoing	Communications
	Continue to develop our regional events programme and highlight to member councils.	Ongoing	Communications
	Ensure LGA attendance at external events such as party conferences and the London Councils annual conference, aimed at front-line councillors and includes a stand promoting the LGA's offer, including our member development opportunities.	Ongoing	Communications

<b>D. Demonstrate the value of the LGA's Parliamentary work</b>			
<b>10. Highlight the LGA's influence, including 'wins' for local government through our Parliamentary work</b>	Send all councillors our annual 'LGA in Parliament' report.	June 2017	Communications
	Further promote our parliamentary bulletin to a wider range of councillors and officers – explore costs of sending a copy to all Leaders, CEXs, and front-line councillors.	Ongoing	Communications
	Further promote and expand the LGA's local public services public affairs network	Ongoing	Communications
<b>E. Demonstrate the value of the LGA's media work</b>			
<b>11. Highlight the LGA's media activity to demonstrate our role as the 'national voice of local government'</b>	Continue to promote the extension of the Daily News Headlines service to include weekends.	Ongoing	Communications
<b>F. Clearly communicate the LGA's improvement offer to councils</b>			
<b>12. Communicate a clear menu of improvement support available</b>	Refresh sector-led improvement promotion activity and demonstrate value of the programme to councils.	Ongoing	Improvement Team/Communications
	Promote the newly created 'Our Support' and best practice case studies sections on the new LGA website	Ongoing	Communications

## Pay Policy Statement

### Purpose

For decision.

### Summary

The LGA's Pay Policy Statement is a dynamic document that, alongside an annual review by Leadership Board, is regularly updated to reflect new legislation and process. The statement was last reviewed by Leadership Board in April 2016, and amended to reflect members' decision to adopt the voluntary London Living Wage.

The policy has been reviewed against the LGA's guide "Pay policy and practice in local authorities" to ensure that, where appropriate, the LGA policy mirrors the recommendations made to local authorities. In line with best practice, pension contribution rates have now been included in the policy.

Separately, the Constitution Task Group has recommended that the remit of the LGA's Independent Remuneration Panel should be extended to advise Leadership Board on senior staffing matters at the Board's request. The Pay Policy Statement will be amended as necessary to reflect the Leadership Board's decision on that recommendation.

### Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

- i. approve the LGA Pay Policy statement (**Appendix A**) and note the inclusion of pension contribution rates;
- ii. commission any further amendments to reflect the Board's decision on the Constitution Task Group's proposal to extend the remit of the Independent Remuneration Panel to advise on senior staffing matters; and
- iii. note that the next annual review is scheduled for April 2018.

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## Pay Policy Statement

Date created: March 2007  
Responsible Officer: HR & Payroll Manager

<b>Date of review/revision</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
April 2016	Section 5 - Inclusion of living wage commitment
April 2017	Section 14 – Inclusion of pension contribution rates

**Date for next review: April 2018**

This policy applies to all employees of the Local Government Association and Improvement & Development Agency for Local Government.



## **Pay Policy Statement**

### **1. Purpose**

The LGA's pay model seeks to:

- Attract talented people with the right skills and abilities in competition with the marketplace
- Fit with organisational culture and support business strategy
- Recognise the demands of the job and reward individuals fairly and equitably
- Retain staff to keep turnover to acceptable levels
- Motivate employees
- Keep employer costs reasonable to achieve the above
- Avoid abuses of the UK taxation system by restricting off payroll arrangements

### **2. Why has it been developed?**

Our mission to support, promote and improve local government means that the LGA has a major role in upholding the sector's reputation. As such the LGA seeks to ensure it has clear and transparent policies which demonstrate accountability and value for money.

The LGA's pay arrangements reflect the need to recruit, retain and motivate skilled employees to ensure high levels of performance balanced with accountability. The arrangements recognise that flexibility is essential in ensuring the organisation has the most effective workforce to deliver services for the sector. They are underpinned by the principles of fairness and transparency.

### **3. Who does it apply to?**

This statement applies to all employees and, where shown, agency workers and those who are engaged on a consultancy contract.

### **4. Job evaluation**

In 2009 the LGA undertook a wholesale review of the pay and grading structures of its employees, bringing together disparate practices and pay arrangements into one cohesive pay and grading structure which was agreed with our recognised trade union, Unison.

The job evaluation (JE) process is applied to all jobs in the LGA with the exception of Director and Chief Executive roles, which fall outside the grading structure. JE is the process by which organisations evaluate job size from the largest and most highly paid job to the smallest, lowest paid. The LGA is committed to fairly determining pay in accordance with the equal pay legislation (now contained in the Equality Act 2010).

The LGA uses the Hay Job Evaluation Scheme.

### **5. Grades and salary bands**

The LGA established its grading structure around total Hay point scores. The evaluation scores determine the pay grade that will apply to each post.

For roles at Director level and above, the LGA determines spot salaries. External advice is sought to ensure that salaries at this level reflect market levels and recommendations are made to the

Chairman and Group Leaders who are responsible for the final decision. Spot salaries are reviewed periodically, including consideration of market factors.

The LGA publishes the salaries of its Corporate Leadership Team on its website. These are updated annually to reflect the national pay award.

The LGA is committed to paying the UK Living Wage (for roles based outside of London) and the London Living Wage (for roles based in London). These are voluntary minimum hourly rate of pay set by the Living Wage Foundation.

## **6. Remuneration on recruitment**

The same recruitment policies apply to all employees regardless of grade, including both the most senior officers and the lower paid, who take up a new appointment with the LGA.

Candidates are normally appointed on the minimum salary point of the grade for the post. If a candidate is already being paid above the minimum point of the post they are applying for, the appointment will usually be on the next highest increment above their current salary, subject to the maximum of the grade.

The LGA does not have a scheme for the reimbursement of relocation expenses.

## **7. Increases in Pay and Pay Progression**

Where applicable, pay increases are in line with the annual pay award for the National Joint Council for Local Government Services.

The LGA does not operate a performance related pay scheme. Following agreement with Unison, the LGA has established a closer link between pay and performance and incremental increases are subject to the annual appraisal and performance management cycle.

## **8. The use of bonuses**

The LGA does not have a bonus scheme. The Chief Executive has the ability to make discretionary honoraria payments in line with the LGA's Special Rewards Policy.

## **9. Re-engagement**

The LGA does not re-engage ex employees who have left with a redundancy or pension payment, for at least two years, unless in exceptional circumstances e.g. where an employee may have retrained in an area of skills shortage. A business case is required before a final decision is made and is subject to approval by the Chief Executive.

## **10. Payment for acting up or additional duties**

When an employee is required to complete work of a higher graded post or undertake duties outside the scope of their role, the LGA may consider a payment in line with the JE scheme and grading structure. Payments are subject to review and for defined periods.

## **11. Unsocial hours payments or overtime**

In general the LGA does not make unsocial hours or overtime payments. However in certain agreed circumstances additional payments may be made for participation in out of hours activity (such as the Media and Facilities Management Teams).

## 12. Car and motor cycle allowances

Although the expectation is that employees will use public transport wherever possible, the LGA operates a car and motorcycle allowance scheme for the purpose of reimbursing employees for the cost of travel incurred in the course of their duties. The same policy applies to all employees and is outlined in the Expenses and Subsistence Policy. The LGA does not operate any leased car or car loan arrangements. Reimbursement for mileage is paid at the HMRC rate.

## 13. Payment on ceasing to be employed by the LGA

The LGA operates the same redundancy policy for all staff. These arrangements are detailed in the LGA's Management of Change Policy and subject to consultation with Unison.

The LGA will ensure that termination costs are included in any bids for external funding that includes staff to ensure that the LGA budget is not liable for costs, unless there is an explicit joint funding agreement.

Payment in respect of pensions must in line with the LGA's Pensions Discretions Policy.

In rare circumstances, it may be prudent for the LGA to reach agreement with an individual on ending their employment and to make payment in recognition of loss of office. In such circumstances, individuals compromise their ability to raise any legal challenge and are subject to confidentiality clauses in return for a payment. Payments must be proportionate to the specific circumstances and agreed by the Chief Executive and managed on behalf of the LGA by a member of the HR & Payroll team.

## 14. Pensions

Members agree the LGA's Pensions Discretions Policy which sets out the current arrangements by which the LGA will exercise its decisions in line with The Discretions under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

The current employee contribution rates for pensions (from April 2017) are as follows –

Pensionable Pay for Employment	Main Scheme contribution rate	50/50 contribution rate
	Gross Contribution	Gross Contribution
£0 - £13,700	5.50%	2.75%
£13,701 - £21,400	5.80%	2.90%
£21,401 - £34,700	6.50%	3.25%
£34,701 - £43,900	6.80%	3.40%
£43,901 - £61,300	8.50%	4.25%
£61,301 - £86,800	9.90%	4.95%
£86,801 - £102,200	10.50%	5.25%
£102,201 - £153,300	11.40%	5.70%
Over £153,300	12.50%	6.25%

The employers' contribution rates are currently 11.4% (LGA) and 19.2% (IDeA)

## **15. Use of consultants and agency workers**

It is the LGA's practice only to appoint to posts within our agreed organisational establishment. In exceptional circumstances temporary appointments may be made outside the establishment, subject to a business case approved by the Chief Executive.

The LGA is mindful of the need to secure value for money from all appointments, and to ensure that no individual is able inappropriately to achieve a more favourable position in respect of their tax arrangements. The LGA will have proper regard to this principle in determining the form of contract most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the engagement. The LGA may use consultants to cover irregular and fixed term pieces of work where either the skills or capacity are not available within the established structure.

Interim employees not appointed on LGA contracts of employment will not be used for longer than 140 days in any financial year and will only be used to cover additional and specified activity outside the organisation's core establishment.





## General Assembly 4 July 2017: Outline Programme

### Purpose of report

For endorsement.

### Summary

This year's General Assembly will take place on Tuesday, 4 July 2017 in Birmingham. This report sets out for the LGA Leadership Board's endorsement the draft agenda for the meeting.

### Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board endorse the proposed agenda for this year's General Assembly.

### Action

Officers to take forward as set out in the report.

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## General Assembly 4 July 2017: Outline Programme

### Background

1. The Annual Meeting of General Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 4 July 2017 at the International Convention Centre Birmingham, immediately prior to the official opening of the LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition.
2. It is proposed for 2017 that we follow a similar format to 2016. The meeting will commence with the formal business of the General Assembly, required by the LGA Constitution, including elections to the formal positions of office.
3. The proposed agenda is attached at **Appendix A**. As last year, it is proposed that the Chairman's main address is made to all delegates at the start of LGA Annual Conference, rather than to the General Assembly.

### Order of business

4. The proposed order of business is as follows:
  - 4.1. Welcome by the Chief Executive of the LGA
  - 4.2. Election of President
  - 4.3. Election of Chairman
  - 4.4. Election of Vice-Chairs and Deputy Chairs
  - 4.5. Appointment of Vice-Presidents
  - 4.6. LGA Company Structures
  - 4.7. LGA Constitution
  - 4.8. LGA Consolidated Financial Statements for the year to 31 March 2017
  - 4.9. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 July 2016
  - 4.10. Annual Report of the Audit Committee
  - 4.11. Motions for debate

### General Assembly Motions

5. In accordance with the LGA's Constitution, all member authorities have been invited to submit motions to this year's General Assembly to the Chief Executive by Wednesday 3 May 2017. A list of any motions received will be presented to the LGA Executive on Thursday 8 June to decide which will be debated in full at the General Assembly.





**Voting at General Assembly**

6. Voting slips are included on the back of the agenda for the General Assembly meeting and will be available on the day if required. In accordance with the LGA Constitution, in the event of a vote, the Chairman will call for a show of hands. Should not less than one third of local authorities present at the meeting demand a ballot, voting members will detach and complete their voting slip and hand to the Hall Staff. The actual votes cast will be determined retrospectively and all member authorities will be notified of the result of the ballot as soon as possible.

**Financial Implications**

7. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA in this report.



## **Appendix A: General Assembly Programme**

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The Annual Meeting of the General Assembly will take place in the International Convention Centre Birmingham

### **TIME**

9.00-10.00	<b>Registration and Refreshments</b>
10.00-11.30	<b>Political Group meetings</b>
11.45-12.30	<b>General Assembly meeting</b>
11.45	Welcome from the Chief Executive
	Item 1 Election of President <i>President's Address</i>
	Item 2 Election of Chairman <i>Chairman's short Address</i>
	Item 3 Election of Vice-Chairs/Deputy Chairs
	Item 4 Appointment of Vice-Presidents
	Item 5 LGA Company Structures
	Item 6 LGA Constitution
	Item 7 LGA Consolidated Financial Statements for year ending 31 March 2017
	Item 8 Annual Report of the LGA's Audit Committee
	Item 9 Minutes of General Assembly held on 5 July 2016
	Item 10 General Assembly Debates
12.45	<b>Close of General Assembly</b>
12.45-2.00	<b>LUNCH AND EXHIBITION VIEWING</b>
2.00	<b>OPENING OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b>





## **LGA Proportionality for 2017-2018**

### **Purpose of report**

For decision.

### **Summary**

This report sets out the proposed timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality, and agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs, following the 2017 local government elections on 23 March and 4 May 2017.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board agree the proposed process and timetable set out in paragraphs 6 to 13 of the report.

### **Action**

Officers and LGA Leadership Board to take forward the timetable as set out in the report.

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## **LGA Proportionality for 2017-2018**

### **Background**

1. The 2017 local government elections will take place on Thursday 4 May 2017, with the City of London Corporation elections taking place 23 March 2017.
2. Local government elections will be held in 36 English Councils and 22 Welsh Councils:
  - 2.1. 27 county councils. *Whole council elections.*
  - 2.2. 7 English unitary authorities (including the Isle of Scilly). *Whole council elections.*
  - 2.3. 1 metropolitan borough council. *Whole council election.*
  - 2.4. 22 Welsh unitary councils. *Whole council elections.*
  - 2.5. 1 City of London Corporation. *Whole council election.*
3. There are around 2,410 seats being contested, which is around 13 per cent of all councillors in England. Around 17.9 million electors will have the opportunity to vote, which equates to about 46 per cent of the English electorate.
4. On the same day, the following elections will also be held:
  - 4.1. Mayoral elections in Doncaster and North Tyneside.
  - 4.2. Combined Authority Mayoral elections in Greater Manchester; Liverpool City Region; Tees Valley; West Midlands; West of England; and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
  - 4.3. Scottish local government.
5. This report summarises the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality for 2017-2018 and for agreeing the allocation of seats and distribution of chairs and vice-chairs.

### **Process and timetable**

6. The LGA's estimated proportionality figures should be available **on Monday, 8 May**. The interim figures, showing the effect of the changes in proportionality on the distribution of seats amongst the LGA's political groups, will be emailed to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices as soon as they are available.
7. The election results data, commissioned from Professors Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, should be available on **Wednesday, 10 May** and will also include all by-election results since the previous year. Professors Rallings and Thrasher also prepare estimated LGA proportionality figures, which are checked against the LGA's own estimates therefore the final verified figures will not be available until **Thursday, 11 May**.

Any large variations will be shared with Group Leaders and Heads of Group Offices the same day.

8. The Heads of Group Offices and Head of Corporate Services will meet **on Wednesday, 10 May** to discuss the impact of the estimated figures on:
  - 8.1. the allocation of seats amongst the groups; and
  - 8.2. the distribution of chair and vice-chair places.
9. Following this meeting, the Heads of Group Offices will brief their respective leading members.
10. The final definitive, political balance will be calculated by the LGA Research and Information team and will be available **on Thursday, 11 May**. Political Group Leaders will meet **on Thursday, 11 May** to discuss the final calculations.
11. A report setting out the distribution of places and the distribution of chair and vice-chair places will be brought to the LGA Leadership Board meeting on **Wednesday, 7 June**. In the event of any difference of opinion on the implications of the figures group offices will arrange for Group Leaders to meet and discuss.
12. Nominations for LGA Office Holders must be made by the political groups to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly on 4 July in Birmingham. The Groups will also need to agree the distribution of chairs and vice-chairs between them and use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them.
13. This exercise should be completed by 1 August to enable sufficient time for Member Services to confirm all appointments in writing and invite new members to the LGA Councillors' Briefing Day on Thursday, 14 September 2017.
14. The full timetable, including key General Assembly dates, is set out at **Appendix A**.

### **Financial implications**

15. There are no unbudgeted financial implications for the LGA.





## Appendix A: General Assembly, Political Balance and Appointments to Member Structures 2017-2018

<b>Monday 16 January</b>	Alert circulated to member councils giving preliminary notice and timetable for the General Assembly Annual Meeting. The notice also includes the deadline for receipt of motions by <b>Wednesday 3 May 2017</b> .
<b>Wednesday 15 March</b>	Alert circulated inviting member councils to appoint their representatives to the General Assembly for 2017/18 and those attending the Annual Meeting by <b>Wednesday 7 June 2017</b> .
<b>Wednesday 3 May</b>	Deadline for submitting motions to General Assembly (5pm).
<b>Thursday 4 May</b>	<p><b>LOCAL AND MAYORAL ELECTIONS</b></p> <p>Deadline for authorities to be in LGA membership for their election data to be included in the LGA's political balance calculation for 2017/18 political cycle. Only councils in full membership of the Association <u>before the polls open on the day of the principal local elections shall be included in the political balance calculations</u>. To be included in the political balance calculations, councils joining the Association on or after 1 April of the membership year must have paid their subscriptions in full prior to the opening of the polls on the day of the principal local elections.</p>
<b>Monday 8 May</b>	Estimated political balance figures from LGA Research and Information team (dependent on speed of councils' declarations of results). Email to Group Leaders and Heads of Group Office (HGOs).
<b>Wednesday 10 May</b>	<p>Definitive elections results data available from Professors Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher which then needs analysis by the LGA Research and Information team to calculate political balance.</p> <p>Meeting of HGOs/Head of Corporate Services to discuss the estimated changed percentages and their implications for changes to the distribution of seats amongst the parties and the distribution of Chair and Vice-Chair places.</p> <p>HGOs will discuss possible implications with their respective Group Leaders and consider whether Group Leaders need to meet together.</p>
<b>Thursday 11 May</b>	Final political balance calculation available from the LGA Research and Information team. HGOs to brief Group Leaders.



<b>Thursday 11 May</b>	Chairman/Group Leaders meet to discuss political balance.
<b>Wednesday 7 June</b>	Deadline for member authorities to inform LGA of their representatives for 2017/18 General Assembly.
<b>Wednesday 7 June 2.00pm</b>	Report to LGA Leadership Board with formal proposals for places on boards and distribution of chair/vice-chair places for 2017/18.
<b>Thursday 8 June 1.45pm</b>	Report to LGA Executive requesting their endorsement of the proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of Chairs/Vice-Chairs and populating member structures.
<b>Friday 9 June onwards</b>	Political Groups to use their respective methods to populate the seats allocated to them – to take effect from <b>Thursday 1 September 2017</b> .
<b>Monday 19 June</b>	Despatch of Agenda and papers for the Annual Meeting to General Assembly members.
<b>Tuesday 4 July</b>	Political Groups to report their nominations for LGA Office Holders to General Assembly Annual Meeting <u>as early as possible on Tuesday 4 July</u> or before.  LGA General Assembly appoints the LGA Office Holders of the Association for the 2017/18 political cycle with immediate effect.
<b>Friday 7 July</b>	Member Services to send appointment letters to the LGA Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen appointed at General Assembly.
<b>Tuesday 1 August</b>	HGOs to inform Member Services of nominations to LGA member Structures for 2017/18.
<b>From Wednesday 2 August</b>	Member Services to send appointment letters to all members and invitations to Members' Briefing on Thursday 14 September 2017.
<b>Thursday 1 September</b>	2017/2018 meeting cycle commences.
<b>Thursday 14 September</b>	LGA Members' Briefing (new and continuing members invited).



## Chief Executive's Report – April 2017

### Purpose

For discussion and direction.

### Summary

The LGA business plan for 2016/17 centres on seven external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU
- Funding for local government
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
- Children, education and schools
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Devolution
- Sector-led improvement

Part 1 of the six-weekly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against those priorities. Part two focusses on our internal priority – A single voice for local government - including membership and our media outreach activities. Attached at **Appendix A** is a summary of the LGA's coverage in the media.

### Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for April 2017.

### Action

As directed by members.

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## Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2017

### Achievements against our seven external priorities

#### Priority 1 – Exit from the EU

- 1.1. **Regional seminars** – in collaboration with DCLG the LGA has held four regional seminars on Brexit in Newcastle, Cornwall, London and at the East of England LGA in Chelmsford. There are four more potential events currently being arranged.
- 1.2. **Place-based research** – We have now received 39 submissions from 29 councils for reporting to DCLG on the local impacts of Brexit. This includes content from 2 combined authorities, (2 submissions each), 2 council groupings, 2 LEPS, and 2 university led responses for local areas.
- 1.3. **Brexit White Paper** – In February 2017 we published a response to the Government's White Paper which sets out the impact of recent developments on local government's priority recommendations, particularly regarding devolution.
- 1.4. **Post-Brexit Trade** – Drawing on the extensive experience of local government in international commercial and trade deals, the LGA has begun crafting and setting out an explicit local government offer in this debate.
- 1.5. **EU funding-** The LGA has called on central government to work with local government to develop a domestic successor programme which replaces all of this EU regeneration funding and gives local areas more say over how it is spent after Brexit.
- 1.6. **Local government post-Brexit** – following the meeting with David Jones MP on 20 February, policy development has continued to focus on guiding the LGA's approach to the repatriation of powers and funding in the medium term and longer term strengthening of English local government.

#### Priority 2 – Funding for Local Government

- 2.1. **Spring Budget 2017** - Produced an [on-the-day-briefing](#) summarising the main announcements affecting local government in the Chancellor's statement, and the LGA's responses.
- 2.2. **Spring Budget 2017: Additional Adult Social Care Funding** - Following campaigning by the LGA, the Government [announced](#) £2.021 billion of new money for local authorities for adult social care between 2017/18 and 2019/20. Allocations and the distribution methodology for the new money were published on 9 March.
- 2.3. **Spring Budget 2017: Support for Business Rates Revaluation** – The Government announced a £435 million [package of measures](#) to support businesses facing increases in business rates bills in England from April 2017, including a £300 million discretionary fund over four years for councils to support businesses that face the steepest increase in bills.
- 2.4. **Local Government Finance Bill** – The [Bill](#) has completed the Committee stage in the House of Commons and the Report stage is not expected until late May. During Committee stage the LGA [engaged](#) closely with MPs on proposals for amendments to the Bill and the Minister committed to working with the LGA on tackling business rates avoidance.
- 2.5. **Business Rates Retention** – Following the DCLG [consultation](#) on proposals for the design of the reformed system the LGA and DCLG are holding six [regional events](#), throughout March and April, for local authorities on the consultation and progress on the reform. At the time of writing over 200 delegates are booked on the events.

- 2.6. **Fair Funding Review** – At the time of writing the Government had not yet published its further consultation on the Fair Funding Review, which is expected shortly. The fair funding working group, like the other groups, continues to meet regularly.
- 2.7. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – the LGA has continued to lobby the progress of the Bill and to ensure that councils are sufficiently funded to deliver new duties. As part of this work it has also helped make the case for adapting welfare reforms to ensure they support the ambitions of new homelessness legislation.
- 2.8. **Public Health Ring-fenced Grant** – last week the Public Health Minister announced in her speech at the LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference reiterated the Government's commitment to the move of the ring-fenced public health grant to 100% Business Rates Retention. This will come into effect from April 2019.
- 2.9. **Spring Budget 2017:** Ahead of the Budget we delivered our submission to the Treasury outlining our key asks. Following the statement we produced a Budget briefing, which we distributed to parliamentarians, external stakeholders and council officers.
- 2.10. **Local government finance settlement:** MPs debated the final settlement following its publication. We briefed MPs to reiterate our concerns about the lack of new money for social care and the cuts to the New Homes Bonus (NHB), and the LGA's analysis was quoted widely during the debate.
- 2.11. **Local Government Finance Bill** - The Bill completed Committee Stage in the House of Commons. We briefed MPs on the Bill committee, and the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP (Conservative, Nuneaton), is committed to working with the LGA and others to explore how best to tackle business rates avoidance.

### Priority 3 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1. **North West taxi licensing event** - The last event in the series was held in Preston and was attended by forty Members and officers and provided support to councils around oversight and scrutiny of licensing and the role of the licensing committee. It outlined best practice when using licensing to prevent child sexual exploitation and support disabled access.
- 3.2. **Regional housing events** – the LGA has held a number of housing improvement events in the West Midlands, London, the South East and the South West on meeting the housing need of local communities.
- 3.3. **Local government innovations in house building** – the LGA and TCPA have worked together to investigate, capture and present local innovations in delivering housebuilding. The final report presents a range of case studies and offers advice to local authorities.
- 3.4. **Temporary Accommodation** – in advance of the Spring Budget the LGA released research on the costs of providing temporary accommodation. The evidence highlights pressures on many local housing markets and reinforces the case for councils to be able to build affordable homes.
- 3.5. **Right to buy** – responded to DCLG consultation on arrangements for determining the amount of money from right to buy receipts that councils have to pass back to the Treasury. We called on government to return all future receipts to councils for investment in building and to support the ambitions expressed in the Housing White Paper.
- 3.6. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** – continued to lobby during the progress of the Bill. The LGA has been quoted widely by parliamentarians in their discussions, including our calls for planning departments to be adequately resourced, our concerns about government intervention in local planning and the unintended consequences of office to residential permitted development rights.

- 3.7. **Department for Transport – DfT** confirmed that they will not be proceeding with proposals which would have imposed a charge for leaving road works unattended at weekends. We will continue to work with DfT to build on existing legislation to more effectively to deal with the challenges of roadworks.
- 3.8. **Public Accounts Committee inquiry into housing:** LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee as part of its 'Housing: State of the Nation'. He called on the Government to remove public borrowing for housing from contributing towards public debt and for planning departments to be better resourced.
- 3.9. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** - has completed Report Stage in the House of Lords. We worked with peers to press the Government on ensuring greater local scrutiny of plans to convert office space into residential property. The Government has agreed to look into this proposal.
- 3.10. **Digital Economy Bill** - has been debated at House of Lords Report Stage. We worked with peers to table amendments on strengthening the broadband Universal Service Order (USO), as well as to include a social tariff which would offer the poorest households financial support to access a minimum broadband connection.
- 3.11. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** - received its Second Reading in the House of Lords. We are working with peers to ensure that all burdens on councils associated with the Bill are fully-funded, and that the Bill's overall passage is successful.
- 3.12. **Digital Connectivity** - Hosted Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom to discuss the performance of Openreach and councils' experiences. Secured commitment in Spring Budget from government to explore running 5G trials in rural and urban areas. Hosted a national digital connectivity summit attended by councils and providers to discuss the role of local government in expanding high quality digital infrastructure coverage.

#### **Priority 4 – Children, education and schools**

- 4.1. **Report on academies and the LGPS** - received, as secretariat to the LGPS advisory board, a PwC report on the participation of academies in the LGPS, highlighting possible approaches to resolving the main issues faced by academies and LGPS administrators.
- 4.2. **Home Affairs Committee inquiry into child migrants** - Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on child migrants. Cllr Simmonds spoke positively about the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, saying it was a model that should be replicated elsewhere.
- 4.3. **Education Committee inquiry into fostering** - Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Children and Young People Board, gave evidence to the Education Committee as part of its inquiry into fostering. He highlighted the doubled demand for some children's services over the last ten years and the expected £1.9 billion funding gap in three years' time.
- 4.4. **Children and Social Work Bill** - The Bill concluded in the House of Commons. We worked with MPs and the Government to support amendments to put relationships and sex education, and PSHE education, on a statutory footing.
- 4.5. **Asylum seeking children** - The LGA held an [event](#) for lead members on resettlement and asylum jointly with the Immigration Minister and Home Office on 28 January. Attendees discussed the impact of programmes on local authorities; particularly funding and support for unaccompanied children.

- 4.6. **Children and Social Work Bill** - Our response to the amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill which proposed an annual review of the capacity of councils to support unaccompanied children [flagged](#) the support that nearly 90 per cent of authorities already provide to 4,000 children. More information on these issues will continue to be placed on the LGA website.

### Priority 5 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing

- 5.1. **Public Accounts Committee inquiry into health and social care integration** - Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on social care (prior to the Spring Budget). She drew attention to the £2.6 billion needed by local government to fund social care and stabilise the care provider market.
- 5.2. **Housing, health and care** - We held a roundtable with councils, developers, health providers, the government and others as part of a on how councils house the disabled and ageing. A final report and good practice guidance will be launched later in the year.
- 5.3. **Public health** - The case studies in this [report](#) show how public health and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) are working together to make a real difference to people's health and wellbeing.
- 5.4. **Transformation four years on** - This year's [compilation of case studies](#) shows how local authorities continue to make progress on improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities since public health was formally transferred from the NHS in April 2013.
- 5.5. **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability** – The LGA submitted to the UN Committee monitoring the UK Government's progress implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability.

### Priority 6 – Devolution

- 6.1. **Bus Services Bill** – Subsequent to its second reading, the LGA is working with MPs to ensure the Bill succeeds, as it includes much-needed improvements to simplify franchising. As we do not want the Bill to fall, we are offering a way forward for all councils on bus franchising which acknowledges the Government's concerns.
- 6.2. **Leading Places** - National conclusion event for pilot phase held on 28 March, launch of second phase due to commence in April 2017.
- 6.3. **Support to Combined Authorities** - Continued to support work of combined authorities and to develop a leadership offer for existing and potential CAs. Identified initial areas of support with two prospective CA areas and refreshed the online DevoHub.
- 6.4. **Support to elected mayors** - Support programmes for Mayoral candidates are underway and a programme of activity for mayors and their Combined Authorities will be discussed at the Combined Authority Chief Executive Network on 20 April.
- 6.5. **Local Growth Academy** - Working with HEFCE, UUK, NHS Confederation and other national partners to develop collaborative leadership programme for higher education, local government and health sector to be launched in May.
- 6.6. **RSA Inclusive Growth Commission** - Supported the launch of the [final RSA inclusive growth commission report](#), a major new publication that proposes further devolution of economic and social policy.

**Priority 7 – Sector-led Improvement**

- 7.1. **Culture, Tourism and Sport** - Over 100 delegates attended the annual culture, tourism and sport conference in Bristol. They participated in a range of activities and heard from athlete Dame Kelly Holmes and designer Wayne Hemingway. The conference launched [People, Culture, Place](#) – showing councils use culture to boost employment, reduce homelessness, and promote civic pride and participation.
- 7.2. **Votes for women: From suffrage to citizenship** - An LGA supported campaign to mark the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> March. It will link with our 'Be a Councillor' campaign to encourage more diversity among councillors.
- 7.3. **Government's Apprenticeship Policy** - The LGA is continuing to provide support to councils on the implementation of the government's apprenticeship policy. The LGA has provided 5 national events, online advice and support to over 200 councils in 2016/17. For more information contact [Nigel.carruthers@local.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.carruthers@local.gov.uk)
- 7.4. **Tax arrangements for contractors (IR35)** - The Government's [reforms](#) to IR35 rules for contractors in the public sector will take effect from 6 April 2017 and we are working with HMRC to improve associated [guidance](#).
- 7.5. **Come Back to Social Work** - The candidates have now finished their training and are preparing their learning portfolios and registration forms for the Health and Care Professions Council. Read more [here](#).
- 7.6. **Response to GMP consultation** - Responded to a [Government consultation](#) on the long-term treatment of guaranteed minimum pensions (GMPs) paid by the public sector, noting that costs arising from reform in this area should be met by central government.
- 7.7. **Safer and Stronger Communities** - Delivered the first leadership essentials course on counter-extremism to support elected members to understand extremism and approaches to tackling it, how to assess local risks, and how to challenge extremist ideologies.
- 7.8. **Air Quality** - We have worked collaboratively with Defra, ADPH and PHE to generate an [updated suite of tools](#) to help local authorities improve air quality.
- 7.9. **Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)** - After lobbying the government to amend the Local Audit and Accountability Bill in 2013 the LGA established PSAA which has now launched the national scheme for the appointment of external auditors for 2018/19. At the deadline for councils to opt in, 98% of eligible bodies have agreed to do so.
- 7.10. **Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC)** - The LGA CPC programme has been endorsed by an independent evaluation report by Cardiff University. They concluded that CPC remains a highly effective tool whilst providing value for money and stressed the importance of continuing to develop the CPC programme to provide a range of support to prevent failure and alleviate the costs of intervention.
- 7.11. **Leadership Academy programmes for 2016-17** - Have now completed for the year, with a 100 Members due to graduate in June and receive their accredited certificate from the Institute of Leadership and Management.



- 7.12. **Our annual LGA BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) councillor event** - Cllr Mehboob Khan co-hosted this event in February, which had the largest number of attendees to date and received good social media interest. Attendees emphasised the opportunity to meet new colleagues, take away tools and tips and hear fellow BAME councillors' leadership journeys.
- 7.13. **Commercial skills training for senior officers** - Launched this training in partnership with the Institute of Directors, has proved popular. All 20 places for the first cohort starting in February 2017 have been taken, consequently a second cohort has been released, which is due to start in April 2017 in Yorkshire.
- 7.14. **LGA [Commercial Skills Procurement Solution](#)** - Launched to provide councils with a place to procure commercial skills at a competitive rate to make the delivery of commercial projects easier. Fifty councils have already registered an interest.
- 7.15. **New Conversations: LGA guide to engagement** – further to recent work on [transformation](#), Cllr Judi Billing MBE, launched this [guide](#) at the end of February for councillors and officers to create a stronger dialogue with their residents. The Campaign Company developed the guide to increase skills and capacity for engaging with local communities in the context of significant change and challenge.

## Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

### LGA Membership

1. We have five members who have given notice to leave LGA membership at the end of this membership year on 31 March 2017:-
  - 1.1. Gosport Borough Council
  - 1.2. 4 National Parks
2. Although 4 of the National Parks have given notice to leave, 6 of the 10 National Parks Authorities that subscribe to National Parks England have confirmed their intention to remain in Associate membership once NPE's corporate membership ends on 31 March 2017.
3. Nine councils are currently on notice to leave on 31 March 2018:-
  - 3.1. Manchester City Council
  - 3.2. West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
  - 3.3. Hart District Council
  - 3.4. East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
  - 3.5. London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
  - 3.6. Hartlepool Borough Council (rolled over)
  - 3.7. Surrey County Council
  - 3.8. Leicestershire County Council
  - 3.9. Essex County Council
4. Three councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet.
5. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

### Membership visits by the Strategic Management Team:

<b>Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
6 March	Kingston-upon-Thames
16 March	East Sussex
23 March	Liverpool City Council
24 March	Society of Metropolitan Chief Executives
29 March	Wolverhampton
29 March	West Midlands
31 March	MJ Future Forum
<b>Forward plan: 6 April – 7 June 2017</b>	
20 April	West Midlands District Council Chief Executives
27 April	Bristol South, Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset
18 May	Kent County Council
23 May	Bassetlaw District Council

<b>Director of Communication's Membership Visits: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
3 March	Sandhurst
17 March	Lincoln Council
23 March	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
<b>Forward Plan: 6 April – 7 June 2017</b>	
7 June	Stevenage
<b>Head of Workforce: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
13 March	Warwick District Council
20 March – 4 April	Watford Borough Council

**Media and Public Affairs**

6. The LGA was **mentioned 164 times** in Parliament in February-March. We submitted responses to **6 parliamentary inquiries**, including the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into child migrants. We also worked on **6 key pieces of legislation**, including the Bus Services Bill and Children and Social Work Bill.
7. The LGA was also mentioned extensively in the media, especially due to the Spring Budget and the Chancellor's announcement on social care funding. Please see **Appendix A** for further information.

## Appendix A: In the Media

<b>Funding for Local Government</b>
Chairman Lord Porter And Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe were interviewed live on the <b>BBC News channel, Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC Radio 4's The World Tonight</b> with the LGA's response to the Spring Budget announcement on social care.
The LGA's Budget submission lines ran on <b>BBC Online, Sky News, ITV News, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 5 Live</b> prior to the announcement and on the <b>Telegraph, Express, Metro BBC Online, BBC Daily Politics, LBC, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 BC Radio 5 Live and BBC Radio 4's World Tonight</b> .
The LGA's warning that council tax rises will not fix the local government funding crisis was reported on <b>BBC Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live ITV Online, Guardian Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Times, Telegraph, i paper, Sun and Mail</b> . CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed live on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC News, Talk Radio, BBC News, Sky News and Sky News Radio</b> . Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes was interview on <b>LBC</b> . Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton talked about the story on 11 <b>BBC</b> regional radio stations and Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober featured on <b>BBC Radio London</b> .
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured in the <b>Mail, Sun, Mirror, Mirror Online, i paper, Independent Online and ITV Online</b> with the LGA's response to a Communities and Local Government Committee report calling for Chancellor Philip Hammond to bring forward £1.5 billion for social care services. CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane was also interviewed on <b>Sky News</b> and featured on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live</b> news bulletins.
Chairman Lord Porter featured in the <b>i paper, Mirror, Guardian Online, Mirror Online and Sun Online</b> with the LGA's response to the final Local Government Finance Settlement. The LGA's lines were also referenced on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today</b> programme.
Lord Porter was mentioned on the <b>BBC News channel, BBC Daily Politics, BBC Radio 5 Live, Sky News, BBC News channel and LBC</b> during live coverage of Prime Minister's Questions, when Jeremy Corbyn referenced the LGA's warning that extra rises in council tax will not be enough to offset the growing cost of providing adult social care.
The LGA's warning that the social care funding gap will be £2.6 billion by 2020 was referenced by <b>BBC News, Guardian, FT and BBC Radio 5 Live</b> . Cllr Seccombe was interview on this on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4's File of Four and LBC</b> and featured in a <b>Telegraph Online</b> article and <b>BBC Online, BBC Six O'Clock New and Mail Online</b> reporting on an investigation of delayed discharges in NHS hospitals.
LGA Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup's appearance before the Public Accounts Committee was reported on <b>Mirror Online</b> and on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament</b> programme.
The <b>Express</b> and <b>i paper</b> reported the LGA's press release on the results of its survey of MPs and peers carried out by ComsRes, which found that the majority were supportive of more money going to adult social care.
<b>Guardian Online, Mirror Online, Sky News Online, Sun Online, BBC Online, I paper and LBC Online</b> reported the LGA's lines about how the extra income from council tax rises will not be enough to close the social care funding gap, as well as Cllr Kober being interview by the <b>Mirror</b> on the issue.
Resources Board Vice Chairman Cllr John Fuller discussed business rates retention and revaluation on <b>BBC Radio 4's Money Box</b> .
<b>Guardian's</b> front page story ahead of the Budget featured the LGA's calls for greater funding of social care and an article on the <b>Guardian</b> and the <b>i paper</b> referenced our warning that services for learning disabilities are under threat. Our response to the Health Foundation's warning on the issue was also reported in the <b>Sun</b> , the <b>Sunday Mirror</b> reported our warning that statutory duties were at risk.
Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober featured in the <b>Observer</b> with the LGA's response to government plans to raise business rates bills.
Chairman Lord Porter featured in a column in the <b>Times</b> on unprecedented funding reductions.
The LGA was mentioned on <b>Channel 4 News</b> in relation to a story on the setting of business rates.
The <b>Telegraph</b> reported the LGA's response to plans by more than 150 health trusts to mount a major test case against a local authority, having had their applications for charitable relief rejected.

The LGA's response to new analysis by the Royal Society of Medicine linking 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 with cuts to health and social care was reported in the <b>Mirror</b> and the <b>Times</b> .
<b>Inclusive growth, jobs and housing</b>
The LGA's release warning how councils are spending £2 million a day on temporary accommodation to house homeless families was reported in the <b>i paper</b> and on <b>LBC</b> .
EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett was interviewed on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live</b> and <b>BBC Daily Politics</b> on potholes and our lines were covered on <b>Sky News, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, LBC, Talk Radio, Sky News Online, Times, Mirror, Express, Telegraph, Sun, Mail</b> and <b>LBC Online</b> .
Vice Chair of EEHT Cllr Judith Blake, featured in the <b>Telegraph</b> and <b>Mirror Online</b> with the LGA's response to the English Housing Survey showing the number of people owning their own home has fallen to its lowest level in 30 years.
The <b>Observer</b> reported the LGA's official submission to government ahead of the Budget, in a piece on the freeze on housing benefit and the need to build more affordable homes and the <b>Independent Online</b> reported our lines on council efforts to provide this housing despite Right to Buy.
The LGA's lines on the new 'revenge' eviction law was reported on <b>BBC Online</b> .
<b>Children, education and schools</b>
CYP Chair Cllr Richard Watts featured on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme</b> ahead of the Education Funding Agency's appearance before the Public Accounts Committee.
Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group Chairman Cllr Simmonds was interviewed live on the <b>BBC News channel</b> and featured on <b>BBC Six and Ten O'Clock News, Channel 4 News, BBC Radio 4's World Tonight, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC, FT, Guardian, BBC Online, ITV Online, Independent Online</b> and <b>BBC London</b> in relation to the LGA's response to the closure of the Dubs scheme.
The LGA's call for sex and relationship education to be made compulsory in secondary academies and free schools was reported by <b>Sky News, BBC Online, Times, Guardian, Telegraph, Mirror, I paper, Mail, Express Online, Sun Online, Mirror Online</b> and <b>BBC Radio 2</b> and <b>4</b> news bulletins. CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane was also interviewed on <b>Sky News</b> and <b>BBC Radio London</b> .
<b>BBC Online</b> and <b>Guardian Online</b> reported the LGA's response to a Commons Education Committee report calling for councils to be able to set up Multi-Academy Trusts.
Cllr Richard Watts featured on <b>BBC Online, Guardian Online (twice)</b> and <b>ITV Online</b> with the LGA's response to analysis of government data about the proportion of children given their first choice of secondary school compared with the previous 12 months and how councils have created 300,000 primary places in recent years.
Cllr Watts featured on <b>Guardian Online</b> with the LGA's response to a National Children's Bureau report on disabled children with complex needs.
Cllr David Simmonds featured on <b>BBC News channel's Wednesday in Parliament</b> and <b>BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament</b> programmes with recorded coverage of his appearance before the Home Affairs select committee to talk about the pressures on councils to accommodate child refugees.
The LGA's response to ministers pledging £40 million towards the fight against child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking was reported in the <b>Metro, Independent, ITV Online</b> and <b>BBC Online</b> .
<b>BBC Online</b> reported the LGA's release calling for council maintained schools to be given the power to sponsor academy schools.
The LGA's response to an NAO report on capital funding for schools was reported on <b>Guardian Online</b> and <b>Mirror Online</b> .
The LGA's lines on unaccompanied asylum-seeking child refugees were referenced by Yvette Cooper MP, in a <b>Guardian Online</b> article about the closure of the Dubs scheme.
<b>Promoting health and wellbeing</b>
Cllr Simon Blackburn, SSCB Chair, was interviewed on <b>Sky News Radio</b> and <b>LBC</b> about the LGA's call for the drink drive limit to be lowered to be reduced, which was also reported on <b>BBC News, Sky</b>

<p><b>News, Talk Radio, talkSport, Telegraph, Guardian, Times, Sun, Mail, Mail Online, Independent Online, BBC Online, Mirror Online, Express Online, Sky News Online, LBC, LBC Online.</b></p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by Relate warning that one in eight adults experience loneliness was reported on <b>Express Online</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's setting up of the National FGM Centre with Barnardo's was referenced by Education Secretary Justine Greening in a comment piece for <b>Times Online</b>.</p>
<p>Cllr Seccombe appeared on <b>Channel 5 News</b> to discuss the LGA's response to Age UK's report on the health and care of older people, which was reported on <b>BBC Online</b>.</p>
<p>LGA lines on the challenges faced by councils in supporting young carers were reported on <b>BBC Six O'Clock News, BBC News 24, BBC News at Ten, BBC Radio 5 Live, and BBC Radio 4</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by the CLG Select Committee which on the neglect of public parks was reported in the <b>Mirror</b> and on <b>LBC, Sky News</b> and <b>ITV Online</b>. Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming discussed the issue on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme</b>.</p>
<p><b>Sector-led improvement</b></p>
<p>An opinion piece on library funding by CTS Chair Cllr Ian Stephens was published on <b>Guardian Online</b> and was timed to coincide with the LGA's annual CTS Conference taking place in Bristol.</p>
<p>The <b>Times, Guardian, i paper, Express Online, BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online</b> and <b>LBC Online</b> reported the LGA's response to appliance manufacturer Whirlpool issuing new guidance telling people not to use their branded tumble dryers until they are repaired, after the company previously insisting they were safe.</p>
<p>Cllr Fleming appeared on the <b>BBC's One Show</b> programme to discuss the new powers councils have to issue on-the-spot fines to and seizing the vehicles of fly-tippers.</p>
<p>Conservative MP Heidi Allen mentioned in a live interview on the <b>BBC Daily Politics</b> programme the Government's use of LGA's contacts to consult councils on the Syrian refugees resettlement scheme.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to new government fly-tipping figures was reported on <b>Guardian Online, Express Online, BBC Online</b> and <b>ITV Online</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's previous lines on proposals to impose fines on councils and utility companies for leaving roadworks unattended at weekends, which have now been dropped, were reported in the <b>Times</b> and <b>Mail Online</b>.</p>
<p>The <b>Sunday Times</b> featured Cllr Tett with our call for changes to help tackle littering and fly-tipping.</p>
<p><b>BBC Radio 5 Live Investigates</b> reported our lines on the need for a central database of taxi drivers in England and Wales, to help protect passengers.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by Big Brother Watch, about the use by council staff of body-worn cameras, was covered in the <b>Telegraph</b> and also reported on <b>LBC</b> news bulletins.</p>
<p>The LGA's work with local authorities to find the best way to improve recycling rates was referenced by Keep Britain Tidy's chief executive in an interview on <b>ITV News</b>.</p>
<p>The <b>Times</b> reported the LGA's lines about how councils are likely to experience a further cost burden ahead of the introduction of the new 12-sided £1 coin.</p>
<p>The LGA's earlier release calling for lorry drivers to be compelled to use commercial satnav models rather than personal ones was reported in the <b>Star</b>.</p>

## **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 LGA 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:** Member Services Manager  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3220  
**E-mail:** [frances.marshall@local.gov.uk](mailto:frances.marshall@local.gov.uk)





## Appendix A: LGA Forward Plan

### LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

#### JUNE

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 7.06.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
LGA Political Balance	To endorse the LGA's 2017/18 proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs/vice-chairs and populating member structures.
Combined Authority Mayors	To update on the recent election of Combined Authority Mayors and LGA membership offer
Vice-Presidents	To approve the Vice President nominations made by the political groups.
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee's annual report to General Assembly.
Audit Committee Minutes	To note the Minutes of the previous Audit Committee.
LGA Consolidated Accounts	To approve the LGA's financial statements for the year to 31 March for presentation to the General Assembly.
Performance Report	To review the LGA's full year performance report.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity over the past year (3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> quarters).
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To consider progress on the Annual Conference & Exhibition.
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.
<b>Part 2: Confidential</b>	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

#### **Councillors' Forum 8.6.17**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
Housing White Paper ( <i>TBC</i> )	Gavin Barwell MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning has been invited to discuss the Housing White paper ( <i>attendance TBC</i> )
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.

<b>LGA Executive 8.6.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
Queen's Speech	To approve the suggested priority Bills for the LGA.
LGA response to the Casey Review: Opportunity and Integration	To discuss the LGA's response to the Casey Review of Integration and opportunity follow discussions at the March Executive meeting.
Women's Local Government Society Project	To update on the Women's Local Government Society's Project: <i>From Suffrage to Citizenship</i>
General Assembly Motions	To agree any Motions for recommendation to the 2017 General Assembly.
LGA Political Balance	To note the revised proportionality and the implications for the distributions of seats on governance structures
LGA Company Structures	Report of the Company Structures Task Group
LGA Constitution	Report of the Constitution Task Group for recommendations to General Assembly
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee's annual report to General Assembly
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	To agree the note of the last meeting.

## JULY

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 19.07.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
Membership, Terms of Reference and future meeting dates	To note the new membership, terms of reference and meeting dates.
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To provide early feedback on the Annual Conference
Future Business Plan Priorities	To provide a steer on the high level priorities for business planning prior to full report in September.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Leadership Board's Review of the Year	To reflect on the work of the Board and its key achievements over the previous 12 months.
Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups	To note the Annual Reports of the LGA's Special Interest Groups.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
<b>Part 2: Confidential</b>	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects

<b>Councillors' Forum 20.7.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>Industrial Strategy</b>	<b>The Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy will speak on the Industrial Strategy and what it means for localities.</b>
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.

<b>LGA Executive 20.7.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
LGA Boards' Annual Review of the Year	To note achievements against the objectives and deliverables agreed for the year.
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.

## **SEPTEMBER**

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 13.09.17</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
Centre for Public Scrutiny	To submit an annual report on CfPS's activity for 2016/17.
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity for 2016/17.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from the 2017 Annual Conference.
Autumn Budget Submission	To comment on the Autumn Budget submission to Treasury and commend to Executive for approval the following day.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
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.
<b>Part 2: Confidential</b>	
Business Rates Retention	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Local Government House & Layden House Update	To update on the Local Government House & Layden House refurbishment projects



There is no Councillors' Forum in September as the LGA's annual Councillors' Briefing (induction) day takes place instead.

<b>LGA EXECUTIVE 14.09.17</b>	
<b>Summary / Purpose</b>	
Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments	To note membership, terms of reference and appointments to LGA Governance Structures
LGA Business Plan	To agree the Business Plan as recommended by the Leadership Board.
Autumn Budget	To discuss and approve the Autumn Budget submission to the Treasury
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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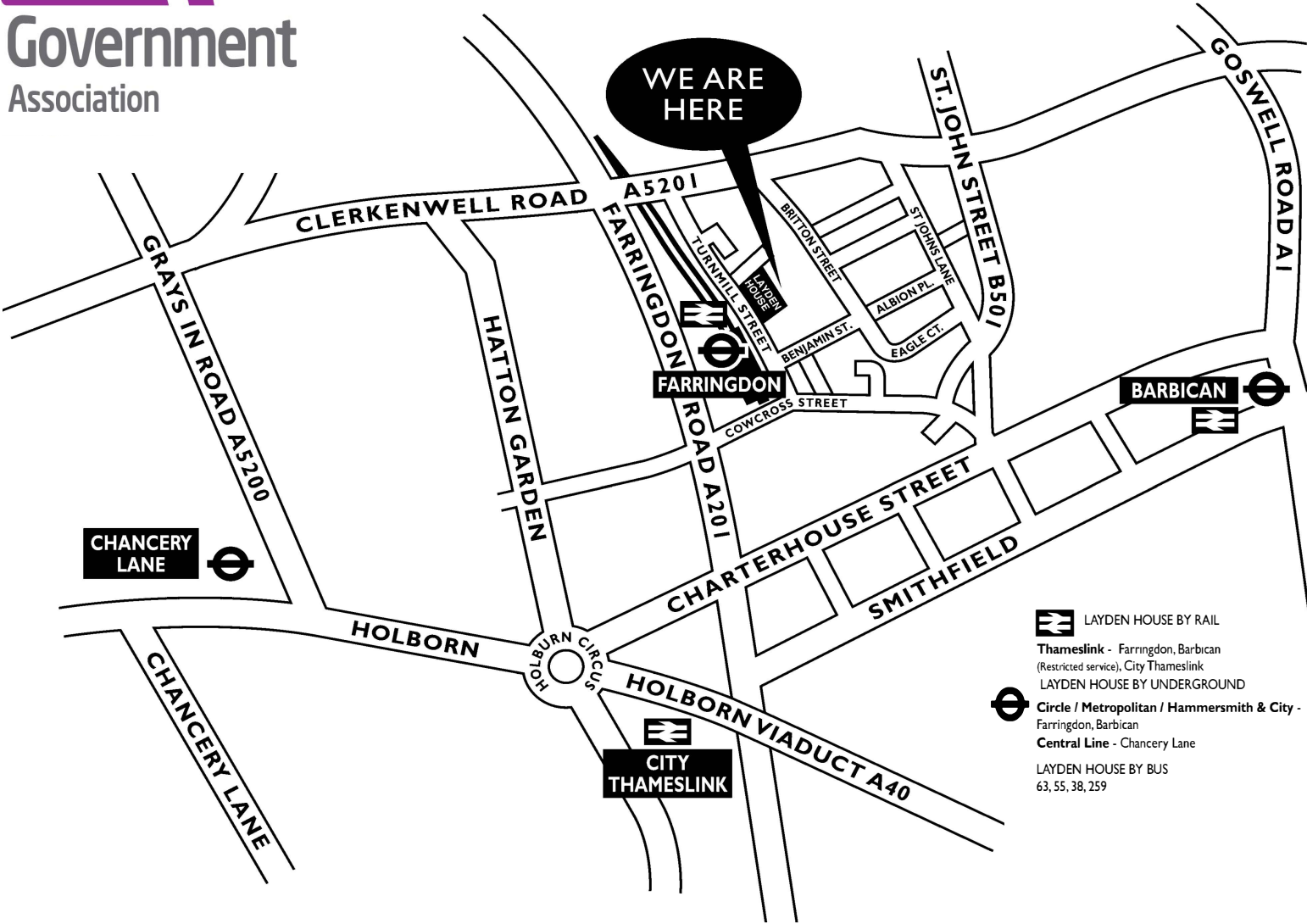


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-  LAYDEN HOUSE BY RAIL
- Thameslink** - Farringdon, Barbican (Restricted service), City Thameslink
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY UNDERGROUND**
-  **Circle / Metropolitan / Hammersmith & City** - Farringdon, Barbican
- Central Line** - Chancery Lane
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY BUS**  
63, 55, 38, 259

**Layden House**

76-86 Turnmill Street,  
 London  
 EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 3000 Fax: 020 7664 3030

*\*The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

**Public Transport**

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

**Bus routes - Farringdon Station**

- 63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
- 55 - Oxford Circus -High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
- 243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

**Cycling Facilities**

The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.  
 For more information please go to [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Car Parks**

- Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
- NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA