

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 24 January 2018
1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

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LGA Leadership Board
24 January 2018

There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 24 January 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be served at 12.30pm, in advance of the meeting.

Attendance Sheet:

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

Apologies:

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

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

Location:

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Paul Goodchild
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LGA Leadership Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Vice Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Sean Anstee (Deputy Chairman)	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Kent County Council
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Labour (5)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE (Deputy Chair)	Manchester City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Lib Peck (Deputy Chair)	Lambeth London Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE (Deputy Chair)	Huntingdonshire District Council

LGA Leadership Board Attendance 2017-18

Councillors	19/7/17	14/9/17	18/10/17	7/12/17
Conservative				
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Sean Anstee	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Yes	Yes	No	No
Labour				
Cllr Nick Forbes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Yes	Via video	Via video	No
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Michael Payne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Lib Peck	No	Yes	Yes	No
Liberal Democrat				
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Yes	Via video	Yes	Yes
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Independent				
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Agenda

LGA Leadership Board

Wednesday 24 January 2018

1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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9. **LGA 2018/19 Budget Assumptions**

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 7 March 2018, 1.00 pm, Smith Square
1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



LGA Leadership Board
24 January 2018

Provisional 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides an update on the 2018/19 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced by the Government on 19 December 2017 and summarises the LGA's formal response.

Recommendation

That Leadership Board members note the report.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Sarah Pickup
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Provisional 2018/19 local government finance settlement

Introduction

1. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government delivered the provisional local government finance settlement on 19 December 2017, with a deadline for responses of 16 January 2018.
2. The settlement sets out allocations of key local government grants, as well as the Government's assessment of local authorities' core spending power, for 2018/19 and indicative figures for 2019/20.
3. The Government also used the settlement to announce that 75 per cent business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review will be introduced in April 2020. The Government also published a consultation on the Fair Funding Review. This is covered by a separate item on the agenda.
4. The LGA produced an [on-the-day briefing](#), providing a summary of all announcements and the LGA's immediate reaction. On 10 January the Chairman and Group Leaders (or their representatives) met with the Secretary of State and the new Local Government Minister to discuss the draft Settlement.

Key announcements

5. The following were the key announcements in the provisional local government finance settlement:
 - 5.1. Almost no new money from central government has been included in the settlement. The Government decided to not go ahead with a planned £15 million reduction to the rural services delivery grant in 2018/19.
 - 5.2. The general council tax referendum limit was increased from 1.99 per cent to 2.99 per cent for 2018/19 and 2019/20. This will not benefit the 88 shire district councils with lowest council tax levels as they already can increase council tax by 3 per cent or more due to the £5 flexibility.
 - 5.3. The Government decided not to change the housing growth threshold for calculating new homes bonus allocations and not to go ahead with further planned changes to bonus calculation methodology. This resulted in total new homes bonus payments £8 million above previously planned levels for 2018/19.
 - 5.4. The Government will consult on 'fair and affordable' options to address the 'negative revenue support grant' that affects almost half of all English councils in 2019/20.
 - 5.5. The flexibility for councils to use capital receipts to fund revenue costs of transformation projects has been extended to 2022.
 - 5.6. The Government announced 10 new 100 per cent business rates retention pilots for 2018/19, and that 75 per cent business rates retention will be introduced for all from

April 2020. The outcome of the Fair Funding Review will be implemented at the same time. The Government also published a consultation on the Fair Funding Review. These issues are covered by a separate item on the agenda.

The LGA response

6. On the basis of the views set out in the LGA on-the-day briefing, subsequent further analysis of the announcements in the settlement and views gathered from member authorities, [a formal response](#) was cleared by the Chairman, LGA Political Group Leaders and Lead Members of Resources Board. It was submitted in line with the Government's deadline.
7. The following are the key messages of the response:
 - 7.1. Almost no new money from central government has been included in the settlement, although the Government has increased the general council tax referendum limit from 1.99 per cent to 2.99 per cent for 2018/19 and 2019/20. It is extremely disappointing that the Government has again chosen not to address the continuing funding gap for children's and adult social care. We have repeatedly warned of the serious consequences of funding pressures facing these services, for both the people that rely on them and the financial sustainability of other services councils provide. An injection of new money from central government is the only way to protect the vital services which protect children and support families and care for older and disabled people.
 - 7.2. Local services are facing a £5.8 billion funding gap in 2019/20, as well as a £1.3 billion pressure to stabilise the adult social care provider market today. Whilst we estimate the welcome additional council tax flexibility to be worth up to £540 million in 2019/20 if all councils use it in both 2018/19 and 2019/20, it is nowhere near enough to meet the funding gap. The Government needs to provide new funding for all councils over the next few years so they can protect vital local services from further cutbacks. Further business rates retention income could be used to meet the funding gap facing local government. In particular, we call on the Government to use the final settlement to provide additional resources for children's services.
 - 7.3. Further flexibility for local authorities in setting council tax levels will give some councils the option of raising extra money to offset some of the financial pressures they face next year. For 88 shire districts with the lowest council tax levels the new limit does not provide any more spending power, as they can already increase council tax by 3 per cent or more due to the £5 flexibility. For many other district councils, the positive impact is minimal for the same reason, with only 12 district councils able to benefit from the change in full. We call on the Government to offer further flexibility to shire district councils.
 - 7.4. No other national tax is subject to referenda. The council tax referendum limit needs to be abolished so councils and their communities can decide how under-pressure local services are paid for, with residents able to democratically hold their council to account through the ballot box. However, this is not a sustainable solution as increasing council tax raises different amounts of money in different parts of the country, unrelated to need. This also adds an extra financial burden on already struggling households.

- 7.5. The New Homes Bonus makes up a considerable part of funding for some councils, particularly shire district authorities. It is good news that the Government has accepted our call to avoid further increases to the threshold and no holdback for decisions on new homes approved by the Planning Inspectorate. We call on the Government to make it clear that they will not increase the housing growth threshold for any local authority in 2019/20 either and, if needed, provide additional resources for this to happen.
- 7.6. Ten further business rates retention pilots will enable aspects of the business rates retention system to be tested. At the same time, discussions will continue between Government officials, the LGA and councils on the introduction of further business rates retention for all in 2020/21. The Government has also confirmed that the Fair Funding Review will be completed in time for implementation in April 2020. We will continue to work with the Government on further business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review, including tackling the impact of business rates appeals on local authorities in time for the implementation of further business rates retention in 2020/21.
- 7.7. Councils will see their Revenue Support Grant cut in half over the next two years and almost phased out completely by the end of the decade. We acknowledge that the Government has recognised the need to find a way to help councils who will move into a negative Revenue Support Grant position in 2019/20. As stated above, we consider that the Government should use the final Settlement to provide funding to all councils over the next two years.
- 7.8. The four year deal runs out in March 2020. We remain concerned that there is no clarity over funding levels, for both the national pot and local allocations, and any council tax referendum limits, after that date. This hampers meaningful financial planning at a time when central government grant funding is the lowest it has been for decades and demand pressures are increasing.
- 7.9. We consider that Autumn Budgets need to happen earlier in the year so that the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement can be brought forward. We would recommend the process takes places at least two months earlier than the current timescales. This would allow councils to make robust and efficient medium term plans.

Implications for Wales ¹

8. The provisional local government finance settlement is applicable to English local authorities only. The Welsh Government has separate arrangements with Welsh local authorities.

Financial implications

9. This is core work for the LGA and is budgeted for within the 2017/18 LGA budget.

¹ The WLGA pays a membership fee to the LGA on behalf of all Welsh councils and we lobby for them on "non-devolved" issues - e.g. DWP work. The WLGA provides "top-slice" for workforce support, but none for "improvement".

Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report updates members on progress of the LGA's work related to business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review. In particular, it seeks members' initial views on the Government's recently published consultation on assessing relative needs as part of the Fair Funding Review.

Recommendation

That Leadership Board members note the report and provide comments in line with paragraph 17 and **Appendices A and B**.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Sarah Pickup
Position: Deputy Chief Executive
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Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention

Introduction

1. This report updates members on progress of the LGA's work on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review since the last meeting of Leadership Board. In particular, it seeks members' initial views on the Government's consultation on assessing relative needs as part of the Fair Funding Review.

Fair Funding Review

Timing and scope

2. Alongside the provisional 2018/19 local government finance settlement, the Government confirmed that it is looking to implement the Fair Funding Review by April 2020. The results of the Review will be used to form funding baselines as part of the move to 75 per cent business rates retention (see below) which will be implemented at the same time. This is the date that the joint DCLG / LGA working group on the Fair Funding Review has been working to.
3. The announcement of the move to 75 per cent business rates retention means that potentially up to £19 billion (£16 billion if public health grant is excluded) will be redistributed on the basis of the results of the Review. This total is the sum of currently retained business rates as well as the grants that are expected to be rolled in to business rates retention (see below for a full list).
4. At the time of writing this report, the Fair Funding Review Working Group was due to meet on 16 January. Key items to be discussed include the consultation document and in particular the progress of government thinking on which analytical techniques could be used to weight cost drivers against one another in the formulae. The papers will be available [on the LGA website](#).

Consultation document

5. Following our calls to inject further pace into the process of the Review to maintain its credibility with our members, the Government also published the awaited [consultation on the design of the relative needs assessment](#).
6. The consultation does not cover the relative resources adjustment, transition or other technical matters. We expect these to be addressed through a series of technical papers throughout 2018 and the expanded LGA work programme will be used to feed into these discussions.
7. Overall, it is notable that the Government has accepted the case made by stakeholders and supported by the LGA that the new needs assessment should aim to be simpler but without a disproportionate cost to fairness. Discussions about a much reduced number of formulae and cost drivers are a welcome recognition of the proposals made and concerns raised by councils.

8. The full list of consultation questions is attached as Appendix A. In summary, the consultation covers four key topics.
9. **The extent to which a single formula could be used to assess relative spending needs.** The consultation notes that there are a number of factors, such as the basic demographic characteristics of an area, which affect the cost of providing multiple services. Therefore, it is suggested that it may be possible to use a simple foundation formula to allocate funding to each type of local authority based solely on these cross-cutting or 'common' cost drivers. This approach would make the relative needs assessment much simpler.
10. However, there are significant limitations to this approach, due to the fact that some services are experiencing higher or unique spending pressures. The consultation notes that a single, simplified formula would also be subject to more Ministerial judgement and that the local government landscape is too complex for a simple, single formula to take account of, with multiple tiers and types of local authorities. The Government is not proposing that a simplified foundation formula is used to cover the whole relative needs assessment.
11. **Which services might require specific formulae to assess their relative spending needs.** As the single formula approach is likely to be too simplistic and not workable for the complex local government landscape, the consultation considers a 'mixed' option, with relative spending needs for certain services assessed on the basis of specific formulae, with relative spending needs for any remaining services considered on the basis of the single formula. The consultation lists six spending areas, which the Government assesses as being the most significant areas of spend or considers are affected by very specific cost drivers. These are being considered for specific formulae and the Government is inviting views on whether there should be more/less:
- 11.1. Adult social care;
 - 11.2. Children's services;
 - 11.3. Highways maintenance and public transport;
 - 11.4. Waste collection and disposal;
 - 11.5. Fire and rescue services; and
 - 11.6. Historic supported capital borrowing (borrowing that was enabled by Government capital allowances prior to introduction of the prudential borrowing system in 2003).
12. The consultation also acknowledges that some duties, which only account for a small proportion of the overall expenditure of local government, can have a significant impact on individual authorities. It uses an example of flood defences as an example of such pressures. The consultation asks for suggestions on how these pressures could be factored into a simplified method of assessment, as well as for suggestions on what these locally significant pressures are.
13. It is worth noting that housing-related services are not explicitly mentioned in Government's consultation. Officers believe this is because the majority of housing spending and pressures are related to social landlord functions and capital spending pressures, both of which fall outside the remit of the Review. However, revenue spending on temporary accommodation would fall within the scope of the Review, and associated funding would be distributed through the single 'foundation' formula (see

paragraph 9) if a specific formula for housing services is not included in the assessment. Members might wish to consider including some commentary on this in the response.

14. **What cost drivers could be used in these formulae.** While ultimately the Government will look at statistical techniques to verify which cost drivers have the most impact on service spending, it is inviting stakeholders to comment on the 'starter list' of cost drivers. It will be from this list that statistical techniques will be used to select the final set of indicators used in the formulae. The list of potential indicators in the consultation document has been built on the basis of discussions between the joint LGA/DCLG Fair Funding Review technical working group and relevant Government departments. **Appendix B** provides a table with the proposed cost drivers for each of the formulae listed above.
15. **What techniques could be used to give weightings to different cost drivers as well as the formulae against one another.** At this stage, how to weight indicators within a particular formula has been left open to suggestion. The main contenders are:
- 15.1. Regression based on past expenditure trends. This approach has attracted some criticism in the past due to the perception that it reinforces past funding levels. However, the Government is considering ways to "produce regression models that show the relationship between spending and cost drivers where all local authorities received the same level of funding per head". This would aim to isolate the impact of past funding levels.
- 15.2. Small or multi-level modelling which look at population characteristics at ward (Lower Super-Output Area) level. These techniques do not attract the same criticism as past expenditure-based regression in that historic patterns of spend between authorities will not influence the results, but data collection is much more costly and time-consuming and the approach is more complex to explain. The Government is looking to use multi-level modelling in particular for adult social care and children's services elements of the assessment.
16. Finally, the different services areas and formulae would have to be weighted against one another which affects how much each service specific formula and the foundation formula each distribute. The consultation asks for proposals on how this could be done. One way of doing so which avoids Ministerial judgement would be to calculate this based on the spending levels on different services at a national level.
17. Officers welcome comments from members of the Board on the lines the LGA's draft response could take. The full list of questions is listed in **Appendix A** for reference and should be read with paragraphs 7 to 16 above.

Next steps

18. The deadline for consultation responses is 12 March 2018. The Business Rates Task and Finish Group will oversee the production of the draft LGA response, with LGA Leadership Board and Executive providing final clearance at its meetings on 7 and 8 March, respectively.
19. Officers are in the process of organising a series of regional workshops, which will be attended and co-delivered by DCLG colleagues, to discuss the consultation and councils'

views in February and March 2018. These workshops will follow the previous two series of workshops in spring and autumn of 2017, attended by approximately 500 delegates.

20. Officers will proceed on the basis of the discussions at Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group, as well as views expressed in the joint LGA/DCLG regional workshops on the Fair Funding Review.

Business Rates Retention

21. At the time of the provisional 2018/19 Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government announced that it will proceed with introducing 75 per cent business rates retention from April 2020. To achieve greater retention the following grants will be phased out and funded through business rates retention:
- 21.1. Revenue support grant;
 - 21.2. Rural services delivery grant;
 - 21.3. Public health grant; and
 - 21.4. GLA transport capital grant.
22. Following this switch, English councils will collectively keep 75 per cent of any future growth in business rate income. The top-up and tariff mechanism will be retained, but will be reset at the point of implementation of greater retention and will take the Fair Funding Review into account.
23. The Government still needs to make a number of decisions about the design of the system before implementing greater business rates retention including:
- 23.1. The split of business rates income between different tiers of local government;
 - 23.2. The future of the business rates levy on 'disproportionate growth';
 - 23.3. The level of, and the funding mechanism for, the safety net against business rates losses;
 - 23.4. Ways to minimise the uncertainty arising from business rates avoidance and appeals; and
 - 23.5. The extent and frequency of resets – prior to the General Election the Government was looking at partial resets, allowing local authorities to keep some of the growth accumulated directly.
24. The list above will be used to form the work programme of the joint DCLG/LGA officer-led Steering Group and technical working groups, most notably the systems design working group.
25. The Government also announced that 10 areas were successful in applying to pilot retention of 100 per cent of business rates growth in 2018/19 – Berkshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Kent & Medway, Leeds, Lincolnshire, Solent, Suffolk and Surrey.
26. The previous pilots have been extended for another year. The London pilot has also been expanded to include London boroughs as well as the Greater London Authority. This means that in 2018/19 there will be 16 business rates retention pilots in operation. The Government has committed to the pilots process continuing in 2019/20.

27. The LGA also submitted written evidence to the [business rates retention inquiry by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee](#). This will be published in due course according to usual House of Commons procedures.

Implications for Wales

28. There are no direct implications for Wales arising from this report. The funding of Welsh local authorities is a devolved matter in Wales.

Next steps

29. Officers will proceed on the basis of the discussions at Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group, as well as views expressed in the joint LGA/DCLG regional workshops on the Fair Funding Review.
30. Members of Leadership Board and Executive will be provided with a final draft Fair Funding Review consultation response for comments and clearance on 7 and 8 March 2018, respectively.
31. The LGA will continue to work closely with the Government on further business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review, including responding to future consultations and technical discussion papers.

Financial implications

32. With the exception of the work mentioned in paragraph 6, for which additional funding has been agreed by the Leadership Board, the work is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in 2017/18 budgets.

Appendix A – List of all Fair Funding Review consultation questions

General

1) What are your views on the Government's proposals to simplify the relative needs assessment by focusing on the most important cost drivers and reducing the number of formulas involved?

Single 'foundation' formula and constituent cost drivers (see Appendix B for full list)

2) Do you agree that the Government should use official population projections in order to reflect changing population size and structure in areas when assessing the relative needs of local authorities?

3) Do you agree that these population projections should not be updated until the relative needs assessment is refreshed?

4) Do you agree that rurality should be included in the relative needs assessment as a common cost driver?

5) How do you think we should measure the impact of rurality on local authorities' 'need to spend'? Should the relative needs assessment continue to use a measure of sparsity or are there alternative approaches that should be considered?

6) Do you agree that deprivation should be included in the relative needs assessment as a common cost driver?

7) How do you think we should measure the impact of deprivation on 'need to spend'? Should the relative needs assessment use the Index of Multiple Deprivation or are there alternative measures that should be considered?

8) Do you have views on other common cost drivers the Government should consider? What are the most suitable data sources to measure these cost drivers?

9) Do you have views on the approach the Government should take to Area Cost Adjustments?

10a) Do you have views on the approach that the Government should take when considering areas which represent a small amount of expenditure overall for local government, but which are significant for a small number of authorities?

10b) Which services do you think are most significant here?

Service-specific formulae and proposed cost drivers (see Appendix B for full list)

11a) Do you agree the cost drivers set out above are the key cost drivers affecting adult social care services?

11b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure these or other key cost drivers affecting adult social care services?

12a) Do you agree that these are the key cost drivers affecting children's services?

12b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure these or other key cost drivers affecting children's services?

13a) Do you agree that these are the key cost drivers affecting routine highways maintenance and concessionary travel services?

13b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure these or other key cost drivers affecting routine highways maintenance or concessionary travel services?

14a) Do you have views on what the most suitable cost drivers for local bus support are?

14b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure the cost drivers for local bus support?

15a) Do you agree that these are the key cost drivers affecting waste collection and disposal services?

15b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure these or other key cost drivers affecting waste collection and disposal services?

16a) Do you agree these remain the key drivers affecting the cost of delivering fire and rescue services?

16b) Do you have views on which other data sets might be more suitable to measure the cost drivers for fire and rescue services?

17a) Do you agree these are the key cost drivers affecting the cost of legacy capital financing?

17b) Do you have views on what the most suitable data sets are to measure these or other key cost drivers affecting legacy capital financing?

18a) Are there other service areas you think require a more specific funding formula?

18b) Do you have views on what the key cost drivers are for these areas, and what the most suitable data sets are to measure these cost drivers?

Weightings of cost drivers and services against one another

19) How do you think the Government should decide on the weights of different funding formulas?

20) Do you have views about which statistical techniques the Government should consider when deciding how to weight individual cost drivers?

21) Do you have any comments at this stage on the potential impact of the options outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.

Appendix B – List of proposed formulae and ‘starter’ cost drivers

Service/spending area	Proposed ‘starter’ cost drivers
Adult social care	<p>Number of adults by age groups</p> <p>Number of adults with income and wealth that meet the means test</p> <p>Number of people with higher levels of impairment</p> <p>Number of people who live alone</p> <p>Sparsity</p> <p>Area Cost Adjustment – to be considered</p>
Children’s services	<p>Number of children (under 18 years of age)</p> <p>Number of children for whom parents receive Disability Living Allowance</p> <p>Deprivation</p> <p>Distance to schools</p> <p>Area Cost Adjustment – to be considered</p>
Highways Maintenance and Public Transport	<p>Road length</p> <p>Traffic flow</p> <p>Forecast snow days / predicted grit days</p> <p>Concessionary bus boardings</p> <p>(need to also consider cost drivers for local bus support outside of London)</p> <p>Area Cost Adjustment – to be considered</p>
Waste collection and disposal	<p>Number of households</p> <p>Types of property</p> <p>Travel times</p> <p>Deprivation</p> <p>Area Cost Adjustment – to be considered</p>

Service/spending area	Proposed 'starter' cost drivers
Fire and Rescue Services	<p>Projected population – A basic amount of funding per resident</p> <p>Adjustments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastline Population Density Population Sparsity Risk index – A measure of deprivation Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites Property and Societal Risk Community Fire Safety Area Cost Adjustment for Fire and Rescue
Legacy Capital Financing	<p>Outstanding debt – The remaining proportion of debts still outstanding based on the initial value of the relevant debts and assumed capital repayments, and</p> <p>Interest Rates – An assumed rate of interest that may be chargeable on the outstanding debt until the principal is fully repaid.</p>
Single 'foundation' formula for everything else	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Deprivation Sparsity Area Cost Adjustment – to be considered



LGA Leadership Board

24 January 2018

Chief Executive's Report – January 2018

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2017/18 centres on six external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU;
- Devolution and funding for local government;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing;
- Children, education and schools;
- Adult social care and health; and
- Supporting councils.

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.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for January 2018.

Action

As directed by members.

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Position: Chief Executive
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Chief Executive's Report – January 2018

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 1.1 **Debate on Brexit:** on 5 December we hosted a debated on Brexit and local government attended by Hilary Benn MP, UKIP Leader Henry Bolton and Wera Hobhouse MP and chaired by Cllr Kevin Bentley.
- 1.2 **CLG Select Committee evidence:** on 6 December Cllr Kevin Bentley gave evidence to the the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into Brexit and the Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution APPG, particularly highlighting the importance of ESIF successor funding for councils.
- 1.3 **Visit to London Gateway Port:** on 20 November, Cllr Anita Lower and officers visited the London Gateway Port in Essex to learn about the impact of Brexit on the port health functions provided by local authorities.
- 1.4 **Industrial Strategy and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):** we [welcomed the announcement of a consultation on the UKSPF](#) but expressed disappointment at the lack of any actionable detail.
- 1.5 **Buckinghamshire Brexit Summit:** on 8 December officers attended the Brexit Summit in Buckinghamshire County Council to update members on the LGA's priorities for leaving the EU and learn about the views of local businesses.
- 1.6 **Future of UK Trade Policy Roundtable:** on 16 January Cllr Kevin Bentley attended a roundtable hosted by Antonia Romeo (Permanent Secretary, DTI) Crawford Falconer (Chief Trade Negotiator Adviser) where he highlighted importance of local government for UK trade policy.
- 1.7 **EU Withdrawal Bill:** we produced a briefing for the Committee Stage of the EU Withdrawal Bill, which resulted in discussion of our key messages in the debate.
- 1.8 **Committee of the Regions:** together with the local government associations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, we have been in discussion with the government about how our advisory role within the Committee might be replicated in UK law. Our shared ambition is to replicate the advisory role of local government in the UK post-exit, without creating new bureaucracies. Lord Porter recently tabled a question in Parliament seeking an update from government on the matter.
- 1.9 **Briefings:** we published a briefing covering the issues of importance to local government addressed in the December EU/UK agreement on the progress of the negotiations, briefed Peers ahead of questions on the replacement for the European Structural Investment Funds and ahead of a debate on the industrial strategy, including our lines on EU successor funding.

Priority 2 – Devolution and funding for Local Government

- 2.1 **2018/19 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement:** the [provisional settlement](#) was announced on 19 December 2017. A fuller report on the announcement and the LGA's consultation response is a separate item on the agenda. The consultation closes on 16 January 2018. We provided produced our usual [on the day briefing](#) summarising the details of the announcement and providing an initial LGA response. On 10 January 2018, the Chairman and Group Leaders (or their representative) met with the Secretary of State and new Local Government Minister to discuss the draft Settlement.
- 2.2 **Business Rates Retention:** this is covered in more detail in a separate report on the agenda. On 19 December 2017, the Government announced that it will introduce 75 per cent business rates retention from April 2020. To achieve this a number of specific grants will be phased out and rolled into business rates retention. Following this switch, English councils will collectively keep 75 per cent of any future growth of business rate income. Alongside the introduction of further business rates retention, the Government has committed to working with the sector to improve the way the local government finance system works, such as tackling the impact of business rate appeals on local authorities. The joint

MHCLG / LGA officer steering group held two meetings in the autumn, reviewing how further retention can be taken forward without primary legislation and planning the further work to achieve this.

The Government also announced that 10 areas were successful in applying to pilot 100% business rates retention in 2018/19, alongside the previous pilots which have been extended for another year. The London pilot has also been expanded to include London boroughs as well as the Greater London Authority. This means that in 2018/19 there will be 16 business rates retention pilots in operation. The Government has committed to the pilot process continuing in 2019/20.

- 2.3 **Fair Funding Review:** this is covered in a separate report on the agenda. The Government confirmed that it is looking to implement the Fair Funding Review by April 2020. The results of the Review will be used to form the funding baselines as part of the move to 75 per cent business rates retention. Following our calls to inject further pace into the process of the Review to maintain its credibility with our members, the Government also published a [consultation](#) on the design of the relative needs assessment. The Government has accepted the case made by stakeholders, and supported by the LGA, that the new needs assessment should aim to be simpler but without a disproportionate cost to fairness. The Business Rates Task and Finish Group will oversee the production of the draft LGA response, with LGA Leadership Board and Executive providing final clearance.
- 2.4 **Business Rates Reliefs:** we have worked with MHCLG and local authorities to develop a better understanding of the status of implementation of the three business rate relief schemes announced in Spring Budget 2017. The Government now regularly publishes a list of councils that have implemented some or all relief schemes. At the last publication at the end of December, it was reported that there are 23 councils which need to implement one relief and 5 councils which need to implement two reliefs, and all other councils have implemented all three reliefs.
- 2.5 **Prudential Framework – Investment code and MRP guidance:** following discussion with members and finance colleagues in the sector we submitted [a response](#) to the [MHCLG consultation](#) on the Local Authorities investment code and Minimum Revenue Provision guidance. There are concerns that the investment proposals will restrict council borrowing for capital investment and the MRP proposals will increase the ongoing revenue costs of capital investments, all of which will limit councils ability to use investment income as an alternative funding source to protect local services.
- 2.6 **Combined Authority Network:** we convened inaugural meetings of combined authority leads for; finance, housing and planning, and employment and skills as requested by the Combined Authority Chief Executive Network (CA CEX). These were well received by attendees and planning has commenced for subsequent meetings.
- 2.7 **Combined authority financial freedoms:** we have appointed a provider to deliver research into combined authority financial freedoms and fiscal devolution on behalf of the CA CEX Network. The appointed provider will commence the research project with a session with CA finance directors on 18 January and present initial findings at the next meeting of the CA CEX Network in March.
- 2.8 **Leading Places:** the second phase of the Leading Places programme continues to progress in 15 areas. In November, we hosted the first Leading Places national event, an opportunity for project teams from across the country to share learning and consider how progress can be made in their areas. We have also contributed to the development of the Local Growth Academy which is a leadership programme developed in partnership between HEFCE, the LGA, Universities UK and the NHS Confederation.
- 2.9 **Written evidence:** we provided written evidence on business rates to the Communities and Local Government Committee.

Priority 3 – Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Industrial Strategy:** we produced a comprehensive [briefing](#) for member councils following publication. The Industrial Strategy announced a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships. The LGA issued a [joint statement](#) with the LEP Network committing to joint working on the LEP review process and further discussions on local industrial strategies is being planned with LEP chairs in the coming weeks. The LGA were also successful in ensuring that local government representation on the LEP Review Advisory Panel included representation from non-metropolitan areas as well as city-regions.
- 3.2 Dame Judith Hackitt [published](#) her interim report on the **future regulatory system**. The report found that building regulations are not fit for purpose and a “cultural change” was needed instead of “doing things cheaply”. The report’s findings reinforce our warnings about the complexity and confusion in the current system of ensuring buildings are safe. In our [response](#) we said that the Government needs to endorse the report’s findings without delay and work with councils and the industry to take the process of reform forward.
- 3.3 Nearly 30 council representatives attended an [LGA seminar on town centres](#), which included presentations from the commercial development sector, experts on town centre management, and academia as well as local authority case studies. Further good practice support, based on feedback from the event, is being developed, including a web-based toolkit and advice for elected members.
- 3.4 We have initiated around 40 projects supporting councils to meet local housing challenges through the **LGA Housing Advisers Programme**, including support to build more homes, to reduce homelessness, and planning to meet the housing needs of an ageing population.
- 3.5 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry into the **Draft Tenant Fees Bill**, noting that while banning letting agent for tenants will bring welcome clarity, government needs to review and modernise the legal and regulatory framework for privately rented housing so that councils can meet the expectation of tenants and landlords.
- 3.6 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry into the **Private Rented Sector**, recommending changes that would allow councils to make better use of tools that can improve the quality of the private rented sector, such as discretionary licensing powers.
- 3.7 We provided evidence to two MHCLG consultations on **the letting and managing agent market**, noting that any additional responsibilities for trading standards must be accompanied by adequate resources.
- 3.8 We submitted oral and written evidence to the **Environmental Audit Committee on Disposable Packaging: Coffee Cups and Plastic Bottles**. Our key messages focussed on highlighting the costs to councils of dealing with plastic packaging, which is often difficult to recycle. We also gave evidence on the low amount of money that UK packaging companies contribute to recycling costs compared to other countries, and called for a revised producer responsibility scheme.
- 3.9 We responded to the **Voluntary and Economic Incentives Working Group consultation on reducing littering of drinks containers and the promotion of recycling**. Our focus was around a revised producer responsibility scheme and how government can provide further direct support for recycling infrastructure.
- 3.10 We submitted evidence to the consultation on amending the **New Towns Act** setting out plans for allowing councils to establish local development corporations and issued a briefing to Peers ahead of a debate in the House of Lords on **Town and Country Planning Fees Regulation**.
- 3.11 Senior Vice President, Cllr Nick Forbes, gave evidence to **the Treasury Select Committee** on housing proposals in the Budget 2017.
- 3.12 Cllr Rachel Eburne gave evidence to the **Communities and Local Government Committee** on the **Homelessness Reduction Act**.

- 3.13 We published a survey of councils on the impact of the Local Housing Allowance freeze on homelessness.
- 3.14 We briefed MPs ahead of a debate in the House of Commons on **social homes for rent**
- 3.15 We submitted to the '**Right homes, right places**' **planning consultation** including proposals for locally assessing housing need
- 3.16 We wrote a joint letter with a number of other organisations to the Secretary of State calling for a requirement for **viability assessments** that accompany planning applications to be made public.
- 3.17 We published analysis of income shortfall caused by delay to implementing increase in **planning fees**.
- 3.18 We wrote to MHCLG Ministers asking for a delay to implementing the **Homelessness Reduction Act**.
- 3.19 We are reviewing Annex 18 of the **Homelessness Code of Guidance** in line with new homelessness duties, and due to consult the sector on changes shortly.

Priority 4 – Children, education and schools

- 4.1 **Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper:** the Government has [published](#) a Green Paper on children and young people's mental health, which is open for consultation until 2 March 2018. It focuses on earlier intervention and prevention and the role of schools and colleges. In our [response](#), we reiterated the need for timely support to be made available to all children and for support to be made available in all schools.
- 4.2 We launched our [Vision for Youth Services](#), outlining our long-term vision for youth provision and our aspirations to support local work in this area, as well as calling on the Government to give young people's policies a higher profile and additional funding.
- 4.3 We published [analysis](#) of official figures that showed that more than 500 child protection investigations were started by councils every single day on average last year, an increase from 200 investigations a day a decade ago.
- 4.4 **Councils' role in school improvement:** we [published](#) research looking at the changing role of councils in school improvement, undertaken on behalf of the LGA by the Isos Partnership. The research sets out how councils, in their efforts to drive up school standards, have taken a variety of different approaches to developing effective school improvement systems, responding differently to the challenges facing the education system.
- 4.5 We wrote to all MPs regarding the **Brighter Futures Campaign**.
- 4.6 We briefed Peers ahead of debates on the **role on education and the number of vulnerable children** in the House of Lords.
- 4.7 We provided a brief to MPs ahead of a debate **on the provision of children's services** in the House of Commons.
- 4.8 The LGA's evidence was quoted in an Education Committee report on **fostering**.
- 4.9 We briefed Peers ahead of questions on support for **child refugees** and briefed MPs ahead of questions on **home schooling**.

Priority 5 – Adult Social Care and health

- 5.1 **Better care Fund:** the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) has provided support to councils through the BCF support programme including seven areas through assurance and escalation processes. We have targeted help around transfers of care developing a new support offer for the most challenged systems and a range of national events on winter preparedness.
- 5.2 We are currently testing our **Prevention at Scale** offer, designed to help areas improve the scale and pace of their prevention initiatives. Support plans are in place with 15 councils, including some districts, covering healthy lifestyle, social isolation, mental health, children with SEND, inequalities, CVD and diabetes.
- 5.3 We are supporting 19 single tier and county councils deliver projects using digital technology to improve social care services as part of our [Local Investment Programme](#) with NHS Digital. Themes include: sharing data, integrating commissioning, enabling multi-disciplinary working.
- 5.4 We continue to support individual lead members through **our Leadership Development Programme** (24 attended events last quarter) and systems leadership remains CHIP's highest requested support activity. A national care and health network for place-based leaders is in development with health partners.
- 5.5 **Air Quality:** we submitted written and oral evidence to the Joint Committee inquiry on Air Quality. Our key message was that providing clean air is the responsibility of central government. However, councils have a role to play in helping the Government to deliver this responsibility. The Government's air quality plans can be successful but they need local leadership, sufficient funding and to be accompanied by robust national action.
- 5.6 Cllr Adelle Morris, Deputy Chair of our Environment, Economy Housing and Transport Board, gave evidence on improving air quality to the **APPG on Air Pollution** and on improving air quality to the **Joint Health, Transport, EAC and EFRA Committee**.
- 5.7 With Public Health England and others we have developed a set of **employer standards for public health staff**. The standards set out how progressive employers can ensure that public health specialists can maximise their personal development and pursue good quality careers across the complex public health landscape. The standards will be launched online.
- 5.8 **Sport and physical activity conference:** on 5 December, Tracey Crouch MP joined our conference and announced the launch of a £130 million investment in 12 local areas by Sport England. The conference also launched our new publication on models for delivering sport and physical activity services – Active people, healthy places.
- 5.9 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee session on **housing for older people**.
- 5.10 We wrote a briefing for MPs setting out our lines on suicide prevention ahead of a debate in the House of Commons on **male suicide**.

Priority 6 – Supporting Councils

- 6.1 **Carillion:** We have been keeping councils informed about the position with Carillion and this work stepped up since the beginning of the new year. We have feedback to government the positive steps councils have been taking to ensure there is no disruption to key services following the liquidation of Carillion. Councils are also working with other public sector partners in their local area to be ready for any wider knock-on effects of Carillion's failure.

- 6.2 **Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA):** PSAA, a company established by the LGA, has successfully put in place national contracts to provide a cost effective and quality audit service for the sector as a whole. Fees for all councils opting in to the national scheme are now proposed to fall by 23% next year, on top of the 55 per cent reduction already achieved since 2011/12. These savings are even greater than originally indicated and are testament to the joint work of LGA and PSAA colleagues, the benefits of which are being passed on to all councils and other bodies opting in to the scheme. By council type, a county will, on average, save £25k, a district £12k, a London borough £38k and a metropolitan district £35k. Details are available on PSAA's website.
- 6.3 In addition **Public Sector Audit Appointments**, in line with its not-for-profit status, has distributed a dividend of £5.6 million to councils and related audited bodies (equivalent to approximately 15 per cent of current fees). On average a county council has received a one off re-imbusement of £16k, a district council has received £8k, a London borough £25k and a metropolitan district £23k.
- 6.4 **National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp):** applications closed last week for the LGA's ngdp. This year has seen more applications than ever before, with over 2700 graduates applying for national management trainee positions in local authorities across the country. ngdp offers local government management trainees who have leadership potential the capacity to work on innovative and strategic projects. There is still time to register as a host authority and realise the benefits of this national programme within your own council.
- 6.5 **Be a Councillor Women's Network:** we have set up a new Be a Councillor Women's Network, which aims to bring councillors and prospective councillors together to discuss issues and barriers to women entering (and staying in) politics, how we can work to address these issues, better support newcomers, provide individual support to women considering standing, share and create activity, resources, ideas and inspiration..
- 6.6 **Behavioural Insights Programme:** we have launched the second phase of the LGA's Behavioural Insights Programme working with [seven organisations](#) on a range of projects to trial innovation and behavioural insights theory. The programme encourages innovation in local public services by giving support to councils to help them deal with their biggest service challenges. The new projects include encouraging uptake of assistive technology and preventing accidental dwelling fires.
- 6.7 **Library Masterclasses:** we held two masterclasses for heads of library services and strategic planning officers to introduce a new strategic planning tool and benchmarking framework that we have developed; ensuring services can measure delivery against corporate priorities and local need.
- 6.8 **Productivity Experts Programme:** the latest case studies emanating from our Productivity Experts programme have just been launched and can be found [here](#). The programme helps councils access skills and expertise to realise efficiency savings and income generation opportunities.
- 6.9 **Cyber Security:** Over the last year, public and private sector organisations have been subject to increasing numbers of cyber-attacks. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has worked with councils and other public sector organisations to develop a free to use tool [Web Check](#) – a website configuration and vulnerability scanning service that highlights out of date certificates and other potential vulnerabilities. Over 120 councils have already signed up.
- 6.10 We held a briefing for members of the **LGA Communications and Parliamentary Network**
- 6.11 A [pay claim](#) has been received in respect of Chief Executives. The National Employers will consider this claim when they next meet on 6 February 2018. A pay claim in respect of Chief Officers is expected in early February.
- 6.12 The first phase of the [LGA's Return to Social Work](#) Programme launches this month and forms part of Government's aim to help facilitate the journey back to work for those who have taken a career break.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

7. The total number of councils on notice remains at eight. These are:
- West Sussex County Council
 - East Staffordshire Borough Council
 - London Borough of Richmond
 - Hartlepool Borough Council
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Essex County Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
 - Southend Borough Council
8. Four councils remain out of membership: the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team:

Chief Executive	
<i>8 December 2017 – 24 January 2018</i>	
8 December	Chief Executive of Basildon Council
8 December	Interim Chief Executive Northamptonshire County Council
10 January	East Hampshire District & Havant Borough Councils
11 January	District Councils Network Chief Executives
23 January	Chief Executive Sounding Board
<i>Forward plan</i>	
25 January	Association of County Council Chief Executives
29 January	Essex County Council
30 January	Bradford MBC
2 February	South West Chief Executives
8-9 February	DCN National Conference
Director of Communications	
<i>8 December 2017 – 24 January 2018</i>	
21 December	Great Yarmouth Council
8-10 January	Swindon Council
12 January	Reigate and Banstead Council

Media

Devolution and funding for local government

Lord Porter interviewed on Sky News and BBC Radio 5 Live about LGA's response to provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (Telegraph, Times, Guardian, Mail, Independent, i paper, Mirror, BBC Online, FT Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Sun Online, BBC Radio 4, BBC local news bulletins, BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament, BBC News at Ten, BBC News channel, ITV News, Sky News bulletins)
Call for council tax rise restrictions to be lifted ahead of Local Government Finance Settlement (Times)
LGA call for Local Government Finance Settlement to provide replacement funding to all councils in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to avoid reaching financial breaking point (Times, Mirror)
Cllr John Fuller interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about importance of councils continuing to make prudent commercial property investments (Times)
Councils' use of bailiffs and need for councils to collect business rates while supporting local businesses struggling to pay (Mail Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online)
£5.8 billion funding gap facing local government by the end of the decade (Guardian Online)
Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
Lord Porter on BBC Daily Politics and Sky News about response to interim Hackitt Review into building regulations (FT, BBC Online, Mirror Online)
Call for Hackitt Review to provide clear guidance on cladding replacement, ahead of publication of interim report (Mirror)
Response to Ombudsman report on homelessness now a risk for people in stable jobs (Guardian, i paper, Independent Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins)
Cllr Peter Fleming on LBC, Talk Radio and Sky News Radio on 128,000 children in temporary accommodation at Christmas (Independent Online)
Cllr Nick Forbes' appearance before Treasury Select Committee calling for councils to be able to borrow freely to invest in housing (FT, Sun Online)
Call for improvement to Apprenticeship Levy in order for it to reach its full potential (Times)
Latest affordable housing figures response (Mirror Online)
Just one home in every five sold off under Right to Buy has been replaced (Independent Online)
Cost of providing temporary accommodation to families has tripled over the last three years (Channel 4 News Online)
Call for government to fully fund unexpected, exceptional costs incurred by councils in removing and replacing cladding systems (Mirror)
Councils and housing associations should be given back the right to offer lifetime tenancies to vulnerable tenants (BBC Online)
Wildlife Trusts calls for nature-friendly housing developments (BBC Online)
Christmas markets bringing £250 million boost to high streets (Sun on Sunday)
Children, education and schools
Cllr Richard Watts interviewed on Talk Radio, LBC, Sky News Radio, BBC Radio London about more than 500 child protection investigations started every day last year (Sky News, Sun, Mirror, Independent)
Cllr Richard Watts on BBC Breakfast about financial pressures facing children's services
Children's services intervention ahead of new assessment framework (Observer)
Children's services face a £2 billion funding gap by 2020 (Times)
Response to Education Policy Institute report on growing geographical divide in England for access to secondary school where pupils make good progress (Mail Online)
Lone child refugees cost councils nearly £70,000 every year, more government funding

needed (Mail)
Specialist support for deaf children and call for additional and ongoing government funding to support high-needs children and their families (Mirror Online, BBC Online)
Adult social care and health
Lord Porter live on BBC News channel, also on BBC Radio 4 Today programme and BBC local radio news bulletins about significance of expanding Department of Health title to include Social Care and need to ensure adult social care is properly funded
Cllr Izzi Secombe live on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and on BBC Radio 5 Live about response to Competition and Markets Authority's review of the care home sector (BBC Online)
Councils commissioning more cost-effective services to ensure drug users receive right support (Guardian)
Call for urgent action in response to Which? investigation into care home market (i paper, Sun, Mail, Mirror)
£1.3 billion funding gap between what social care providers need and what councils are able to pay (Independent Online)
Root and branch reform of children's mental health services needed (BBC Online)
£2.3 billion funding gap in social care funding, response to Alzheimer's Society research on dementia patients 'stranded' in hospital (Independent, Express Online)
Sexual health services at tipping point, greater funding needed to be invested in local services (BBC Radio 5 Live)
Cllr Izzi Secombe interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's Today programme about NHS winter pressures
New Year's Eve revellers warned to avoid cheap alcohol which could be potentially deadly (Sun, Mirror, Star)
Supporting councils
Communities Minister Marcus Jones referenced the LGA's peer reviews during appearance before Transport Select Committee (BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament)
Cllr Peter Fleming on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins on how country needs a more intelligent waste strategy following the Chinese import ban on plastic waste (BBC Online, Telegraph, Mail, BBC Radio 4 news bulletins)
Councils prepared for the winter weather with 1.5 million tonnes of salt (Times Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Star)
Fly-tipping prosecutions by councils over the past year, call for faster and more effective legal system to tackle fly-tippers (Times, Guardian, People, Mirror, Mirror Online, Mail Online, BBC Breakfast, Channel 5 News)
Supermarkets and manufacturers should switch to packaging which is easier to recycle (Mail)
Cllr Simon Blackburn on Sky News Radio, TalkRadio, LBC about last minute-warning to Christmas shoppers to look out for fake and potentially dangerous products (Independent, Guardian Online, ITV Online, Good Morning Britain news bulletins)
LGA guidance to councils to be vigilant during the festive season (Sun Online)
Cllr Martin Tett interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's The World at One and LBC to discuss response to alleged government plans to introduce common standards for recycling (Mail, Telegraph, Guardian Online, Express Online, BBC Online, BBC Radio 4's Today programme)
Response to Environmental Audit Committee calls to introduce 25p 'latte levy' (BBC Online, Guardian)



LGA Leadership Board

24 January 2018

Bath and North East Somerset Council plans for Bath to become first UK city to introduce tourist tax, to fund community projects (Times, Telegraph, Mail Online, Sun Online)

Tighter restrictions needed to avoid children being exposed to gambling advertising (Mail, Sun Online)

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.

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LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

March

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 07.03.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA Budget	To agree the LGA's Budget for recommendation to the Executive.
Treasury Management	To consider the performance of treasury management over the year.
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To provide a first progress update on arrangements for Annual Conference.
Brexit	To update on and steer the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Venues for LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition	To consider options for the location of the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition in future years.
LGA Political Balance and Combined Authority Elected Mayors	To consider the position of Combined Authority Elected Mayors in the LGA's political balance calculations as directed by June 2017 Leadership Board meeting.
LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
18 Smith Square and Layden House Update	To update on the 18 Smith Square and Layden House refurbishment projects.
Update on Incorporation of the LGA	To receive an update on the LGA's work to become an incorporated organisation.

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 08.03.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Guest Speaker (TBC)	TBC
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report.
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE 08.03.18	
Summary / Purpose	
Social Care Green Paper	To consider the Government's recently announced Social Care Green Paper. A Minister or Senior official from the Department of Health will be invited to attend.
LGA Budget	To agree the Budget as recommended by the Leadership Board.
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

April

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 11.04.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
LGA General Assembly	To consider and endorse the proposed format and agenda for the General Assembly.
LGA Proportionality Timetable	To agree the process and timetable for confirming changes to LGA proportionality.
Pay Policy Statement	To review the LGA's Pay Policy Statement
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity over the past year (3 rd and 4 th quarters).
Annual Perceptions Survey	To note the results of the Perceptions Survey and agree headline principles for a revised action plan.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
Brexit	To update on and steer the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.

There is no Councillors' Forum or LGA Executive in April.

June

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 06.06.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
The Spring Statement	To receive a summary of the Chancellor's Spring Statement and the LGA activity on it.
Queen's Speech	To approve the suggested priority Bills for the LGA.
LGA Political Balance	Endorse proportionality figures as the basis for negotiating the allocation of chairs/vice-chairs and populating member structures.
General Assembly Motions	Agree motions for recommendation to General Assembly.
Vice-Presidents	To approve the nominations made by the political groups.

Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee report to General Assembly.
LGA Constitution	To agree changes to the LGA Constitution for recommendation to the General Assembly.
LGA Consolidated Accounts	To approve the financial statements for the year to 31 March for presentation to the General Assembly
Performance Report	To review the full year performance report.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity over the past year (3 rd and 4 th quarters).
Annual Conference & Exhibition	To consider progress on the Annual Conference & Exhibition
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	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
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Note of the last meeting	To approve the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Audit Committee Minutes	To note the Minutes of the Audit Committee
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
18 Smith Square and Layden House Update	To update on the 18 Smith Square and Layden House refurbishment projects.

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 07.06.18	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Local Government Insurance Mutual	To receive an update on progress with setting up a Local Government Insurance Mutual
Chairman's Report	To present the Chairman's monthly report.
Chairs of Boards Reports	To present the Chairs of Boards' monthly reports.
Digest of the last meeting	To note the digest of the last meeting.

LGA EXECUTIVE 07.06.18	
Summary / Purpose	
Queen's Speech	To approve the suggested priority Bills for the LGA.
The Spring Statement	To receive a summary of the Chancellor's Spring Statement and the LGA activity on it.
Audit Committee Report to General Assembly	To approve the Audit Committee report to General Assembly
General Assembly Motions	To agree motions for submission to General Assembly
LGA Political Balance	To note the revised proportionality and the implications for the distributions of seats on governance structures
Note of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Note of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.

Note of last LGA Leadership Board meeting

Title:	LGA Leadership Board
Date:	Thursday 7 December 2017
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item Decisions and actions

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Apologies were received from Lord Porter of Spalding CBE, Cllr Paul Carter CBE, Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE, Cllr Sean Anstee, Cllr Sue Murphy CBE, and Cllr Lib Peck.

2 Centre for Public Scrutiny: Annual Report 2016/17

The Senior Vice-Chair welcomed Lord Kerslake, Chair of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), and Jacqui McKinlay, Chief Executive of the CfPS, to the meeting to present the CfPS annual report for 2016/17.

Lord Kerslake presented the report and highlighted that CfPS had undergone a lot of change at both Board and Executive level over the year, but the core of the work in supporting local authority scrutiny had not changed. The report set out the charity's key areas of focus, the work delivered and outcomes achieved. Particular reference was made to the activity around scrutiny of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) and their implications for local authorities, as well as work generally on health scrutiny, housing, and the role of local government in Brexit.

In the following discussion, Members endorsed the work of CfPS and asked a number of questions relating to information sharing on scrutiny in Government departments, Health and Wellbeing Boards, and the importance of scrutiny being collaborative whilst still holding decision makers to account.

The Leadership Board expressed their thanks to the CfPS for their report, and for a successful year.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the annual report and the performance of CfPS in 2016/17.

3 2017 Autumn Budget

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the report which summarised the key announcements in the Chancellor's Autumn Budget with implications for local government, and LGA work on the Budget including the On the Day Briefing.

Members noted that a package of proposals had been announced on housing, which were intended to result in a net additional 300,000 homes built each year by 2022, including an opportunity for councils to access additional HRA borrowing from 2019/20 up to a total value of £1 billion.

In the discussion which following the following points were raised by Members:

- It was disappointing that there had been no announcements on Adult or Children's Social Care, measures to address the costs of implementation of the National Living Wage and changes to the bottom of the pay scale, the funding cap in council core services, and EU funding.
- Work on the On the Day Briefing was commended, and this had led to a great deal of media activity, and the LGA's response being quoted widely in Parliament.
- Members stated that, as with all LGA work, any lobbying or activity around the Budget should continue to be undertaken on a cross-party basis. Lobbying on the Local Government Finance Settlement would be the focus for the organisation over the coming weeks.
- Regarding the announcement that there could be intervention in areas where a local authority had failed to put an up-to-date local plan in place, it was confirmed that 27 local authorities did not current have a local plan.
- The LGA would continue to state the view the local authorities should be part of the solution to the housing crisis.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the report.

4 The Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention

Nicola Morton, Head of Local Government Finance, introduced the report which provided a progress update on the Government's Fair Funding Review and Business Rate Retention reforms, including an update on the LGA's work on these areas of work.

Members noted that the Government had not yet published an expected consultation on the Fair Funding Review, however the work of the DCLG / LGA officer level technical working group had resumed, and had recently considered how to take council tax into account in the funding formula. Local Government Futures had been commissioned to develop a Children's Social Care formula. The Government had commissioned work on a new Adult Social Care formula a few years ago which could form the basis of a new formula.

Regarding work on business rates retention, Members noted that the joint DCLG / local government officer Steering Group met for the first time since the General Election on 3 October 2017 and then again in December. They had considered possibilities around implementation of further business rates retention without primary legislation, and the possible timetable for this as the earliest implementation date was now 2020/21. There had been no official comment on business rates retention in the Chancellor's Budget

apart from confirming the London pilot, but there was a possibility of some further information and announcement of further pilots when the Local Government Finance Settlement was published later in December.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the updates provided in the report.

5 Performance Reporting - April to September 2017

The Senior Vice-Chair introduced the report which presented a summary of the LGA's performance from April to September 2017.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **reviewed** and **noted** the LGA's 6 month performance report.

6 Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2017/18

The Senior Vice-Chair moved the report which listed the outside bodies to which the LGA appointed members for the 2017/18 meeting cycle.

Members commented that the list of bodies should be regularly reviewed to ensure that they had an AGM and were not dormant.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the list of outside bodies and representatives which the LGA had appointed to the 2017/18 meeting year.

7 Chief Executive's Report - December 2017

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the report which set out the LGA's main achievements against the Business Plan priorities since the last meeting in October 2017. He drew particular attention to the recent Smith Square Debate on Brexit; the Government's invitation to the LGA to be part of an advisory group on rough sleeping and homelessness; local government pay negotiations; and work on winter pressures in social care and health.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for December 2017.

8 LGA Forward Plan

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** the forward plan.

9 Note of the last Leadership Board

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting on 18 October 2017.

10 Note of the last Commercial Advisory Board

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board held on 16 October 2017.

11 Note of the last Audit Committee

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the previous Audit Committee held on 20 November 2017.

12 Campaigns for 2017/18

David Holdstock, Director of Communications, introduced the report which outlined a plan for the LGA's corporate campaigns for 2017/18 in line with the Business Plan and corporate priorities.

The proposed campaigns were based on priority areas outlined in the Growing places publication, and included Brexit; sustainable funding for local government; children's social care and mental health; Work Local; housing; social care; Up to Speed; and return to social work.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** and **approved** the LGA's 2017/18 campaign plan.

13 New Local Government Mutual: Proposed Next Steps

Sally Burlington, Head of Policy, introduced the report and provided an update on the LGA's work to develop options for a Local Government Insurance Mutual and sought agreement for further work. It was explained that the Resources Board had also considered the report as the lead Board for the Mutual.

Members noted the various issues regarding the Founding Members and the Board composition and draft Constitution and Articles of Association for the Mutual. They also supported the Resources Board's recommendation that the Mutual should be called the Local Government Mutual (LG Mutual).

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i) **Noted** the update and outcome from the first meeting of the Founding Members;
- ii) **Provided a steer** on the LGA's stance on the constitutional issues raised by the first meeting of the Founding Members, and **agreed** the draft Articles of Association (subject to the necessary changes and any further legal advice);
- iii) **Agreed** that the LGA should incorporate the new Local Government Mutual, which other Founding Members would then formally join; and
- iv) **Agreed** the Frequently Asked Questions.

Action

Further work on the Mutual to be taken forward in line with Members' steer. (**Sally Burlington**).

14 Incorporation of the Local Government Association

Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Services, introduced the report which set out draft Articles of Association and a supporting Governance Framework for the new incorporated Local Government Association which had been prepared by company law specialists at Bevan Brittan.

Members noted the timetable for securing the agreement of member councils to sign up to the new company, and the recommendation that the full Leadership Board become the new Board of Directors. Following agreement by the Leadership Board, agreement would be sought by the General Assembly at the next meeting in July 2018.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i) **Approved** the draft Articles of Association and Governance Framework of the new incorporated LGA;
- ii) **Agreed** that the Directors of the company should be the Chairman, Vice and Deputy Chairs of the Association, subject to the endorsement of the General Assembly;
- iii) **Agreed** to invite the home councils of the Chairman and Group Leaders to be the Founder Members of the company; and
- iv) **Agreed** the process and timetable for implementation.

Action

Home councils of the Chairman and Group Leaders to be invited to become Founder Members of the new company as agreed. (**Claire Holloway**).

15 UKMBA Way Forward

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the report and explained that Westminster City Council had made a formal decision to lend £20 million to the LGA and to borrow the same sum from the UK Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA).

Members noted that following this the UKMBA was in a position to issue its first bond, which would amount to £55 million. Following the Leadership Board's agreement a letter of comfort would be provided to support UKMBA in seeking a rating for the first bond.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **agreed** to provide a letter of comfort for the UKMBA.

Action

Letter of comfort to be provided to UKMBA (**Sarah Pickup**).

16 Investment Property Financing Resolution

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the report and explained that the LGA had finalised the legal negotiation for a 15 year loan Facility Agreement with Westminster City Council for £20 million.

Members noted that Westminster City Council had agreed to back the Loan with the initial bond issued by the Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA). The Loan would be secured on the Layden House property.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board:

- i) **Approved** the terms of, and the transactions contemplated by, the Westminster City Council Loan Finance Documents to which it is party and resolved that it execute, deliver and perform the Finance documents to which it is party;
- ii) **Authorised** the LGA Chairman to execute the Westminster City Loan Finance Documents to which it is a party on its behalf;
- iii) **Authorised** the LGA Chairman, on its behalf, to sign and/or despatch all documents and notices (including, if relevant, any Utilisation Request) to be signed and/or despatched by it under or in connection with the Westminster City Council Loan Finance Documents to which it is a party; and
- iv) **Authorised** the LGA Chairman, on its behalf, to sign the required Certificate.

17 Application from Essex PCC to join the LGA Associate Scheme

Claire Holloway, Head of Corporate Services, introduced the report and explained that the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had applied to join the LGA Associate membership scheme. Members noted that the Essex PCC was the first PCC to apply to join the LGA.

Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **accepted** the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner's application to join the LGA's Associate scheme.

Action

Officers to respond to the Essex PCC and progress the application in line with the Leadership Board's decision. **(Claire Holloway)**

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Vice-Chairmen	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy Chairmen	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Sutton London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Huntingdonshire District Council
Apologies	Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council

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LGA location map

Local Government Association
 18 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

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

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

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

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

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

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

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

