

# LGA Leadership Board

## Agenda

Wednesday, 12 September 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

## **Guidance notes for members and visitors** **18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

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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The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

### **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)

**LGA Leadership Board**  
12 September 2018

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There will be a meeting of the LGA Leadership Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 12 September 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be serviced before the start of the meeting from 12.30pm.

**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 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Paul Goodchild  
0207 664 3005 / [paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk](mailto:paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk)

**Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.83 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 2018/2019

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
<b>Conservative (6)</b>	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE (Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr James Jamieson (Vice Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Kent County Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Alden (Deputy Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
<b>Labour (5)</b>	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Lib Peck (Deputy Chair)	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne (Deputy Chair)	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council
<b>Independent (2)</b>	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

## LGA Leadership Board Attendance 2018/19

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>18/7/18</b>
<b>Conservative</b>	
Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	Yes
Cllr James Jamieson	Yes
Cllr Robert Alden	Yes
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	No
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Yes
Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Yes
<b>Labour</b>	
Cllr Nick Forbes	Yes
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Yes
Cllr Michael Payne	Yes
Cllr Lib Peck	Yes
Cllr Anne Western CBE	Yes
<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Yes
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE	Yes
<b>Independent</b>	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Yes
Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Yes

## Agenda

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### **LGA Leadership Board**

Wednesday 12 September 2018

1.00 pm

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

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>PART 1 - LGA BUSINESS</b>	
<b>2. Brexit Update</b>	1 - 6
<b>3. LGA Business Plan</b>	7 - 8
a) Appendix A - Draft LGA Business Plan	9 - 28
<b>4. Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation</b>	29 - 32
a) Appendix 1 - Draft Response to the LGFS 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation	33 - 36
<b>5. Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update</b>	37 - 42
<b>6. Chief Executive's Report - September 2018</b>	43 - 54
<b>7. LGA Forward Plan</b>	55 - 56
a) Appendix A - LGA Forward Plan	57 - 60
<b>8. Note of the last Leadership Board meeting</b>	61 - 66
<b>PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL</b>	
<b>9. Spending Review Update and Autumn Budget Submission</b>	67 - 76
<b>10. LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition</b>	77 - 88

- |     |  |         |
|-----|--|---------|
| 11. | <b>Layden House Refurbishment</b>        | 89 - 92 |
|     | a) Appendix 1 - Construction Cost Report | 93 - 99 |

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 17 October 2018, 1.00 pm, Smith Square  
1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



## **Brexit Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper updates the Executive and Leadership Board on the LGA's work to advise the Government on the opportunities and risks for local government from Brexit.

### **Recommendation**

That the Leadership Board note the update.

### **Actions**

Officers to incorporate the Leadership Board's steer into future work.

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## **Brexit Update**

### **Background**

1. The report updates members on our work since LGA conference at which we advised ministers on the big opportunities and risks for the sector and where action is needed at a national level.
2. Since conference, the Government has published a White Paper on the renewed UK negotiating stance and it has published the first tranche of a series of technical papers on how we need to prepare for a “no deal” scenario.
3. Further announcements have been made on EU funding and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has set up a Brexit Deliver Board with the sector to help prepare for Brexit.

### LGA Conference

4. At conference, we launched our conference paper ([here](#)) which set out a summary of the local government risks and opportunities which have been developed by the LGA since the referendum. Through the publication, we have refreshed our calls for national action to address the risks and develop the opportunities.
5. In summary, the headline issues are:
  - 5.1. Brexit as an opportunity to devolve powers to local communities through local government.
  - 5.2. The urgent need for a UK replacement for EU Structural Funds.
  - 5.3. More local flexibility from laws which have been repatriated from Brussels and which currently regulate local services (such as waste and procurement).
  - 5.4. The high number of non-UK EU workers running key local services.
  - 5.5. Local government responsibilities at ports of entry.
  - 5.6. The differential impact of Brexit across areas of the UK.
6. Leading members met the MHCLG Secretary of State and a minister from DEXEU in Birmingham during our conference and presented the report to them. We particularly stressed the issue of a UK successor to EU funding, clarity in eligibility to stand and vote in municipal elections in May 2019 and the number of non-UK, EU citizens who run vital public services.

### MHCLG Delivery Board

7. After the meeting at LGA conference with ministers, the Secretary of State announced in his conference speech, the setting up of a Brexit Delivery Board with local government.

8. The first meeting of the Delivery Board was held on 19 July 2018. A joint communique from the meeting was agreed and can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brexit-ministerial-local-government-delivery-board-update>.
9. A further meeting will take place in September. From the LGA, we have emphasised the importance of discussing the key priorities from our Brexit work programme and the importance of meeting representatives from other Government departments to ensure a join-up of local government issues which cross a number of Whitehall departments.

#### New Government White Paper

10. On 12 July 2018, the Government published, 'The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU'. This is a White Paper which clarifies the UK negotiating position. This is the statement following the Cabinet's summit at Chequers. It provides the most detailed UK position to date from the Government.
11. The LGA published its analysis of the Government's position paper.  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/future-relationship-between-united-kingdom-and-european-union>.
12. We identified a number of areas where LGA concerns had been addressed (including the commitment to a UK successor to EU funds as a priority and a proposed reform of procurement rules). However, concerns remained in other areas (such as the proposal for no change in state aid rules) and in areas where the White Paper offered no clarity (such as EU exit releasing funds for social care and no clarity on voting/standing rights in local elections).
13. The EU has yet to respond formally to the Government's proposals.

#### "No Deal scenario"

14. Over the summer, the Government announced that a series of technical papers would be published which would provide advice on how we would deal with a "no deal" scenario. About 80 papers have been promised which would set out, in brief, how the country should prepare in specific areas for 'no deal'.
15. Rather than simply reacting to the papers, the LGA published, in advance of the Government's papers, an analysis of the headline issues for councils under a no deal scenario. This can be found [here](#).
16. The intention was to set out clearly where the sector needed national action or advice and to analyse the subsequent Government's papers against our priorities to judge whether councils had the clarity that they were seeking.
17. To date the government has published an overview of the UK government's preparations for a no deal scenario together with 24 [guidance documents](#) across a range of policy areas which set out: what the government will do to secure the legal framework in a no deal scenario; what will change for businesses, other institutions and individuals; and

what actions they will need to take. We expect that the guidance documents will be published in full by the end of September 2018.

18. Government will require feedback on its “no deal” papers and it is intended this is based the LGA’s own analysis of no deal and whether clarity has been provided. Our analysis of the guidance documents is ongoing (as the majority have yet to be published) and we have asked councils to provide us with feedback from their own place based perspective. The Government’s approach is to prioritise stability. As such the no deal documents highlight the role of the EU Withdrawal Act 2018 in ensuring that the same rules and laws will apply after exit. In a number of cases the government is proposing to take unilateral action. From the first tranche of guidance this includes establishing a Temporary Permission Regime that will allow EEA financial firms to continue operating in the UK and continuing to accept EU approved medical devices. We are likely to see this approach taken by the government in other areas of policy. In those published to date, the papers have not addressed a number of the key questions that were raised in our no-deal briefing. For example, the processes for accessing replacement EU funding (the guarantee of replacement is established) and the implications for EU wide procurements that are not completed by 29 March 2019.
19. The style and content of the guidance so far suggests that these papers will not answer questions about future public policy, for example, the design of the UK replacement to EU structural funds or the approach to future flexibilities in procurement procedures. Nor are they likely to go into practical contingencies in key areas such as port operations. We will need to continue to pursue these issues through other routes.
20. Once all the Government’s papers are published, we will provide a full analysis for the LGA’s Brexit Task Force.

#### EU funding

21. The LGA has been lobbying to ensure that the current EU funds for local regeneration are secured. We have had a number of successes including a commitment from the Government to buy-in to the current funding programme to the end of the EU budget period (Dec 2020). After further LGA lobbying, a further commitment was made by Government with the announcement by the Treasury that, in an event of a no deal, the Government would cover European Structural and Investment Funds until 2020. This provides certainty that there will be no gap in funding to 2021.  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-government-announcement-funding-eu-programmes>
22. The LGA’s work will now concentrate on the development of a UK successor arrangement from 2021. This work began in 2017 when we published a proposed for place based funding as the UK successor model. We are currently working to shape early Government thinking.

Committee of the Regions legacy in UK

23. Based on LGA lobbying and a commitment from the Government made in the Lords, there are ongoing discussions about a UK mechanism to replace local government's right and responsibilities in EU law-making. Unlike the MHCLG Delivery Board, this will be UK wide approach, with the LGA working with COSLA, WLGA and NILGA. The Parliamentary commitment from ministers was that the detail of this future UK arrangement will developed with MHCLG and announced through a Parliamentary Statement.
24. There is likely to be a slightly longer timescale on developing the detail as the July UK White Paper (Chapter 4) considers in some detail the future UK/EU institutional framework and how the UK would considers any EU laws in any UK/EU common rulebook. We would want to ensure that local government has a formal place as these new arrangements are developed. The White Paper does state that 'the UK Government will work with the devolved administrations to ensure that processes are put in place which reflect the devolution settlements and provide for appropriate input from all parts of the UK'.
25. We will need to join up these discussions.

Our Brexit work over the next few months

26. It is hoped that a deal will be agreed between the UK and the EU at the October EU summit. After that, there has to be a meaningful vote in Parliament. Whilst we cannot predict whether an agreement will be reached or whether there will be positive vote in Parliament, we can anticipate that there may be many iterations of the draft agreement between the EU and UK. During this period, the LGA will be working closely with MHCLG to identify the opportunities and risks for councils from future scenarios and publishing analyses for councils to ensure that timely information is provided in what is likely to be a fast-paced environment.

**Implications for Wales**

27. We continue to work with the Welsh LGA and other associations in coordinating our engagement with government on Brexit.

**Financial Implications**

28. No immediate financial implications.

**Next Steps**

29. The Leadership Board take note of the updates detailed in the report and for officers to incorporate the Leadership Boards steer into future work.



## **LGA Business Plan 2018/19**

### **Purpose**

For decision and direction.

### **Summary**

The LGA produces an annual Business Plan, agreed by the Leadership Board and LGA Executive. The Business Plan has been updated for 2018/19, to reflect the latest priorities for the LGA and agreed work plans. The majority of the LGA's primary focus remains the same, the significant changes are the separation of 'funding for local government' and 'housing'. The priorities for 2018/19 are:

- Funding for Local Government
- Housing
- Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
- Children, education and schools
- Adult social care and health
- Supporting Councils
- Britain's exit from the EU
- A single voice for local government

The Business Plan also highlights the LGA's current key campaigns. The focus for the LGA campaigns this year are to secure the powers and fiscal freedoms councils need to enable them to lead their local areas through the biggest changes in the coming years. Leadership Board are asked to approve the inclusion of the following campaigns in the Business Plan:

- Moving the conversation on; Local government funding
- Housing
- Bright future: Children's social care and mental health services
- The lives we want to lead: adult social care and wellbeing
- A sector-led approach to improvement
- work local
- Britain's exit from the EU

A copy of the draft Business Plan for 2018/19 is attached at **Appendix A**.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board agree and commend to the Executive the Business Plan for 2018/19.

### **Action**

Leadership Board's comments will be presented with the Business Plan to the Executive.



**LGA Leadership Board**

12 September 2018

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# Working on behalf of Councils

The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice of local government. We work with councils to support, promote and improve local government.

We are a politically-led, cross party membership organisation working on behalf of councils to give local government a strong, credible voice with national government.

We aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they can deliver local solutions to national problems. We fight local government's corner, supporting councils through challenging times and focusing our efforts where we can have real impact.

Our membership includes English and Welsh councils, fire and rescue authorities, national parks authorities, town councils, police & crime commissioners and elected mayors of combined authorities. Working with, and on behalf of, our membership we:

- Campaign and act as a national voice for local government to influence government policy, public and stakeholder opinion and parliament, to secure sufficient funding and influence for local government; to promote and defend its reputation and to influence legislation to reflect council's views.
- coordinate the sector's approach to improvement, providing practical support to help councils continue to innovate, improve and provide essential services to communities.
- support councils to maximise income, ensure any new burdens are fully funded, coordinate collective legal actions and deliver cost effective services through our joint ventures and wholly owned companies such as Local Partnerships, GeoPlace and Public Sector Audit Appointments.
- in our role as national employer, negotiate fair pay and pensions and provide support and advice on workforce issues
- use our seat at the negotiating table to secure the best deal for councils from Britain's exit from the EU, pressing for more powers to be devolved from Whitehall – and from the EU – to local government.

# Our vision for local government

Our vision for local government is one of a rejuvenated local democracy, where power from Westminster and from the EU is significantly devolved to local areas and citizens feel they have a meaningful vote and real reason to participate in civic life and their communities.

Councils provide clear and effective leadership of places and communities in a way which is both transparent and locally accountable. Councils help each other to improve and meet local challenges, sharing their experience of what works.

Economic growth is boosted in a way that offers prosperity to every place, with well-targeted and planned investment in infrastructure, training and housing and support that leads to jobs and an adequate supply of affordable homes.

Public services are transformed so that they focus on preventing problems instead of just picking up the pieces, delivering positive outcomes for people of all ages. Services are built around people and their needs, joining up to make the best use of resources, to have a positive impact on the lives of individuals, families and communities and to make local areas better places to live.

# Our focus for 2018/19

To support this vision, we will concentrate our activities on seven areas in the year ahead:

## **Funding for local government**

Reforms to the finance system enable councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term; we will evidence the need for, and benefits of, a fair and sustainable funding settlement that gives councils greater confidence and opportunities to raise more funds locally and a greater ability to promote collective working across local public services.

## **Housing**

Councils have a leading role in building the new homes that are needed and creating strong and healthy communities.

## **Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution**

Councils are central to revitalising local economies and providing decent life chances and safer communities for all residents; they are key partners in delivering the government's Industrial Strategy. A radical re-think of local governance and accountability achieves a real shift in power to local people and a refocus on local democratic leadership.

## **Children, education and schools**

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together in their local place to ensure all children get the support and high quality education they deserve.

## **Adult social care and health**

Councils are well placed to support people to live safe, healthy, active lives and to remain at home and be independent for as long as possible. Their capacity to do this is dependent on sustainable funding and more effective integration with health services.

## **Supporting Councils**

Councils are responsible for their own performance, effectiveness and efficiency, accountable before all else to their local communities. We will deliver a range of peer-based support to help councils continue to improve.

## **Britain's exit from the EU**

Local government has a strong and influential voice during Britain's exit from the European Union, securing the best deal for councils and ensuring that the different local communities are fully recognised.

## **A single voice for local government**

The LGA is the national voice of local government supporting and working on behalf of councils and councillors across England and Wales.

# Funding for local government

Reforms to the finance system enable councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term; we will evidence the need for, and benefits of a fair and sustainable funding settlement that gives councils greater confidence and opportunities to raise more funds locally and a greater ability to promote collective working across local public services.

## **Moving the conversation on: Local government funding**

Ahead of the anticipated spending review, the Autumn Budget and Local Government Finance Settlement, the 'Moving the conversation on' campaign will highlight the £7.8 billion funding gap that councils are facing by 2025.

The campaign will highlight the significant savings and efficiencies already achieved by local government as well as the positive role councils play in people's lives, the benefit to the national economy and to the government that investing in local government can deliver.

## **We will continue to make the case to central government to highlight the benefits to the county of investing in local government:– we will:**

- continue to press for funding for English local government that reflects the current and future demand for services as part of Spending Review 2019, particularly in the areas of housing, adult social care and children's services.
- continue to work with the government on the implementation of further business rates retention and press for full retention of business rates.
- work with local and central government on a fairer funding formula for local government that supports effective long term planning, is an evidence-based reflection of needs and resources, is simpler and more transparent and has appropriate transition mechanisms.

## **People have a meaningful local voice on a wide range of tax and spending decisions – we will:**

- press for freedoms that lead to greater local financial autonomy with a view to achieving local control over and retention of both council tax and business rates.
- develop proposals to improve business rates, the business rates appeals system and to modernize valuation and collection.
- Build a case for the right to determine new local taxes and set fees and charges which fully recover costs.

## **Councils are able to access alternative sources of finance to encourage investment and create jobs – we will:**

- lobby to free local government borrowing from Treasury restrictions.
- develop policy improvements in capital financing and contribute to national reviews in this area.
- Work with the United Kingdom Municipal Bonds Agency to develop and promote this new borrowing vehicle for councils and help them achieve a first bond issue

# Housing

Councils have a leading role in building the new homes that are needed and creating strong and healthy communities.

## **Housing**

Our Housing campaign is a national, integrated programme of work calling on the Government to give councils the powers and funding to resume their role as a major builder of affordable homes and to recognise local government as the expert and leader in the housing sector.

### **Councils unblock the barriers to house-building and drive the increase in housing supply the nation needs – we will:**

- work to make high rise residential buildings safe in the future by supporting implementation of the recommendations from the review of building regulations, continuing to press for a ban on the use combustible materials on the outside of tower blocks and assist councils' activity to progress the removal of combustible cladding from private high-rise residential buildings.
- continue to make the case for councils to be given the powers so that they can increase housing supply to meet local needs, promote affordable housing and make more effective use of surplus public sector land.
- support consortia of councils to access significant development funds for housing through the creation of new partnership models.
- explore options to free councils from borrowing restrictions on building homes, including removing Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing contributing towards national public debt.
- continue to lobby government to recognise the need for additional funding for infrastructure in housing developments, including a review of the current rules governing developer contributions.
- ensure that councils have the tools to manage the housing impacts of welfare reform and the 2016 Housing Act.
- support councils to end homelessness for all by preventing it happening in the first place; making the case for adaptations to welfare reform, flexibility to build homes, and for councils to have the powers and funding to meet local need.

# Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution

Councils are central to revitalising local economies and providing decent life chances and safer communities for all residents; they are key partners in delivering the government's Industrial Strategy. A radical re-think of local governance and accountability achieves a real shift in power to local people and a refocus on local democratic leadership.

## **Councils have a key role to play in driving economic growth, new jobs and wealth creation – we will:**

- support city regions and non-metropolitan areas to deliver a better economic and social future for their citizens and effective local industrial strategies.
- support councils to work with partners to maximise the value of local and national infrastructure investment, including road, rail, broadband and local assets (with Local Partnerships).
- support councils to work with universities and higher education institutions to maximize the benefits of strong, joined-up local leadership.
- lead a debate on the future role of local government in trade and inward investment.
- support local innovation to better deliver digital infrastructure and continue to press for a regulatory framework that will deliver the best deal for customers.

## **Councils play a lead role in working with businesses to match education, training and skills with employer needs – we will:**

- campaign for people of all ages to be supported to participate in quality skills development and training, including independent careers advice and a passport for lifelong learning.
- promote good employment practices in helping apprentices, interns and NEETs (not in education, employment or training) into work, including a series of national events for young apprentices.
- continue to press for councils to be given the power, funding and lead responsibility to integrate and commission back to work, skills and welfare support under a devolved model.

## **Councils have the levers they need to maximise the impact of their culture services as drivers of growth – we will:**

- support councils to make the most of their cultural, sporting and heritage assets and to have greater control over the levers of growth for their local visitor economy.

## **Councils have the powers and responsibilities to tackle the big challenges facing the country – we will:**

- work in partnership with government, business and others to ensure that communities in England and Wales have more responsibility to make decisions on the issues which are of greatest importance to their lives, including through influencing the government's devolution framework.
- where councils take on additional legal liabilities, such as building regulations following the

Grenfell Tower fire and DEFRA's proposed new requirements for councils on air quality, we will press for powers and resources to match the new duties.

- provide direct support to combined authorities and councils to support the implementation of devolution deals and the development of local industrial strategies, through leadership development programmes, expert support, online tools and information.
- develop a refreshed case to demonstrate how devolution can lead to higher economic growth and more effective public services, so delivering better outcomes for residents, and work with councils to make this case to government.

**Councils are prepared to respond to the range of civil emergencies their communities may face – we will:**

- Explore with government and the sector how mutual aid arrangements between local authorities can be strengthened within local resilience forum boundaries and more broadly, with any proposals taking account of the lack of spare resource and capability within councils.
- Support councils' work to improve their preparedness for civil emergencies.

**Councils facilitate economic growth and strong local communities through the development of risk-based business-friendly public protection services – we will:**

- lead a debate on the key role of councils in building safer and more resilient communities and in preventing crime particularly through early intervention.
- lobby for greater flexibility in the licensing system to enable councils to manage their local economy, including making the case for the localisation of licensing fees while also pressing for the implementation of changes to gambling stakes to be introduced without further delay.
- promote reform of taxi-licensing legislation to ensure it is fit for purpose in the 21st century and support councils to improve taxi licensing and tackle the links between licensing and child sexual exploitation.

**Councils continue to play a leading role in the design and delivery of blue light services – we will:**

- support a positive debate about future blue light collaboration, monitor the delivery of the inspection regime for the fire and rescue service to ensure that any new burdens are identified, as well as contribute to the establishment of the new professional standards body.
- support fire and rescue authorities to make the service more representative of the communities they serve, and support greater collaboration between the service and health and other partners.
- work with fire and rescue authorities to ensure that any change in governance arrangements for the fire and rescue services are agreed locally and backed by a robust business case.
- work with police and crime panels to strengthen their scrutiny of police and crime commissioners, including PCCs' new responsibilities for the fire and rescue service.

# Children, schools and education

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together in their local place to ensure all children get the support and high quality education they deserve.

## **Bright futures: Children's social care and mental health services**

Helping children and young people to fulfil their potential is a key ambition of all councils, but services that can support them to do so are under increasing pressure.

Our campaign calls for the services that change children's lives to be properly funded so that all children can have the bright futures they deserve.

## **Councils lead the way in driving up educational standards – we will:**

- set out a clear vision for councils' role in promoting high educational standards for all children and young people, whatever type of school they attend, accompanied by the appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities to ensure every child has access to a place at a good local school.
- lobby for a stronger role for councils in making sure that new schools are fit for purpose, high quality and value for money, including a lead role for councils in decisions about new free schools.
- lobby for flexibility in the use of the apprenticeship levy and work with partners to increase take up of quality apprenticeships in schools.

## **Schools have the funding they need to deliver the best education for all pupils – we will:**

- lobby to ensure the introduction of the national funding formula for schools retains an element of local flexibility to allow councils and schools to reflect local needs and priorities.
- highlight the growing pressures on the high needs budget which supports pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and lobby the government to provide councils with sufficient funding and flexibility to meet rising demand.

## **Councils keep children safe – we will:**

- highlight the £2 billion funding gap in children's services funding and make the case for adequate funding and investment in early intervention approaches.
- work with partners and DfE to develop a sector-led approach to improving children's services.
- continue to support councils to protect children and young people from harm and improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers.



**Councils have the flexibility and resources to deliver services that meet the needs of children and young people – we will:**

- support councils to take a preventative and place-based approach to children and young people's health, including early years, childhood obesity and child and adolescent mental health services.
- work in partnership to improve life chances for disadvantaged households, particularly those with young children, making the case for early intervention and improved integration of services for families.

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# Adult social care and health

Councils are well placed to support people to live safe, healthy, active lives and to remain at home and be independent for as long as possible. Their capacity to do this is dependent on sustainable funding and more effective integration with health services.

## **The lives we want to lead: adult social care and wellbeing**

Escalating funding pressures and increasing demand are threatening services that improve lives and communities.

Through our green paper and supporting consultation exercise we are seeking the views of councils, partners and the public on: why social care matters; the challenges facing the system; how we might change social care for the better; how we might pay for such changes; and how we can bring about a greater focus on person-centred, community-based preventative work. Our aim throughout is to build a society where everyone receives the care they need for a good life; well, independent, at home for as long as possible, and contributing to family and community life.

The green paper is designed to gather views on the issues and concerns surrounding adult social care and seeks to lay the ground to secure sustainable long-term funding to ensure that people now and in the future can get the care and support they need. Through this work, and a follow-up report in the autumn reflecting on our consultation findings, we will be seeking to influence the Government's own green paper, its Budget and Spending Review, and the NHS Plan.

## **Councils are able to secure sufficient resources to deliver effective, integrated social care services – we will:**

We will continue to lobby, through our green paper and elsewhere, to secure the short-, medium- and long-term financial sustainability of adult social care and support.

## **Councils lead the debate on the future vision for health and social care – we will:**

- continue to promote a clear vision of councils' role in planning and delivering health and care systems, with the integration of health and care at its centre.
- support areas to escalate the scale and pace of integration; make the case for a lighter touch approach to Better Care Fund (BCF) plans and lobby for areas who have made good progress to move beyond a national mandate.
- support councils to develop and deliver their BCF plans, with local partners, and to graduate from the BCF.
- campaign for health and wellbeing boards, and other bodies reflecting strategic place-based approaches, to have a leading role in driving forward health and social care commissioning as part of closer integration.
- continue to lobby for a key role for councils and councillors in sustainability and transformation partnerships to ensure local democratic accountability for redesigning health and care services.

- work with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England to refresh and roll out the Care and Health Improvement Programme to help councils and health and wellbeing boards deliver sustainable local services with increased public, regulator and government confidence and to offer a programme of leadership development.
- support council and their partners to explore and develop the form of integrated care and health services that are appropriate to them.

**Councils have a central role in promoting health and wellbeing locally – we will:**

- commission a full cost benefit case for investing in prevention as a basis for demonstrating how different sectors can contribute, including by encouraging the public to live well and provide self-care.
- work with partners to continue improving public health and promote the role of wider preventative work within local areas' overall health and care systems.
- Support councils as employers to promote health and wellbeing in their workplaces.

**Councils support older and disabled people – we will:**

- assist councils to support carers, improving dementia and mental health services, tackling the challenges and exploiting the opportunities of an aging population, and better supporting those with autism and learning difficulties.
- continue to work with councils to deliver the Armed Forces Community Covenant.
- support councils to reduce domestic abuse, female genital mutilation, modern slavery and anti-social behaviour.

**Councils actively work with the NHS to ensure that health and care services are built around the needs of local populations – we will:**

- work with health colleagues to ensure that strategic transformation partnerships and integrated care systems help drive genuine and sustainable transformation in patient experience and health outcomes of the longer-term.
- work with councils and health partners to reduce people's length of stay in hospital and reduce delays in transfers home.
- support councils to manage and develop their local care market, commission services and put in place contingency arrangements to mitigate against provider failure.
- Influence the NHS long term plan to reflect local government's priorities.

# Supporting councils

Councils are responsible for their own performance, effectiveness and efficiency, accountable before all else to their local communities. We will deliver a range of peer-based support to help councils continue to improve.

**A sector-led approach to improvement:** the sector's peer-based approach to improvement has been a considerable success; take up of the support offer is strong and councils' feedback demonstrates the support has a positive impact.

Our campaign will highlight the benefits of sector-led improvement to local government and promote the good practice taking place across councils.

Our support offer reflects feedback from the sector and is based on what we know works for improvement: strong political and managerial leadership; challenge and support from peers; productivity and efficiency support; access to comparable performance data and learning from each other. Take up of the offer is strong and there is an expectation that every council will have a corporate peer challenge or finance peer review at least every four to five years.

Importantly the offer provides different tiers of support depending on the intensity of the challenges councils are facing. This means we are able to offer practical bespoke support packages to help councils respond to severe local challenges or address significant underperformance issues.

Our core offer is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) grant and organised around four themes. In addition, support targeted at improving care and health services is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, adding a fifth theme. Key offers under each theme are:

**Challenge and support from peers lies at the heart of local government's approach to improvement – we will:**

- maintain an overview of councils' performance, using this information to drive improvement, manage the risk of significant underperformance and minimise government intervention.
- deliver up to 110 peer challenges involving councillor and senior officer peers from councils and other organisations, including corporate peer challenges, service specific peer challenges, financial challenges and place based peer challenges.
- provide direct support to at least 100 councils and groups of councils each year, especially those with the most severe performance challenges or to resolve issues between the political and managerial leadership.
- share best practice of councils who are finding new and effective ways of working to secure outcomes for their communities at significantly less cost.
- through LG Inform, and LG Inform VFM, our online data and benchmarking service, provide free council and public access to transparent performance information. LG Inform Plus will give councils access to small area data reports and tools and support authorities to drive improvement.

- provide direct support , through our partnership with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), to develop scrutiny skills and expertise.
- with Local Partnerships, support councils to make savings by providing commercial advice and support on matters of legal and contractual complexity.

**Strong political and officer leadership is at the heart of local democracy and an essential pre-condition for continuous improvement – we will:**

- support at least 700 councillors with leadership roles in their councils – including those in opposition – through our suite of leadership programmes.
- support at least 60 ambitious and talented councillors with the potential to progress in their political careers through our Next Generation programme.
- support the leadership development of Chief Executives, managers and rising talent in councils, in partnership with SOLACE.
- help councils, political groups and the national parties to attract new talent to get involved in civic life through our 'Be a Councillor' programme.
- provide member peer support for at least 15 councils where there has been a change of political control, including new e-learning opportunities for all councillors, particularly induction and community leadership skills.
- recruit up to 100 high calibre graduates to local government working with councils to secure interesting and challenging placements, as part of a two year National Graduate Development Programme.
- Provide support to at least 10 councils to manage and resolve issues between political and managerial leadership.
- Support councils' political and managerial leadership to enable them to engage effectively with their communities.

**Councils continue to be the most efficient part of the public sector – we will:**

- in line with the recently revised national procurement strategy, deliver a programme of support to help councils improve their procurement arrangements.
- capture and share intelligence about major suppliers to help reduce the risk for councils if a supplier got into financial difficulty.
- support at least 25 councils to realise efficiency savings through our productivity and income generation expert programme, saving the councils in total at least £25 million.
- help councils to develop a more commercial approach to their activities through a series of courses, events and sharing good practice.
- provide bespoke political and officer support for at least 40 councils to help them address specific issues.
- provide a matchmaking service for councils who wish to share services and/or management teams and promote good practice through our web-based interactive shared services map.
- equip 18 more councils with the skills and confidence to use design to improve public services and manage future demand for them.

- in collaboration with CIPFA, help councils to be more proactive in dealing with fraud.
- support to help councils maximize the opportunities that digital tools and solutions create to enable local residents and businesses to access council services on line.
- work with councils, sector representative bodies, MHCLG, Cabinet Office and the National Cyber Security Centre to highlight the importance of cyber security and cyber resilience to protect our data and systems.

**The local government workforce is able to deliver the services required by local citizens – we will:**

- publish a new pay and workforce strategy.
- support councils to address future workforce changes associated with public sector reform, the practical implementation of current employment legislation and to modernise and transform the way they work, developing workplace cultures that motivate and value staff at all levels.
- maintain national negotiating machinery on pay and workforce issues to avoid the duplication of single employer negotiations and supporting councils to develop a employment deals relevant to 21st century public servants.
- provide specialist advice and support for the Local Government Pension Scheme.
- provide sector specific advice on a range of employee relationship issues including employment law and job evaluation.
- deliver a programme of support to help councils achieve their apprenticeship targets and maximize their levy investment.
- support 75 councils to transform their workforces and modernise the way they are managed.
- Develop further campaigns to retain and attract staff in hard to recruit professions.

**Councils are able to provide care and improve health of residents – we will:**

- work with Department of Health to co-produce with ADASS the sector led improvement programme for care and health.
- provide support for social care, integration and health as well as transforming care programme for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.
- support councils in using technology to facilitate joint working between councils and health partners to enable people to live independently.
- help councils develop innovative, efficient and sustainable approaches in care and health services.
- develop and deliver a support offer to help councils and their partners embed the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach.
- lobby for a radical transformation of services in order to meet the needs of society.
- support councils and their partners to identify and manage sustainability and delivery risks.

**In addition to the direct support funded through MHCLG and DHSC grant we receive additional funding for our sector-led improvement programmes in other specific service areas, including:**

- Planning Advisory Service.
- culture services in partnership with Arts Council England and sport and physical activity services with Sport England.
- children's services programme funded by the Department of Education.
- One Public Estate.

**Work local**

Work Local is the LGA's positive vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills service – bringing together information, advice and guidance alongside the delivery of employment, skills, apprenticeships and wider support for individuals and employers.

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# Britain's exit from the EU

Local government has a strong and influential voice during Britain's exit from the European Union, securing the best deal for councils and ensuring that the different local communities are fully recognised.

## **Britain's exit from the EU**

Since the referendum, the LGA has been highlighting the most important opportunities and risks for local government resulting from the UK's exit from the EU, this work will continue in the lead up to, and beyond, Britain's exit in March 2019.

### **A seat at the negotiating table – we will:**

- act as the voice of local communities and ensure that the different needs of different localities are represented and heard.
- ensure that negotiations focus on those issues that matter most to local government and lead the negotiations on behalf of the sector.

### **Constitutional reform – we will:**

- be a leading voice in redesigning how the UK works, and take advantage of the opportunity to seek the entrenchment of local government within our new constitutional settlement.

### **Local economic developments – we will:**

- work to secure the £5 billion of regeneration investment guaranteed to local economies from EU structural funds to 2020 up until we leave the EU and lobby for alternative UK sources after we leave.
- help redefine future regional aid and state-aid rules which have, to date, been defined in Brussels.

### **Disentangling councils' legal base – we will:**

- develop a revised legal framework for those local government services which are currently based on EU laws – for example, environmental policy, air pollution, energy waste and procurement.
- ensure that repatriated laws and regulations are not centralised in Whitehall.

### **Community cohesion – we will:**

- ensure that councils are supported to work in partnership to build community cohesion and promote integration, tackle extremism, respond to the Contest 3.0 strategy including implementing the Prevent duty, inform the development and delivery of support for asylum seekers and refugees and develop a sector-led approach to sharing good practice.

### **Exiting the EU and place – we will**

- ensure that there is an evidence base to demonstrate the risks and opportunities of exiting the EU by place and how these differ by geography.



# A single voice for local government

The LGA is the national voice of local government supporting and working on behalf of councils and councillors across England and Wales.

## **A national membership body for local government – we will:**

- maintain membership levels amongst local authorities in England and Wales by continuing to offer membership benefits that meet the sector's changing needs and expectations.
- maintain subscriptions at current levels and continue to communicate on the benefits of membership directly with individual councils and all councillors.
- seek to attract organisations with an interest in local government into our associate scheme.

## **A supportive membership body – we will:**

- coordinate collective legal actions on behalf of councils.
- provide political support to individual councillors and to council administrations through our political group offices.

## **A politically-led organisation – we will**

- implement the transition to the new LGA company agreed by the General Assembly to provide a sustainable organisation for the benefit of our membership.
- ensure that combined authorities, authorities with devolution deals and elected mayors are appropriately represented on our governance arrangements.

## **Persuasive and transparent communications – we will**

- work to support, promote and improve local government using the full range of communications activity.
- continue to develop all channels of communication in line with the transparency agenda, to deliver accessible information and communicate with key audiences and stakeholders.

## **Financial sustainability – we will:**

- continue to develop the commercial activities of the LGA and its joint venture companies to ensure the long term sustainability of the organisation.
- invest in Layden House to increase its capital value and maximise our income from commercial lettings of Layden House and 18 Smith Square.

## **Efficient business management – we will:**

- continue to streamline our company structures to deliver a solid and tax-efficient base from which to run our business, including incorporation of the Association.
- through our partnership arrangement with the London Borough of Brent, continue to roll

out a programme of ICT development that supports our drive for greater efficiency and flexibility and aligns with our overall priorities.

**Supportive people management – we will:**

- continue to roll out the leadership development programme for our current and aspiring managers.
- put in place a programme of actions and activities that respond to the results of our staff survey.

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# Our service delivery partnerships

**Local Partnerships** – is a joint venture between the LGA and HM Treasury, formed in 2009 to help the public sector deliver local services and infrastructure. It offers support to local authorities in the following areas:

- developing and reviewing strategic business cases and business plans
- service transformation and change
- modelling and legal frameworks for alternative service delivery models
- options appraisal and assurance of chosen approaches or options
- forming effective partnerships (inter-agency brokerage)
- sourcing and commissioning, contract negotiation and management
- economic development and planning
- delivering infrastructure

**GeoPlace** – is a joint venture between the LGA and Ordnance Survey, formed in 2010 in response to a government call to bring together existing creators and suppliers of addressing data to one central place to build a single, definitive address database. It works in close collaboration with local authorities to:

- create and maintain data models
- cleanse and validate data
- provide support and training to councils ensure high quality, cost effective and timely data.

**Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)** – is an independent company limited by guarantee incorporated by the Local Government Association in August 2014. PSAA is responsible for:

- appointing auditors to local government, police and local NHS bodies for
- setting audit fees
- making arrangements for the certification of housing subsidy claims

**Local Government Mutual Limited (LGML)** – is a shared ownership company between the LGA and a number of founding member local authorities. Membership is only open to LGA member authorities. The company is a mutual that will provide:

- indemnity to local authorities in England and Wales as a cost-effective alternative to the traditional insurance market.
- cover for all classes of business.
- risk management services to its member local authorities.





**LGA Leadership Board**

12 September 2018

## **Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation**

### **Purpose**

For comment and agreement.

### **Summary**

This report sets out the key points in the Government's technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement and asks members for views on the LGA's draft response.

### **Recommendation**

That members of the Leadership Board comment on the draft response and agree to it being forwarded to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as the LGA's response to the consultation.

### **Action**

Officers to amend the draft in the light of comments made and forward the finalised submission to MHCLG.

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## Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation

### Introduction

1. This report presents for comment and approval the LGA's submission to the MHCLG [technical consultation](#) on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement. It is also being presented to the LGA Executive at its meeting on 13 September and the Resources Board at its meeting on 14 September.

### Detail

2. The MHCLG technical consultation paper on the 2019/20 local government finance was published on 24 July 2018. The closing date is 18 September 2018. The consultation paper sets out the government's intended approach for 2019/20, the final year of the multi-year local government finance settlement. In particular it covers:
  - 2.1. The arrangements for the fourth year of the multi-year settlement offer announced in 2015, which included Revenue Support Grant, business rates tariff and top-up payments and Rural Services Delivery Grant.
  - 2.2. Future arrangements for the New Homes Bonus; where the Government outlines that it expects to raise the 0.4 per cent threshold for the bonus in 2019/20 to keep the bonus within 2015 Spending Review limits. The Government will, in the run up to the next Spending Review period, explore how to incentivise housing growth to reward delivery or incentivise plans that meet or exceed local housing need.
  - 2.3. The Government's proposals for council tax referendum principles for 2019-20 which confirm those set out for 2019/20 as part of the 2018/19 settlement. These are:
    - 2.3.1. A core principle of 3 per cent for all single tier and county councils, fire and rescue authorities and the Greater London Authority.
    - 2.3.2. A continuation of the Adult Social Care precept of 2 per cent subject to total increases for the Adult Social Care precept not exceeding 6 per cent between 2017-18 and 2019-20, and consideration of authorities' use of the Adult Social Care precept in the previous years.
    - 2.3.3. Shire district councils in two-tier areas being allowed increases of up to 3 per cent, or up to and including £5, whichever is higher.
    - 2.3.4. A precept increase of £12 for police services.
    - 2.3.5. No referendum principles for 5 of the 6 Mayoral Combined Authorities with powers to raise a precept<sup>1</sup> or for town or parish councils.
  - 2.4. Proposals for dealing with the negative adjustment to tariffs and top-ups known as 'Negative Revenue Support Grant'. The Government's preferred option is to cancel the negative adjustment in 2019/20 for the 168 authorities affected at a total cost of £153 million. Other authorities funding will not be reduced as a result of this proposal nor receive any additional resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has no powers to raise a precept.

### **LGA Response**

3. The LGA response is attached for comment and approval. The key points are:
  - 3.1. The LGA welcomes the Government's intention to continue with the four-year settlement to which 97 per cent of all local authorities signed up. However, local authorities are now facing rises in pay and prices, which were not forecast when local authorities signed up to the four year offer.
  - 3.2. Local services are facing a £3.8 billion funding gap in 2019/20 rising to £7.8 billion by 2025 and solving this issue requires bold decisions from the Government.
  - 3.3. Local government is concerned that there is no clarity over funding levels, both nationally and locally, after March 2020. This hampers meaningful financial planning at a time when government grant funding is the lowest it has been for decades.
  - 3.4. The LGA has consistently argued against the principle of council tax referenda for any local authority. Referendums on council tax are an unnecessary and costly burden. Council tax should be a local decision and councils should be held accountable through the normal mechanism of the ballot box. If the Government does still introduce principles, adult social care authorities which cannot increase the adult social care precept further and fire and rescue authorities are likely to make a particular case for additional flexibility, as well as shire districts who do not have any additional flexibility from the increase in the threshold from 2 to 3 per cent as this is below the £5 extra allowed.
  - 3.5. Those authorities affected by 'negative RSG' will welcome the Government's proposal to cancel the adjustment to top-ups and tariffs in the 2019/20 settlement, meaning the 'negative RSG' will be paid for from central government resources. However, all councils face significant funding pressures and huge financial uncertainty over the next few years and into the next decade. The LGA will look to the Autumn Budget, 2019/20 local government finance settlement and the 2019 Spending Review for a settlement which is sufficient and fair to all authorities.
  - 3.6. We would urge the Government not to increase the New Homes Bonus threshold. This would risk putting the brakes on housebuilding schemes and growth-boosting projects at a time when the housing shortage is one of the biggest challenges facing the nation and it would further exacerbate the financial challenges facing some councils. Authorities with New Homes Bonus income will also be concerned at the lack of certainty over the Bonus in 2020/21 and in future years.

### **Appendices**

4. **Appendix 1** – Draft response to to the MHCLG [technical consultation](#) on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement.

### **Implications for Wales**

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



**Financial implications**

6. The work outlined in the paper above is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in 2017/18 and 2018/19 budgets.

**Next Steps**

7. That Officers amend the draft response in the light of comments made and forward the finalised submission to MHCLG.



**Appendix 1**

## **LGA response to the technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement**

September 2018

The Local Government Association (LGA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the technical consultation on the 2019/20 local government finance settlement.

The LGA is here to support, promote and improve local government. We will fight local government's corner and support councils through challenging times by making the case for greater devolution, helping councils tackle their challenges and assisting them to deliver better value for money services.

This consultation response has been approved by the LGA's Leadership Board, Executive, and Resources Board.

### **Key points**

- The LGA welcomes the Government's intention to continue with the four-year settlement to which 97 per cent of all local authorities signed up. However, local authorities are now facing rises in pay and prices, which were not forecast when local authorities signed up to the four year offer.
- Local services are facing a £7.8 billion funding gap by 2025 and solving this issue requires bold decisions from the Government.
- 2019/20 is a particularly challenging year for councils with a projected funding gap of £3.8 billion which includes £1.5bn to improve the financial sustainability of the care market. This assumes councils deliver all planned savings in 2018/19.
- Local government is concerned that there is no clarity over funding levels, both nationally and locally, after March 2020. This hampers meaningful financial planning at a time when government grant funding is the lowest it has been for decades
- The LGA has consistently argued against the principle of council tax referenda for any local authority. Referendums on council tax are an unnecessary and costly burden. Council tax should be a local decision and councils should be held accountable through the normal mechanism of the ballot box. If the Government does still introduce principles, adult social care authorities which cannot increase the adult social care precept further and fire and rescue authorities are likely to make a particular case for additional flexibility.

## **Appendix 1**

- Those authorities affected by 'negative RSG' will welcome the Government's proposal to cancel the tariff/top-up adjustment in the 2019/20 settlement, meaning the 'negative RSG' will be paid for from central government resources.
- We would urge the Government not to increase the New Homes Bonus threshold again. This would risk putting the brakes on housebuilding schemes and growth-boosting projects at a time when our housing shortage is one of the biggest challenges facing the nation and it would further exacerbate the financial challenges facing some councils.

### **Responses to individual questions**

#### **Question 1: Do you agree that the Government should confirm the final year of the 4-year offer as set out in 2016-17?**

The LGA welcomed the principle of the four year settlement offer made in December 2015. We have long called for local government to have a longer financial planning horizon. Certainty in the current financial environment is vital for local authorities.

However, local authorities are now facing rises in pay and prices, which were not forecast when local authorities signed up to the four year offer. In addition, although not confirmed local authorities were anticipating the introduction of 100 per cent business rates retention before the end of the four year settlement.

This is year 4 of the 4 year deal and there is no clarity over funding levels from April 2020 and beyond. This uncertainty hampers meaningful financial planning and is leaving councils in a perilous situation at a time when government grant funding is the lowest it has been for decades and local services are facing a £7.8 billion funding gap by 2024/25.

We continue to believe this certainty should include all the other main grants allocated to local authorities. In addition to the grants already included in the multi-year offer and more certainty over new homes bonus, it should be extended to include the following funding streams:

- Public Health Grant
- Improved Better Care Fund (the Government should also continue to ensure that existing Better Care Fund continues to support social care)
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Administration Subsidy
- Extended Rights for Home to School Travel Grant
- Highways Maintenance Capital Grant (already announced up to 2020/21, but should be included in offer to improve transparency)

It is imperative that the Government provide a clear timeline for when local authorities can expect decisions over funding levels, both nationally and locally, in

## **Appendix 1**

2020/21 and beyond and that the draft local government finance settlement and final local government finance settlement for 2019/20 are announced significantly sooner than they have been in recent years.

### **Question 2: Do you agree with the council tax referendum principles proposed by the Government for 2019-20?**

The LGA has consistently argued against the principle of council tax referenda. Referenda on council tax are an unnecessary and costly burden. Council tax should be a local decision and councils should be held accountable through the normal mechanism of the ballot box.

The referenda also present exceptionally bad value for money, costing up to £1 million for an increase in council tax that might be as low as 40 pence per week.

Under the Localism Act 2011, the Secretary of State has the power *not* to determine a set of principles for a financial year. The Secretary of State has announced that he is minded not to set principles for mayoral combined authorities and parish and town councils. The LGA believes the Secretary of State should give all local authorities the freedom to set council tax levels at the right level. Councils can be trusted to make sensible decisions about council tax increases, taking into account the priorities and wishes of local residents.

If the Secretary of State is minded to set the principles as outlined in the consultation document we would make the following points:

- There is a particular impact on those social care authorities who cannot increase their precept further due to already being at the 6 per cent limit;
- For shire districts with the lowest council tax levels the 3 per cent 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. We call on the Government to offer further flexibility to shire district councils;
- Fire authorities have particular pressures due to the funding of pay increases. If there is not an increase in the grant for FRAs, we understand they have suggested that there be an increase in the referendum cap for standalone FRAs so they could budget for a pay increase from raising council tax.

### **Question 3: Do you agree with the Government's preferred approach that Negative RSG is eliminated in full via forgone business rates receipts in 2019-20?**

**Question 4: If you disagree with the Government's preferred approach to Negative RSG please express your preference for an alternative option. If you believe there is an alternative mechanism for dealing with Negative RSG not explored here please provide further detail.**

Many councils have expressed concern, since 2016/17, about the adjustment of top-ups and tariffs as a result of 'negative Revenue Support Grant' in

## **Appendix 1**

2019/20. Those affected authorities will welcome the Government proposal to cancel the adjustment in the 2019/20 settlement, meaning that the 'negative RSG' will be paid for from central government resources.

However, all councils face significant funding pressures in 2019/20 and beyond and huge financial uncertainty over the next few years and into the next decade. The LGA will look to the Autumn Budget and the 2019/20 local government finance settlement and then the 2019 Spending Review for a settlement which is sufficient to fund identified inflationary and demand pressures and fair to all authorities.

**Question 5: Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2018-19 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.**

The LGA refers MHCLG to responses from individual authorities.

### **New Homes Bonus**

New Homes Bonus is covered in Section 3 of the consultation although there is not a specific consultation question.

Many authorities will have welcomed the Government's decision not to raise further the 0.4 per cent threshold in 2018/19. They will be concerned at the prospect of this being increased in 2019/20, as outlined in the consultation document. We would urge the Government not to increase the New Homes Bonus threshold again. This would risk putting the brakes on housebuilding schemes and growth-boosting projects at a time when the housing shortage is one of the biggest challenges facing the nation and it could further exacerbate the financial challenges facing some councils.

Authorities with New Homes Bonus income will also be concerned at the lack of certainty over the Bonus in 2020/21 and in future years. The consultation document states that it is the Government's intention to explore how to incentivise housing growth most effectively, for example by using the Housing Delivery Test results to reward delivery or incentivising plans that meet or exceed local housing need.



**LGA Leadership Board**

12 September 2018

## **Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update**

### **Purpose**

For information and agreement.

### **Summary**

This report updates members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention reform since the July meeting of the Leadership Board.

### **Recommendation**

That members of Leadership Board note this update and that the Leadership Board agree to the procedure for signing off the transition work and the business rates retention model as outlined in paragraphs 6 and 14 of the report.

### **Action**

Officers to proceed with delivery of the LGA work programme on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review as directed by the LGA Leadership Board, Executive and the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group.

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## **Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update**

### **Introduction**

1. This report updates members on progress on the Fair Funding Review and further Business Rates Retention, since the July 2018 meeting of Leadership Board.
2. The work on further business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review is being considered by the LGA's Task and Finish Group prior to, or alongside, consideration by Leadership Board and Executive.

### **Fair Funding Review**

#### Delivery of the LGA Fair Funding Review work programme

3. In November 2017 the LGA's Executive and Leadership Board agreed a LGA work programme on the Fair Funding Review. A high level update on this work programme is attached as Appendix A and the following paragraphs provide more detail.
4. As per the previous updates, work on the [relative needs and resources models](#), [the evaluation criteria](#), and the [divergence of relative needs over time](#) is now complete.

#### Transition work

5. As agreed at previous meetings of the LGA's Leadership Board and Executive, officers have commissioned a review of transition methods previously used in the distribution of funding from central government and a model to assess the impact of different methods of moving from the current pattern of funding to the one following the Fair Funding Review and introduction of 75 per cent retention. Suppliers have been appointed to produce this work which we expect to be completed in October. The model will be demonstrated and discussed at the September meeting of the LGA Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review.
6. Officers propose that:
  - 6.1. The paper by the suppliers on transition options will be reviewed and discussed by the Task and Finish Group and then be brought to Leadership Board and Executive for consideration; and
  - 6.2. Given the difficulty of presenting the Excel model to a large group, the final version of the model is signed off by the LGA's Chairman and Group Leaders and published at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### The Government's next steps for the Fair Funding Review

7. The Government's work is building towards a wider consultation on the Fair Funding Review, expected in autumn 2018. Government officials have elaborated on the issues the consultation might explore as part of papers to the July 2018 officer-led Steering Group.

8. The following is subject to Ministerial decision on the scope of the consultation, including the extent to which the Government would identify preferred options at this stage.
9. On the relative needs assessment, the consultation might cover:
  - 9.1. the structure of the assessment, including options for tier-specific foundation formulae and formulae to assess specific services. The Government might express a preferred option on this;
  - 9.2. the leading cost drivers for inclusion in the above, and a description of proposed analytical techniques to weight them against one another; and
  - 9.3. commentary on the area cost adjustment.
10. On the relative resources assessment, the consultation might cover high level approaches to:
  - 10.1. measuring the council tax base, in particular treatment of mandatory and discretionary council tax discounts. This includes local council tax support schemes;
  - 10.2. the choice of notional or actual council tax levels to be used when calculating the adjustment; and
  - 10.3. treatment of other income, such as sales, fees and charges.
11. On transition, the consultation might cover:
  - 11.1. high level principles that could underpin the choices of transition mechanism, such as stability, speed, transparency and time limits; and
  - 11.2. the definition and measurement of 'baseline' and 'target' between which the transition mechanism would be applied to.
12. This is in line with the LGA's work programme on the Fair Funding Review, with the core LGA work programme and meetings of the Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Task and Finish Group all helping explore policy options ahead of the publication of the consultation document.

### **Business Rates Retention**

#### Commissioning a business rates retention model

13. In April Leadership Board agreed to the LGA commissioning of a Business Rates Retention model to enable the effect of possible systems design changes to be estimated. Following a tendering exercise LGFutures were commissioned to produce the model. A working version will be demonstrated at the meeting of the Business Rates Retention Task and Finish Group

on 12 September. Following feedback from the Task and Finish Group officers will work with the suppliers to make refinements to the model.

14. It is suggested that due to the technical nature of the model and therefore the difficulty of demonstrating the model to a large group that the Chairman and Group Leaders sign off the Business Rates Retention model. Following this the model will be shared with member authorities and placed on the LGA Business Rates Retention Hub alongside the other models commissioned by the LGA. Further updates will be given to your Board at a future meeting.

#### 2019/20 further Business Rates Retention pilots

14. The prospectus inviting areas to bid to become a further business rates retention pilot in 2019/20 was published on 24 July 2018. Applications for 75 per cent pilots are being invited with a closing date of 25 September 2018. It should be noted that the five 2017/18 devolution pilots will continue at 100 per cent and there will be separate discussions covering London. Non-London 2018/19 pilots will need to reapply if they wish to be a pilot in 2019/20. Unlike in 2017/18 and 2018/19 there will not be a no-detriment clause. At the time of writing, LGA and MHCLG officers were organising a joint event on 3 September where senior officers from authorities considering making applications will have the opportunity to learn more about the pilots and process.

#### Other business rates retention updates

15. The Business Rates Retention Steering Group met on 23 July. It considered two papers on Systems Design issues, concerning pooling and resets. These issues were summarised in the general update on Business Rates Retention at your last meeting.
16. The Systems Design Working Group had a joint meeting in July with the Implementation Working Group, a group which has been established to work on the most technical aspects of the system. The main paper on the agenda was a proposal for simplification of the system drafted by some local authority officers who are members of the Systems Design Working Group. In brief, this would split the business rates retention system into a mainstream and a reward element. It was agreed that further work was needed on this and papers would be brought to future meetings of the groups before being considered Steering Group and the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review. Further updates will be brought to future Leadership Board meetings.
17. Further discussions at the Systems Design Working Group will inform a consultation paper which is expected to consist of a proposed overall package on elements of the system such as resets, tier splits, safety nets and treatment of appeals, and also a consideration of what long term reforms, requiring primary legislation, would be beneficial.

#### **Appendices**

18. **Appendix A** - High-level progress update on the LGA Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programme





**Implications for Wales**

19. There are no direct implications for Wales arising from this report as business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review apply to England. The distribution of funding to Welsh local authorities is a devolved matter in Wales.

**Financial implications**

20. Members of Leadership Board have previously approved spending of LGA reserves on the LGA work programme on the Fair Funding Review and a Business Rates Retention model.
21. Other work outlined in the paper above is part of the LGA's core programme of work and as such has been budgeted for in the 2018/19 budget.

**Appendix A. High-level progress update on the LGA Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programme**

Project	Purpose and description	Quick update
<b>Criteria for assessing proposed distribution models and methodologies</b>	To give the LGA a structured and consistent way to assess new distribution models.	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Formula grant: update the data</b>	<p>Update the data in the current distribution model (where updated data is available) to see the impact of this on individual allocations separate to any methodology changes. In effect this would provide an updated baseline to inform a discussion on how long the formulae remain 'future proof' without any review of weightings.</p> <p>To help the LGA and member authorities form policy on the data used in the formulae and the frequency of distribution resets, or other ways to 'future proof' the mechanism.</p>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Distribution model: develop a distribution model</b>	A model to allow local authorities to see the impact of different key cost drivers and differential weightings. To help the LGA and member councils evaluate the impact of various Government and stakeholder proposals on their council and to allow them to put forward their own proposals	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Council tax equalisation: develop a model</b>	<p>A model to identify the impact of adjustments for council tax and council tax support on individual authorities.</p> <p>To inform LGA policy and to help individual member councils evaluate Government proposals.</p>	<a href="#">Complete</a>
<b>Damping /transition mechanisms</b>	An analysis of historic damping / transition mechanisms and a model to inform discussions on the guiding principles of transition. To inform LGA and member authorities' policy.	Suppliers appointed; work expected to be delivered in autumn 2018.
<b>Business Rates Retention model</b>	<p>A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of system design choices in areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The setting of business rates baselines;</li> <li>• The extent and frequency of business rates resets;</li> <li>• Dealing with losses due to appeals;</li> <li>• The level of the safety net and how it is funded; and</li> <li>• The split of business rates income in two-tier areas.</li> </ul>	Suppliers appointed; work expected to be delivered in autumn 2018

## **Chief Executive's Report – September 2018**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The LGA business plan for 2018/19 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 September 2018.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

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## Chief Executive's Report – September 2018

### Achievements against our external priorities

#### Priority 1 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 1.1 **'No Deal' Papers:** over the summer, the Government announced that it was going to publish a series of technical papers providing advice on how we would deal with a "no deal" scenario. In advance of the release of these papers, the LGA published its own analysis of the headline issues for councils under a no deal scenario, which provides a baseline from which to assess the Government's no deal preparations. To date the government has published an overview of the UK government's preparations for a no deal scenario together with 24 guidance documents across a range of policy areas. The government is expected to publish a total of around 80 guidance notes by the end of September.
- 1.2 **Brexit Ministerial Local Government Delivery Board:** we continue to engage the Brexit Ministerial Local Government Delivery Board following the announcement by the Secretary of State, James Brokenshire MP, at our conference in July.
- 1.3 **EU Funding:** we submitted written evidence to the APPG on Post-Brexit funding inquiry in to replacing EU funding. Our evidence highlighted the importance of retaining and enhancing the devolution agreements with local areas that currently exist under EU funding arrangements, and the need for a continuity of funding once the UK exits the EU

#### Priority 2 – Devolution and funding for Local Government

- 2.1 Our work on **the Local government finance settlement technical consultation, spending review, business rates retention and fair funding review** are all covered by separate items on the agenda.
- 2.2 **Financial Resilience Index:** we have responded to the consultation from Cipfa on proposals to produce a financial resilience index, highlighting a number of concerns, in particular that such an index would be seen, incorrectly, as a "performance table" for councils even though this is not the intention.
- 2.3 **IFRS9:** For 2018/19 local authorities are due to implement International Financial Reporting Standard 9 (IFRS9) which deals with the valuation of certain investments in annual accounts. In response to a call from us and others in the sector, MHCLG have launched a consultation on potential mitigations to the introduction which would potentially save local authorities from having to make additional revenue provisions in their accounts.
- 2.4 **Fair Funding Review models:** we have published two modelling tools which focus on the main parts of the Government's Fair Funding Review. These models will provide member authorities with a set of tools to evaluate the impact of future proposals arising from the Fair Funding Review. We will also use these tools to help inform our policy discussions.
- 2.5 **Spending Review Briefing:** we briefed the Secretary of State on local government's priorities for the 2019 Spending Review.
- 2.6 **Improvement Support on Local Industrial Strategies:** we are developing an improvement support offer focused on Local Industrial Strategies and have engaged the Cities and Local Growth Unit in Government to support the development of this offer.
- 2.7 **Local Enterprise Partnerships:** the Government has now published the conclusion of the LEP Review and we published a response. The report includes a clear statement of intent to agree Local Industrial Strategies with all areas by early 2020, which is something we have been calling for. This will feed into the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. As part of a phased approach, the Government has

confirmed it will be inviting LEPs to submit proposals on geographies which best reflect real functional economic areas, remove overlaps and, where appropriate, propose wider changes such as mergers.

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

- 3.1 **Social Housing Green Paper:** in August, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) announced the Social Housing Green Paper. In our media response, we said the green paper is a step towards delivering more social homes but it is only a small step, compared with the huge and immediate need for more genuinely affordable homes. The Government made a commitment, in the green paper, to take steps towards ensuring victims of domestic abuse retain their fixed term tenancies which may have been granted by the local authority. The Government intend to bring forward legislation to achieve this when parliamentary time allows.
- 3.2 **Rough Sleeping Strategy:** in August, the Government announced the Rough Sleeping Strategy which outlines plans to help people who are sleeping rough now and to put in place the structures to end rough sleeping overall. In the Strategy, the Government indicated it would be working with partners to develop a new training package which focuses on identifying and supporting vulnerable groups, including victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse. The Strategy also includes some encouraging proposals that reflect the recommendations from the LGA-chaired Prevention Task and Finish Group, such as a renewed focus on the role of local homelessness strategies, and the piloting of ‘Somewhere Safe to Stay’ schemes for people at immediate risk of sleeping rough. Importantly, it emphasises the importance of targeted prevention, enabled by all parts of government coming together.
- 3.3 **National Planning Policy Framework:** in a written ministerial statement, MHCLG have published the new National Planning Policy Framework. The Minister has restored "social rent" to the Government's definition of affordable housing, which is something we called for in our consultation response. The new framework means housebuilders would be able to ignore local plans if fewer than 75 per cent of those required by central government targets for 2020 are constructed. As we said in our response, which was reported widely across the media, this is hugely disappointing as the delivery test will punish communities for homes not built by developers. We continue to make the case that planning is not a barrier to housebuilding and we briefed our Vice Presidents
- 3.4 **National register for revocations and refusals (NR3):** we have launched the new National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3). The new register will allow licensing authorities to record details of where a hackney carriage or PHV drivers' licence has been refused or revoked, and allow licensing authorities to check new applicants against the register. This should help to prevent people found to be not fit and proper in one area from securing a licence somewhere else through deception and non-disclosure. Extensive guidance has been published by the LGA to support licensing authorities with the implementation of NR3. Access to the register is only available to members of the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN). Whilst over 90% of local authorities are already members of NAFN, those who are not are strongly advised to join in order to make use of NR3.
- 3.5 **Serious violence:** we submitted written evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into serious violence. In our response, we highlighted the importance of investing in early intervention and prevention, as well as taking a multi-agency approach to tackling this important issue. Cllr Simon Blackburn raised this point at the previous Serious Violence Taskforce meeting. He also called for a greater focus on the impact of watching online pornography and violent online content can have on children and younger people, and how this affects their views of healthy relationships.
- 3.6 **County Lines Conference:** Cllr Simon Blackburn co-chaired the LGA's conference on county lines - tackling criminal child exploitation. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from speakers from the Home Office, the National County Lines Coordination Centre, the Violence and Vulnerability Unit, the Children's Society and from councils who have been leading the way on this important issue. Cllr Blackburn continues to represent local government at the Government's County Lines Working Group.
- 3.7 **Domestic abuse:** Cllr Simon Blackburn gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry into domestic abuse. Cllr Blackburn referred to our LGA written evidence submission and

highlighted the importance of taking a preventative approach to stop domestic abuse from occurring in the first place.

- 3.8 **National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse:** Cllr Simon Blackburn attended a meeting of the National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse. During the meeting, the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP spoke about the importance of the forthcoming domestic abuse legislation and ensuring the Government delivered a comprehensive package of measures to tackle domestic abuse in all its forms.
- 3.9 **Home Office and MHCLG Funds:** ahead of summer recess, there were a number of Government funds announced by the Home Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that are of interest to community safety teams. These included the Priorities for Domestic Abuse Fund, the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Fund, the Early Intervention Youth Fund and the 'Move On' Fund. The Trusted Relationships Fund also announced the successful bids in August. The LGA requested an extension to the deadline for a number of these funds and MHCLG agreed to extend the priorities for domestic abuse fund deadline by ten days.
- 3.10 **Sustainable travel survey:** we have published a snapshot poll of councils in England with responsibilities for transport planning and passenger transport which revealed the overwhelming majority have introduced 20mph zones, provided secure cycle parking and/or changing facilities, promoted cycling or and/or walking to schools and included sustainable travel within their Health and Wellbeing Strategy. However, the survey reveals that the main barriers stopping councils from doing more to invest in sustainable travel were: lack of revenue funding; uncertainty over continued levels of funding; and, lack of capital funding.
- 3.11 **Clean air strategy:** we responded to the Government's Clean Air Plan which sets out a variety of different actions across a number of different public agencies. New activity required by the Plan will have to be resourced and local authorities are not in a position where they could take on the amount of activity envisioned in this strategy without either significant additional investment or by ceasing other equally vital environmental health protection work. Whilst we agree with the Government's ambition and the vital nature of the challenge, we need a strategy that is either realistic about the capacity of many public agencies to take on more work or identifies how new resources will be made available.
- 3.12 **Building Safety:** a number of construction companies will be working with MHCLG to be early adopters on building safety and a new Industry Safety Steering Group will hold industry to account for making cultural change happen. The LGA will be part of this work to consider options for a Joint Competent Authority and the stronger regulatory regime recommended by the Hackitt Review. We continue to promote the work of local government to ensure everyone is safe in the buildings they live, work and visit, including in our response to a report from the HCLG Committee on building regulations and fire safety.
- 3.13 **Rural Economy:** we submitted written evidence to the House of Lords Rural Economy Committee on the rural economy. Our evidence highlighted the work of our Post-Brexit England Commission, the evidence it has gathered from councils across our regions, and the Commission's interim report into non-metropolitan England.

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

- 4.1 **Schools funding:** in a written ministerial statement, the Government confirmed details of school revenue funding for 2019/20 and planned updates to the national funding formula for schools. This also recognises the important role councils are playing in the implementation of the national funding formula by announcing the continuation of the 'soft formula' which allows councils to continue to set local funding formulae with local schools for a further year, in 2020/21.
- 4.2 **Children's social care:** the Government has published their response to two recent reports on fostering and children's social care. We are keen to work with the Department for Education to implement the recommendations in the report, so that every child can fulfil their potential. The latest data on children's social care shows that, in 2017/18, the proportion of council children's services rated

good or outstanding has increased. As we said in our [response](#), councils have worked tirelessly to protect children's budgets but the increased demand and resource pressures are putting the system under strain.

- 4.3 **National Citizen Service:** we have produced [analysis](#) showing that 95 per cent of government spending on youth services is being spent on its National Citizen Service. This is despite only 12 per cent of eligible teens taking part in the four-week summer programme in 2016. Given the reductions that councils have been forced to make to youth services, we're calling on the Government to devolve some of the funding to councils to allow us to provide targeted support to a much wider group of young people locally all year round.
- 4.4 **Teachers' Pay Award 2018-19:** the Government has published its [response on the teachers' pay award for 2018-19](#). A key issue regarding the DfE response is we believe that for the first time a core recommendation on pay from the Review Body has been rejected. The National Employers Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) has been invited to respond, as a statutory consultee and local authority leads have been contacted to feed into the response.
- 4.5 **In Parliament:** we briefed MPs ahead of a debate on children in need and a debate on the care crisis
- 4.6 **Children's Services Funding:** The [Observer](#) featured our warning on its front page that children's services are reaching a tipping point and urgent funds are required to address the problem, after councils in England had to spend £816 million more on children's social care than they had budgeted for. This was also referenced in newspaper reviews on the BBC News channel, Sky News and on BBC Radio 4.

### Priority 5 – Adult Social Care and health

- 5.1 **ASC Green Paper:** we have published a green paper on adult social care, in response to the Government's decision to postpone the publication of its own green paper until the autumn. '[The lives we want to lead](#)' emphasises the contribution of adult social care and support to people's lives and the need for sustainable funding. It outlines the case for change, setting out a series of options to for changing the system for the better and a second set of options on how to pay for the changes.
- 5.2 Since launching our consultation on 31 July we have received over 200 responses from a range of organisations including service users, councils, charities, care providers and members of the public. We have also published facilitator's and communications packs to help councils and other organisations promote awareness of the consultation and support them organise their own consultative events. Copies can be downloaded from [our website](#). We have also published an 'easy read' version.
- 5.3 We have also established a Sounding Board – comprising senior academics, policy makers, commentators, representatives of professional bodies including ADASS, and people with lived experience – to advise the LGA on the consultation and help us interpret the messages. The consultation closes on 26 September and we will be publishing our response to it later in the autumn.
- 5.4 We will continue to push to keep this issue at the top of the political agenda, particularly as we head towards the party conference season, the publication of the Government's own green paper on adult social care and the Spending Review, all of which are expected in the autumn.
- 5.5 **Sleep-in payments to carers:** we intervened on behalf of councils in a Court of Appeal case where Mencap appealed a decision to force them to pay the minimum wage for sleep-in carers, including very significant back payments. We have always supported the payment of a fair wage for workers, but we wanted to set out the implications for social care and local government of a potential unfunded burden on top of already significant financial pressures on the adult social care sector. The Court of Appeal found in favour of Mencap back in July but the Claimant has begun appeal proceedings.

- 5.6 **Mental Health and Loneliness:** we have published our 'Must knows' for councillors on [Mental Health](#) and [Loneliness](#) and Cllr Izzi Seccombe attended a discussion on rural loneliness hosted by DEFRA.
- 5.7 **National Strategy for Loneliness:** we have made a joint submission with ADASS and ADPH to the Office of Civil Society Consultation on a National Strategy for Loneliness. This can be found [here](#).
- 5.8 **Veterans' strategy:** we provided a submission to the Ministry of Defence on their Veterans strategy.
- 5.9 **Missing People:** we wrote to Anne Coffey MP chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing children to respond to the APPG inquiry into safeguarding missing adults who have mental health issues. We agreed to speak with Missing People organisation to see how we could assist with the inquiry's recommendations.
- 5.10 **Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF):** in partnership with ADASS, we provided comments to the DHSC on the Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF). The DHSC plan to publish the SAF in September 2018. Councillor Jackie Meldrum attends the national Autism Strategy Board.
- 5.11 **Sexual Health Services:** Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Community Wellbeing Board Chairman, featured on the front page of the [Independent](#) and in the [Telegraph](#), [Guardian](#), [i paper](#), [Mail](#), [Mail Online](#), [Mirror](#), [Star](#), [BBC Online](#), [ITV Online](#) and [Huffington Post](#) with our new [analysis](#) which shows that record demand for sexual health services in England is putting the system under huge pressure and call for cuts to public health funding to be reversed. LGA Vice Chairman Cllr James Jamieson was also interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live.

### Priority 6 – Supporting Councils

- 6.1 **2018 National Procurement Strategy:** our [National Procurement Strategy](#) was launched at our annual conference. With the sector's £55 billion annual procurement spend and the range of service areas involved the strategy is designed to help councils get the most out of their procurement, so that the benefits can be fully realised for residents.
- 6.2 **Lessons from Carillion:** we continue to monitor local government's biggest suppliers and assess any implications for councils' contracts and contingency planning. In partnership with Oxfordshire County Council we have organised an event focussing on lessons learned following the collapse of Carillion early in 2018 and providing an opportunity to share information with colleagues, including other councils who were directly affected by the collapse. This takes place in London on 2 October and is free to attend – further details on [our website](#).
- 6.3 **Design in the Public Sector:** local authorities have been invited to apply to our joint programme with the Design Council, [Design in the Public Sector](#). This aims to help address complex public health challenges using the design process and methods. The programme is fully funded by the LGA and local authorities across the country are invited to apply by 21 September.
- 6.4 **Councillor workbook: engaging with young people:** we have launched this latest [workbook](#) as a learning aid for councillors who want to consider how to best engage with young people and organisations representing them within their ward.
- 6.5 **Commercial skills masterclasses for councillors:** following the fully booked 2017/18 pilot, the free 2018/19 Commercial Skills for Councillors Masterclass training dates have been [finalised](#). The masterclasses focus on the role of the councillor in commercialisation and is hosted by and LGA member peer and an experienced trainer with a commercial background.
- 6.6 **Modern slavery transparency statements:** we have created a [webpage](#) that will have links to guidance and support for councils wishing to submit a modern slavery transparency statement. There will also be a portal of almost 50 councils who have done so.



- 6.7 **Local government information sharing standards:** we are working with councils to review, overhaul and simplify the local government information sharing standards so they remain useful. This includes focusing on lists that people rely on, dropping ones that have not been taken hold, and leaving dormant ones which were used in the past but have now outlived their purpose. The standards describe and organise council data, support open publishing and transparency, and generally link and make sense of huge data types and volumes managed by councils daily.
- 6.8 **Latest metrics from LG Inform, the LGA data benchmarking service:** we continually update LG Inform with revised metrics. The most recent ones include permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools, individual insolvencies by region and police recorded crime.
- 6.9 **Cyber security:** as part of the National Cyber Security Strategy, the LGA has won £1.5 million funding from the Cabinet Office to work with councils to ensure they are as resilient against cyber-attacks as possible. To ensure we use this effectively, working with the not-for-profit research organisation RAND Europe, we have sent a confidential online questionnaire to all councils in England to take stock of their current arrangements. The questionnaire is a pre-requisite for accessing funding (from the autumn) to improve councils' cyber resilience. All but 5 councils completed the questionnaire by the deadline.
- 6.10 **ngdp:** the ngdp is now open for council registrations for Cohort 21: <https://www.local.gov.uk/national-graduate-development-programme/ngdp-information-for-councils>. We recommend early sign up from councils as this means that we can advertise the programme locally with the aim to attract candidates that are interested in your council before applications close. This year's recruitment cycle will be open to candidates from 17 September 2018 and close on 3 January 2019.
- 6.11 **UK Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA):** we continue to support the UKMBA in its aim to provide councils with low cost borrowing through access to the capital markets. We are encouraging councils to consider the Agency as an option for borrowing to increase the value of the first bond, which we hope will be issued by the end of the year.
- 6.12 **Local Government Mutual:** the new Local Government Mutual has undertaken a procurement process for mutual management services and the appointment of Local Government Mutual Management Services Limited concluded on 29 August 2018. Work now begins on developing an operating model in preparation to open for business in due course. We will continue to update Leadership Board as this project develops.

## **Internal Priority – A single voice for local government**

### **LGA Membership**

7. The total number of councils on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2019 is six. These are:
  - East Staffordshire Borough Council
  - London Borough of Richmond
  - Leicestershire County Council
  - Lincolnshire County Council
  - Southend Borough Council
  - West Sussex County Council
8. The Broads Authority National Park are also on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2019 and Exmoor National Park have given notice for 31 March 2020.
9. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.
10. As a result of local government reorganisation, we have been informed by a further fifteen authorities that they wish to give notice to leave LGA membership on 31 March 2019 as these councils will cease to exist. These are:
  - Poole Borough Council
  - Bournemouth Borough Council
  - Christchurch Borough Council
  - North Dorset District Council
  - West Dorset District Council
  - Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
  - Purbeck District Council
  - East Dorset District Council
  - Dorset County Council
  - Forest Heath District Council
  - St Edmundsbury Borough Council
  - Suffolk Coastal District Council
  - Waveney District Council
  - West Somerset District Council
  - Taunton Deane Borough Council
11. We have been informed that their successor authorities intend to take up LGA membership on 1 April 2019.

### **New LGA Company**

12. Further to the Special Resolution passed by the last meeting of the LGA company, revised Articles of Association have been lodged with Companies House and published on the LGA website, along with the revised Governance Framework. A meeting of the Company Board will follow this meeting at which a further 9 applications for membership will be considered. In the meantime preparations for the

transition to the new company are underway with a view to it becoming the main membership body from 1 April 2019.

### Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

<b>Chief Executive</b>	
26 July	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
2 August	Chief Executive, Craven Council
4 September	One Public Estate Phase 7 Launch Event
6 September	Surrey County Council
6 September	District Councils Chief Executives
6 September	Chief Executive, London Councils
11 September	Chief Executives' Sounding Board
<i>Forward plan</i>	
12 September	Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
17 September	Warwickshire Chief Executives
18 September	Chief Executive, Doncaster Council
19 September	Dorset Councils
21 September	East of England Chief Executives
24 September	Association of County Council Chief Executives
27 September	Chief Executive, Newham Council
3 October	Worcester City Council
4 October	Worcestershire County Council
5 October	South West Chief Executives
8-12 October	Coventry City Council, Corporate Peer Challenge
15 October	Waltham Forest Council
<b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>	
26 July	Health and Care call with Chief Executives
31 July	Welsh LGA
23 August	Chief Executive, Merton Council
6-7 September	Surrey County Council, Peer Review
<b>Head of Improvement</b>	
10 August	Chief Executive, Lancashire Council

<b>Britain's Exit from the EU</b>
LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds appeared live on Sky News' All Out Politics programme, responding to research into councils' Brexit impact assessments (Sky News, Talk Radio news bulletins, Metro, Express Online)
<b>Devolution and funding for local government</b>
EEHT Chairman Cllr Martin Tett interviewed on Sky News Radio, EEHT Vice Chair Cllr Judith Blake on BBC Radio 4's PM programme and Cllr Peter Fleming on LBC with call for 2p per litre of fuel duty to be reinvested to tackle £9.3 billion roads repair backlog (Talk Radio, TalkSport, Mail, Mirror, ITV Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Sun Online, Sun on Sunday).
LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton was interviewed by <b>Sky News Radio</b> warning that a lack of revenue funding and uncertainty over current funding levels are main barriers to councils investing in sustainable travel.
LGA President Lord Kerslake was interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's World at One programme to discuss local government funding and the LGA's adult social care green paper.
LGA's polling showing that more than four in five MPs want extra funding to be found for adult social care (Sunday Telegraph)
£3.5 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025 warning (FT, Guardian, Sun)
Overall funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 (Guardian, Mail Online, BBC Radio 4's World at One, LBC, Sky News Online, LBC Online)
Call for further devolution of funding and powers to local level following Government's Civil Society Strategy (Times)
Nearly half of bus routes under threat due to funding cuts (Mirror)
LGA financial and operational support to UK Municipal Bonds Agency (FT)
<b>Inclusive growth, jobs and housing</b>
Cllr David Simmonds interviewed on BBC Newsnight in response to the Government's social housing green paper (BBC Radio 4's Today programme, FT, Telegraph, Guardian, Guardian Online, i paper, Independent, BBC Online, ITV Online, Huffington Post.)
Response to Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy (Times Online, BBC Online, Huffington Post, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 2, BBC local radio news bulletins)
Right to Buy concerns in the social housing green paper (FT, Mirror, Guardian Online)
Response to government announcement on supported housing (Independent)
Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (Telegraph, Guardian, Mail, Mirror Online, BBC Online)
Call for local housing allowance freeze to be lifted (Telegraph Online, Metro Online)
Residents outside cities struggling with slow broadband speeds (Telegraph)
One in seven private renters spend half their income on rent (Sun)
<b>Children, education and schools</b>
Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Anntoinette Bramble interviewed on LBC about funding for Government's National Citizen Service to be devolved to local youth services (BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Breakfast, BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show, BBC Radio 2, LBC, Independent, Guardian, Observer, Telegraph, i paper, Express Online, Mirror Online, BBC Online, BBC local radio news bulletins)
Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton interviewed by Sky News Radio, BBC Radio 5 Live and LBC about how nearly 123,000 children spent their summer holidays in temporary accommodation (Guardian, Independent, i paper, Mirror, Sun, Metro Online, BBC Radio 2 news bulletins)
England is facing a secondary school places "emergency" with more than 130,000 children at risk of missing a place over the next five years (BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Times,

Guardian, Independent, i paper, Mail, Mirror, ITV Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Huffington Post)
LGA's warning that children's services are reaching a tipping point and urgent funds are required to address the problem, as councils in England last year spent £816 million more on children's social care than budgeted (Observer front page)
The LGA's Bright Futures campaign, warning about £2 billion funding gap facing children's services (BBC News, BBC Radio 4's PM programme, Independent, Sun on Sunday, Guardian Online, BBC Online, ITV Online)
41 per cent increase in number of children and young people being treated for Type 2 diabetes, and urgent need to tackle childhood obesity (Express and Independent front pages, Times, Sun, Guardian, Telegraph, i paper, Star, BBC News Online, BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, ITV Online, Huffington Post, Sky News Online, Mirror, Mail Online, Metro Online, LBC)
Response to Children's Society research about number of boys and girls who have self-harmed in the past year (Mail, Mirror, Sun, Telegraph Online, Independent Online, ITV Online, BBC Breakfast, Good Morning Britain)
<b>Adult social care and health</b>
Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Today and BBC Radio 5 Live's Drive programmes and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show and BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins about the launch of the LGA's adult social care green paper (BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, Express, Guardian Online, Telegraph, Times Red Box, Independent, Mail, Mirror, Sun, regional newspapers, BBC local radio news bulletins)
LGA Vice Chairman Cllr James Jamieson interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about how record demand for sexual health services in England is putting the system under huge pressure (BBC Radio 4, Sky News, LBC BBC Online, ITV Online, Guardian, Telegraph, Independent, Mail, Mirror, i paper, Sun, Star, Huffington Post, BBC local radio)
The LGA's adult social care green paper was referenced in an article about government considering social insurance scheme and launching a "Care ISA" to pay for social care (Sunday Telegraph, Times)
Resources Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts interviewed on BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show and featured on BBC Radio 5 Live bulletins, LGA Vice Chairman Cllr James Jamieson also on LBC and Sky News Radio bulletins in response to a study about how the number of people aged 85 and over needing 24 hour care is set to double by 2035 (Guardian, Independent, i paper, Telegraph Online, Mail Online, BBC Online, ITV Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC local radio news bulletins)
Response to Which? survey which found just over one in 10 adults over 55 have set aside money to cover the costs of any future care needs (Financial Times, Mail, Express, Mirror, ITV News,)
Councils forced to reduce access to day care centres for older people due to lack of funds (Sunday Telegraph)
Age UK report on adult social care (Express, Independent Online, Mail Online, ITV Online)
Cllr Marianne Overton interviewed on Sky News Radio and featured on LBC, Talk Radio and Talk Sport news bulletins, Cllr Peter Fleming also on Sky News about how councils are helping swimmers and residents to ensure they stay safe in and near water during the heatwave (Times, i paper, Independent Online, Mail Online, ITV Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Sky News bulletins)
Cllr Peter Fleming interviewed on BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show about councils' efforts to support vulnerable people during the heatwave and for the public to check up on vulnerable or elderly neighbours, family or friends (Independent, i paper, Telegraph Online, Mail Online, Sun Online, Mirror Online, Metro Online, ITV Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online,



Huffington Post)
Response to analysis by Diabetes UK, showing that less than half of people eligible for an NHS Health Check in the last five years have received one (Mail Online, ITV Online)
<b>Supporting councils</b>
Cllr Peter Fleming on BBC Breakfast, BBC News, Sky News, ITV News about the amount of unrecyclable plastic being used in packaging (Mail front page, Times, Sun, Telegraph, Guardian Online, Mirror, i paper, Independent, BBC Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Metro Online, Huffington Post, ITV Online, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4's Today, Any Answers? and Forum programmes, CBBC Newsround, Channel 4 News, Channel 4 News Online, Channel 5 News, TalkRadio, TalkSport and LBC news bulletins.)
Cllr Michael Payne, LGA Deputy Chair, appeared live on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show to discuss council efforts to boost and support high streets.
Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton on BBC Radio 5 Live and Sky News Radio about how hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of counterfeit beauty products have been uncovered by trading standards officers and warning of the dangers of buying fake cosmetics (i paper, Mirror, Sun, BBC Online, Sky News Online, Mail Online, ITV Online, Huffington Post, BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 4 news bulletins, BBC Radio 4's You & Yours programme, LBC, Talk Radio.
LGA's own polling that eight out of 10 people are happy with the way their local council collects their rubbish (Sunday Times, Mail, Express, Sun Online)
High Court ruling against special educational needs spending by Bristol City Council response (BBC Online, i paper)
Which? research on rise of unidentifiable faulty appliances causing fires in homes (Mail Online, ITV Online)
Councils fixing a pothole every 19 seconds (Express 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.

**Contact officer:** Paul Goodchild  
**Position:** Member Services Manager  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3005  
**E-mail:** [Paul.Goodchild@local.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Goodchild@local.gov.uk)







## LGA Forward Plan

## LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

October

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 17.10.18</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity.
LGA Budget	To note a proposed LGA budget framework prior to full report in January.
LGA Subscriptions	To provide a steer on the overall level of subscriptions for the following year.
Communications Update	To consider communications activity in the first and second quarters.
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.
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
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.

<b>COUNCILLORS' FORUM 18.10.18</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Care	To receive a presentation by the Minister of State for Care.
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 18.10.18</b>	
<b>Summary / Purpose</b>	
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.
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.

## December

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 06.12.18</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
LGA Outside Body appointments	To note the list of bodies to which the LGA appoints each year.
Autumn Budget	To discuss the Autumn Budget and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To endorse the response to the Finance Settlement.
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.
LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year
Performance Report	To review six month performance report.
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
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.
Brexit	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit

**There is no Councillors' Forum in December.**

<b>LGA EXECUTIVE 06.12.18</b>	
<b>Summary / Purpose</b>	
Autumn Budget	To discuss the Autumn Budget and the LGA's response.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To endorse the response to the Finance Settlement.
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.
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.

## January

<b>LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 23.01.19</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary / Purpose</b>
<b>LGA Business</b>	
LGA Budget	To note a proposed LGA budget framework prior to full report in January.
Local Government Finance Settlement	To consider a summary of LGA activity on the LG Finance Settlement.
Treasury Management	To consider the performance of treasury management over the year.
Spring Statement	To comment on the Spring Statement Submission to Treasury and comment to the Executive the following day.

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.
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 previous Audit Committee
Commercial Advisory Board minutes	To note the minutes of the previous Commercial Advisory Board
Layden House Update	To update on the Layden House refurbishment project.

### COUNCILLORS' FORUM 24.01.19

Item	Summary / Purpose
Suella Braverman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union	To receive a presentation by the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union.
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 24.01.19

Summary / Purpose	
Local Government Finance Settlement	To consider a summary of LGA activity on the LG Finance Settlement.
Spring Statement	To comment on the Spring Statement Submission to Treasury.
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.
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

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**Title:** LGA Leadership Board  
**Date:** Wednesday 18 July 2018  
**Venue:** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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**1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Carter CBE.

No declarations of interest were made.

**2 Membership, Terms of Reference and 2018/19 Meeting Cycle**

Paul Goodchild, Member Services Manager, introduced the report which set out the Leadership Board's membership, Terms of Reference, and meeting dates for the 2018/19 meeting cycle. It was noted that there are some references to oversight of company structures in the Terms of Reference, and these would be updated following the implementation of the new LGA Company in 2019.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, proposed that a small working group of Members be convened to consider possible changes to the LGA's Boards and governance structures on behalf of the Leadership Board. Members endorsed this approach, and would consider recommendations from the group at a future meeting. Any accepted recommendations to change governance arrangements would take effect from the start of the 2019/20 meeting cycle onwards.

### Decisions

The LGA Leadership Board:

- a) **Noted** its membership and meeting dates for 2018/19;
- b) **Agreed** its Terms of Reference for 2018/19; and
- c) **Agreed** to establish a working group to consider the LGA's governance structures.

### Action

Officers to establish the working group to consider governance arrangements as agreed.

### **3 Leadership Board: Review of the Year**

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the report which summarised the work that the Leadership Board had undertaken over the previous twelve months from July 2017 to July 2018. This included work on the Autumn Budget, Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention, Britain's Exit from the EU, and Fire Governance.

#### **Decision**

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

### **4 LGA Business Plan 2018/19**

Sarah Pickup, Deputy Chief Executive, introduced the report which set out the proposed priorities for inclusion in the LGA's Business Plan for 2018/19, which would be considered by the Leadership Board in October 2018.

In the discussion which followed Members raised the following points:

- As the Business Plan for 2018/19 was developed the LGA should consider the language used. The priorities were right, but how the message was presented to Member councils and the public should be addressed. There should be more emphasis on implications for communities, and the impact of particular issues on residents.
- A key issue for many councils was housing targets, yet there was currently an implication that housing was tagged on to another priority. It was suggested that housing be a singular priority along with infrastructure.

#### **Decision**

The LGA Leadership Board asked that the above comments be taken into account in drafting the 2018/19 Business Plan for discussion at its next meeting.

### **5 Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention Update**

Nicola Morton, Head of Local Government Finance, introduced the report which set out updates on progress on Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work since the previous meeting of the Leadership Board.

Members noted that two separate relative needs assessment and council tax adjustment models had been published, and had been cleared through Group Leaders and the Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review. LG Futures had been commissioned to form an analysis of ways in which the transition from the current pattern of funding to the one following the Fair Funding Review and introduction of 75 per cent retention.

Joint work with the Government on the Fair Funding Review was continuing through the technical working group, and the most recent meeting had discussed the Area Costs Adjustment, principles for future transitional arrangements, and treatment of historic supported capital borrowing. A wider consultation on the Fair Funding Review was still expected in autumn 2018. The LGA was currently waiting for a prospectus to be published inviting bids for Business Rates Retention pilots for 2019/20.

It was suggested that the LGA should try to influence the Government in developing the next Business Rate Retention pilot proposals particularly regarding how to make it

easier for pilots to happen in two-tier areas. It was highlighted that the LGA was working jointly with the Government through the working group on the content of the Fair Funding Review consultation. MHCLG wanted there to give Councils as long as possible to work out pilots, and the LGA is going to host an event on this following the launch of the prospectus.

**Decision**

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

**6 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2018 Annual Reports**

Paul Goodchild, Member Services Manager, introduced the report which set out the annual reports of sixteen of the LGA's nineteen Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Reports were not included for the Chaired Chief Executives SIG which was dormant, the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels which had recently been established, and the Co-operative Councils Network which would be circulated to Members when it was received. The LGA's Statement on SIGs was also included for consideration.

It was suggested that the LGA should consider rationalisation of SIGs, as well as LGA Task and Finish Groups, and potentially establish a time limits to their work. It was highlighted that this work could be included in the review of LGA governance structures which had previously been agreed by Members. Members endorsed this approach.

**Decision**

The LGA Leadership Board:

- a) **Noted** the annual reports of the various Special Interest Groups;
- b) **Noted** the LGA's Statement on SIGs; and
- c) **Agreed** that consideration of SIGs and Task and Finish Groups be added to the work programme of the LGA governance working group.

**7 Chief Executive's Report - July 2018**

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, introduced the report which set out the LGA's main achievements against the Business Plan since the last meeting in June 2018. He drew particular attention to the Exiting the EU Delivery Board which had been announced by the Secretary of State at the LGA Conference in Birmingham, the MHCLG Select Committee report into building safety which had taken the view that the Dame Hackett report should have gone further to ban combustible materials, and the ministerial changes following the latest Cabinet reshuffle. It was also noted that Mencap had won their legal challenge around sleep-in minimum wage payments, which had been supported by the LGA. The Chief Executive also thanked members for their support at the LGA's Annual Conference. A great deal of positive feedback had already been received, but Members were encouraged to suggest ways the event could be improved in future.

Members noted that the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive had met earlier in the day with the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP. His early priorities in the role were the health and social care workforce, use of technology in health and care, prevention, and social care.

Regarding the LGA's Adult Social Care Green Paper, Sally Burlington, Head of Policy, highlighted that the first draft had been completed, with initial steers already provided

by CWB Lead Members and Group Leaders. This paper aims to influence the Government's Green Paper, the forthcoming Budget, NHS plan, and the Spending Review. The LGA wants to make a positive case for social care and the role of local government. The Green Paper would also aid what the Government was already doing in debating the issues with key stakeholders, and setting out the main options for change. There would be consultation questions on how you pay for what needs to change, and the consultation would include questions on the acceptability of various options.

The Green Paper would be published by the end of July, following which there would be a 8-10 week consultation process, and then a final report. There would be various facilitation methods for the consultation, including influencing discussions at the party conferences in the autumn.

In the discussion which followed Members raised the following points:

- Feedback which had already been received on the LGA's Adult Social Care Green Paper had been very positive, particularly from supporting organisations like ADASS and other partners like the Kings Fund. The Green Paper was the sector's chance to set out what they wanted, and consideration should be given to the media plan for publication and engagement at the party conferences. Members thanked the officers who had completed the draft Green Paper for their time and effort so far.
- There should be examples in the Green Paper regarding how local government was making changes and reforms itself to add value, and not just asking for more money. As with all LGA work the Green Paper should have cross party consensus, and would be an opportunity to engage more with opposition groups in councils who could be briefed on the work. Members noted that the engagement process would be piloted, and Members would be updated on progress in due course.
- Regarding the Annual Conference, Members' feedback was that it was very successful. It was suggested that more Members who had never been to a conference could be encouraged to attend in future years, as well as holding an event for Members who had not attended to explain how to make the most of the event.

#### **Decision**

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the Chief Executive's report for July 2018.

### **8 LGA Forward Plan**

The Chairman introduced the Forward Plan, which set out the agendas for the LGA Leadership Board, LGA Executive, and the Councillors' Forum for the next three months.

#### **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 held on 6 June 2018.



## 10 Note of the last Audit Committee

### Decision

The LGA Leadership Board **noted** the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit Committee held on 4 June 2018.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Sutton London Borough Council Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County 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](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

