

LGA Leadership Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 17 July 2019
1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

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Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board)
17 July 2019

There will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 17 July 2019** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be served in advance 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.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

Paul Goodchild (Member Services Manager)
0207 664 3005

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage 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.

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) – Membership 2019/2020

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE (Deputy Chairman)	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr David Simmonds CBE (Deputy Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Alden (Deputy Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
Labour (5)	
Cllr Nick Forbes CBE (Senior Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City 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
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Deputy Chair)	Hackney London Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Agenda

Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board)
Company Number 11177145

Wednesday 17 July 2019

1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Item	Page
1. Chairman, Notice and Quorum	
To confirm the Chairman for the meeting, that the meeting is quorate, and that adequate notice of the meeting was given.	
2. Declarations of Interest	
Each Director present to confirm that they have no direct or indirect interest, or declare any interest, in the transactions and other arrangements to be considered at the meeting, or which the Company has entered into which they are required to declare by Section 177 or Section 182 of the Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006) as amended, or by the Articles of Association.	
Business of the Meeting	
The following reports set out the main business of the meeting, the purpose of which are for the Board to consider and, if deemed fit, approve, ratify or note:	
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PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL

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	Verbal Update.	
18.	UK Municipal Bonds Agency Plc (UKMBA) Update	141 - 146
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19.	Close of Meeting	

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11 September 2019, 1.00 pm, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Duties of Directors

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

As an unincorporated Association, the LGA had a level of flexibility in how it managed its business.

As an unlimited company, we are now subject to the Companies Act 2006. Leadership Board is the Board of Directors, elected annually by the General Assembly. The Directors have specific duties and responsibilities under the Companies Act and must operate in accordance with the [Articles](#) of Association and [Governance](#) Framework of the LGA.

This report summarises those duties and responsibilities, which are also set out in the letter of appointment sent to directors immediately after General Assembly, and reflected in the role descriptions for the chairman, vice and deputy chairs of the LGA.

Recommendation

That the directors of the Local Government Association **note** the report and **agree** to comply with the duties and responsibilities set out in the Companies Act 2006.

Action

Any member requiring further information on the role should contact the Head of Corporate Services or the Corporate Legal Adviser.

Contact officer: Claire Holloway
Position: Head of Corporate Services; Company Secretary LGA
Phone no: 020 7664 3156
Email: claire.holloway@local.gov.uk

Duties of Directors

Background

1. On 1 April 2019, the assets, liabilities and operations of the LGA transferred to the new incorporated LGA. As an unlimited company, the LGA is now subject to the Companies Act 2006. The chairman, vice and deputy chairs, elected annually by the General Assembly, make up the Board of Directors. They have specific duties and responsibilities under the Companies Act and must operate in accordance with the LGA's Articles of Association and Governance Framework.

The UK Corporate Governance Code states that "All directors should receive induction on joining the board and should regularly update and refresh their skills and knowledge". This guidance will be reissued annually at the first Leadership Board meeting following the General Assembly. It is also summarised in the letter of appointment sent to directors, and reflected in the role descriptions for the LGA chairman, vice and deputy chairs.

Role of the Board

2. The Companies Act 2006 sets out the role of the Board as a collective – in this case the LGA Leadership Board. The Leadership Board's role under the Act is to:
 - 2.1. Provide leadership and ensure the LGA company is properly managed;
 - 2.2. Ensure that the LGA discharges its objects, powers and functions, set out in the Articles;
 - 2.3. Set the overall strategic direction and ensure that this is consistent with Articles;
 - 2.4. Review performance and hold management to account;
 - 2.5. Operate within a framework of prudent and effective controls that ensure propriety, value for money and effective risk management;
 - 2.6. Operate within the limits of its authority and in accordance with any conditions on use of public funds.
3. The Leadership Board Terms of Reference, included as a separate item on the agenda, set out in more detail the specific responsibilities of the Leadership Board.

Duties of Directors

4. The seven legal duties of directors are set out in sections 171 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006. Standing items 2 and 3 on Board agendas act as a reminder of those duties.

Duty 1 - to act within their powers.

Directors are given certain powers to enable them to fulfil their roles as a Board. They must act within those powers, in accordance with the LGA's Articles of Association and Governance Framework, and use them only in the interests of the company.

Duty 2 - to promote the success of the company

Directors must act in a way which they consider in good faith will promote the success of the LGA for its members as a whole, having regard to:

- *The likely long term consequences of any decision.*
- *The interests of the employees.*
- *The need to maintain good business relationships with suppliers, customers and others.*
- *The impact of operations on the community and the environment.*
- *The desirability of maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct.*
- *The need to act fairly between members.*

Duty 3 - to exercise independent judgement

Each director must exercise independent judgement in their decision making, acting in the best interests of the company as a whole, rather than individual or sectional interests, irrespective of the circumstances in which they have been appointed.

Duty 4 - to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence

This duty of directors to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence is judged according to what may reasonably be expected of a person carrying out the role and to the general knowledge, skill and experience of the individual.

Duty 5 - to avoid conflicts of interest

Directors must avoid being involved in situations in which they could have a direct or indirect interest. This applies in particular to the exploitation of any property, information or commercial opportunity. There is no breach of duty if the potential interest is so indirect or remote that no reasonable person would see a problem, or if it has been authorised by the Board.

Duty 6 - not to accept benefits from third parties

Directors must not accept any benefit from a third party that is offered because of that director's position of anything they may or may not do. This is a matter of principle and there is no need to show that the company has suffered harm. The LGA's rules on hospitality set a de minimus level for gifts - directors should contact member services for further information and to record any gifts received.

Duty 7 - to declare interest in proposed transactions or arrangements with the company

Any director in any way directly or indirectly interested in a proposed transaction, arrangement or decision must declare the nature and extent of that interest. This should be both by completing the LGA's Register of Interests annually and updating it in the event of new circumstances, and by declaring the interest at the start of/during Board meetings

Liabilities of Member councils and directors

5. The liabilities of directors of unlimited companies are the same as for limited companies. They have same duties and the same potential protections under law. The LGA's Articles allow for its directors to be indemnified against certain liabilities and for the LGA to take out directors' insurance. These cover most liabilities which directors could face in the ordinary course of business, subject to limits imposed under the Companies Act 2006.
6. The Members of the company are our member councils. Members are not directly liable to the company's creditors but if the LGA is wound up and its assets are insufficient to cover its debts, the members will be liable to contribute to make up the shortfall.

In summary

7. The role of the directors is to ensure that the LGA pursues its objects, powers and functions set out in the Articles of Association and complies with its Governance Framework, company law, other relevant legislation and the effective and efficient management of public money.
8. Directors must comply with the legal duties of a director set out in the Companies Act 2006. They should as far as practicably possible attend all Leadership Board meetings, declaring and withdrawing from discussions in the event of a conflict or potential conflict of interest.
9. Directors provide independent scrutiny of the activities of the company and contribute to the economic and effective operation of the LGA. They must ensure due consideration is given to the interests of all of its membership.
10. Finally, directors must adhere to the seven Principles of Public Life - selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership - which are the basis of the ethical standards expected of all public office holders. They apply to anyone elected or appointed to public office and will already be familiar to the Board.

Next steps

11. Any member requiring further information on the role should contact the Head of Corporate Services or the Corporate Legal Adviser, who will be pleased to help.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

Membership, 2019/20 Meeting Cycle and Terms of Reference

Purpose of report

To agree the Terms of Reference, and note the membership and meeting dates for 2019/20.

Summary

The membership of the Board of Directors of the LGA (the Leadership Board) (**Appendix A**) and future meeting dates (**Appendix B**) are presented to note.

The Board's Terms of Reference (**Appendix C**) presented annually for agreement.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

- i. Notes its Membership;
- ii. Notes the dates of meetings of the LGA Leadership Board, Councillors' Forum and LGA Executive for 2019/20; and
- iii. Agrees its Terms of Reference for 2019/2020.

Action

No further action necessary.

Contact officer: Paul Goodchild
Position: Member Services Manager
Phone no: 020 7664 3005
Email: paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk

Appendix A - Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (The Leadership Board) Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Cllr James Jamieson (Chairman)	Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Vice Chairman)	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr John Fuller OBE (Deputy Chairman)	South Norfolk District Council
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Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE (Deputy Chair)	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Deputy Chair)	Hackney London Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
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Cllr Ruth Dombey OBE (Deputy Chair)	Sutton London Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice-Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Appendix B - Dates of Meetings of the Board of Directors of the LGA (the Leadership Board), Councillors' Forum and LGA Executive

Structure	Meeting date	Time	Venue
2019			
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 17 July 2019	1.00pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 18 July 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 11 September 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Members' Briefing Day	Thursday 12 September 2019	11.00am	Bevin Hall, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		2.15pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 30 October 2019	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 31 October 2019	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Thursday 5 December 2019	11.00am	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
There is no Councillors' Forum meeting in December			



**Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145**

**LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019**

2020			
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 22 January 2020	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 23 January 2020	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 11 March 2020	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 12 March 2020	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 15 April 2020	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
There are no Councillors' Forum or LGA Executive in April due to local government elections in May.			
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 3 June 2020	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 4 June 2020	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	
LGA Leadership Board	Wednesday 15 July 2020	1.00pm	Smith Square 1&2, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
Councillors' Forum	Thursday 16 July 2020	12.30pm	Westminster Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ
LGA Executive		1.45pm	

Appendix C – Board of Directors of the LGA (the Leadership Board) Terms of Reference 2019/20

1. The Leadership Board is the Board of Directors of the Local Government Association (LGA). It is politically balanced and is made up of the chairman, vice and deputy chairs, who are elected annually by the General Assembly.
2. The Leadership Board is responsible for the management of the LGA's business. Its powers and responsibilities are set out in Part 5 of the Articles of Association and in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Governance Framework.
3. The Leadership Board:
 - 3.1 sets the strategic direction of the LGA in consultation with the Executive;
 - 3.2 directs the activities and business of the LGA and ensures its proper management;
 - 3.3 is responsible for the management of internal resources and for policies on resource management;
 - 3.4 agrees the annual budget and business plan;
 - 3.5 considers applications to join the LGA's Associate schemes;
 - 3.6 receives reports of the Audit Committee and the Commercial Advisory Board;
 - 3.7 receives annual reports of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and joint venture companies;
 - 3.8 receives and recommends to the General Assembly the LGA's consolidated financial statements and annual report of the Audit Committee;
 - 3.9 recommends amendments to the Articles of Association to the LGA General Assembly; and
 - 3.10 recommends Motions to the General Assembly for consideration.

Directing and managing the activities and business of the LGA

4. As the Board of Directors of a national membership body and the single voice for local government, the Leadership Board ensures activity across the LGA is coordinated and integrated. The Leadership Board:
 - 4.1 Builds and maintains positive relationships with member councils, maximising LGA membership levels.
 - 4.2 Maintains a forward programme of forthcoming legislation and events, identifying, discussing and communicating emerging and key issues.
 - 4.3 Maintains relationships with other local government representative bodies, Government, Parliament, the Civil Service and other partners.
 - 4.4 Undertakes representational activity on behalf of the LGA and provides the principal spokespersons.

- 4.5 Agrees the programme of the LGA General Assembly Annual Meeting and the Annual Conference.
- 4.6 Agrees the LGA approach to the annual political balance.

Managing the Resources of the LGA and its associated companies

- 5. The Leadership Board is responsible for the management of the resources of the LGA and its associated companies and for agreeing the annual budget and policies on resource management. In that respect the Board:-
 - 5.1 Agrees the medium-term financial strategy for the LGA and its associated companies as the basis for the effective management of resources.
 - 5.2 Agrees and overseeing delivery of the LGA's Commercial Strategy.
 - 5.3 Agrees the annual budget and making recommendations to the respective company boards.
 - 5.4 Agrees annual subscription levels.
 - 5.5 Monitors budget arrangements and overall performance, including financial performance.
 - 5.6 Ensures that proper records are kept and approves the LGA's own and consolidated financial statements for presentation to the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.
 - 5.7 Oversees the approach to MHCLG grant funding.
 - 5.8 Approves policies relating to staffing, including structure, appointments, terms and conditions of service, recruitment and severance procedures.
 - 5.9 Commissions reviews and agreeing changes to the Members' Scheme of Allowances.
 - 5.10 Ensures the proper safeguarding and management of investments and other assets, including treasury management arrangements and borrowings.
 - 5.11 Oversees the management and maintenance of 18 Smith Square and the Stills on behalf of the LGA and its tenants.
- 6. Subject to the Articles of Association, the Leadership Board may delegate responsibility for specific activities to another LGA Board or Task and Finish Group. The General Assembly may, by special resolution, direct the Leadership Board to take or refrain from taking specified action.

Quorum

- 7. One third of the Directors, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the Board are present.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

Political Composition

8. The core composition of the Leadership Board is:

Conservative group:	5 members
Labour group:	5 members
Liberal Democrat group:	2 members
Independent group:	2 members

Frequency

9. The Leadership Board meets eight times per year but may by agreement reduce or increase the number of meetings as the business requires.

Appointment of Directors and Admittance into Membership of New Members

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This paper sets out the main business of the meeting, the purpose of which is to consider and, if deemed fit, approve, ratify or note:

- the appointment of New Directors and resignation of certain existing Directors; and
- the admittance of new Members with effect from 18 July 2019 (**Appendix 1**);

Recommendations

That the Board of Directors of the LGA resolves:

1. To approve the appointment of the New Directors and resignation of certain existing Directors; and
2. To admit into membership of the Company the New Member listed at **Appendix 1** with effect from 18 July 2019.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

Contact officer: Claire Holloway
Position: Head of Corporate Services
Company Secretary
Phone no: 0207 664 3156
Email: Claire.Holloway@local.gov.uk

Appointment of Directors and Admittance into Membership of New Members

Background

1. At the General Assembly on 3 July 2019 the new Chairman and Board of Directors of the Local Government Association were elected. This paper summarises the changes to the Board and seeks Leadership Board's formal agreement to admit the Welsh Local Government Association as a Member.

Appointment of New Directors and Resignation of Certain Existing Directors

2. The following have resigned as Directors of the Company:
 - 2.1. Lord Porter of Spalding CBE
 - 2.2. Cllr Paul Carter CBE
3. The following have been appointed new Directors of the Company:
 - 3.1. Cllr John Fuller OBE
 - 3.2. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
4. The Board is invited to note the appointments and resignations.

Admittance of New Members

5. At previous meetings of the Board all English authorities in membership of the unincorporated LGA were admitted into membership of the LGA Unlimited.
6. Welsh authorities were in membership of the unincorporated LGA by virtue of their membership of the Welsh LGA, and submitted an application for membership of LGA Unlimited. As the Welsh LGA are an unincorporated association, the membership will be held in trust by the WLGA Chief Executive. The member councils of the Welsh LGA are listed in **Appendix A**.

Appendix A

Welsh Authorities in Corporate Membership through the Welsh LGA

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA Member Councils set out below)
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Ceredigion County Council
City and County of Swansea
City of Cardiff Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Denbighshire County Council
Flintshire County Council
Gwynedd Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Neath Port Talbot Council
Newport City Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Powys County Council
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wrexham County Borough Council

The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Following the amended motion on the UN Sustainable Development Goals agreed at General Assembly, this paper sets out the work being undertaken to develop a draft LGA work programme.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board comment on the actions proposed in this paper, and commission a full report to be brought to its September meeting.

Action

Officers to review the LGA's Business Plan and work programme as directed by the Board.

Contact officer: Ian Hughes
Position: Head of Policy
Phone no: 0207 664 3101
Email: ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

The UN Sustainable Development Goals

Background

1. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030 and covering the three different domains of sustainability: environmental, economic and social.



2. These Goals are underpinned by 169 targets, with progress measured by 241 indicators. For example, Sustainable Development Goal 8 – *promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all* - has 10 targets and 15 indicators.
3. Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals started in 2016. This process is referred to as *Localising the SDGs* and it is here that local government, alongside other civic and commercial actors, has a role in turning the global Goals into legislation, action and funding priorities.
4. Progress against these Goals is reported annually on a thematic and country-specific basis to the UN's High Level Political Forum. In 2019, 6 goals¹ will be reviewed in depth and 47 countries, including the UK, have volunteered to undertake and present a Voluntary National Review.
5. The UK's Voluntary National Review was published in June this year² and the findings will be presented to the UN at the High Level Political Forum held in New York between 9 July and 15 July 2019. We will update members on any further details emerging at this Forum.

¹ SDG4 Quality Education, SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, SDG17 Partnerships for the Goals

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uks-voluntary-national-review-of-the-sustainable-development-goals>

6. The Review notes that while progress had been made, more remains to be done, particularly in the areas of climate change and an ageing population. On the matter of local involvement in delivering the SDGs, it states:

6.1. "It is estimated that 65% of the 169 Global Targets need local stakeholders to be involved if they are to be achieved."

6.2. "Local authorities are often responsible for many of the services and environments people interact with daily. From providing social care (Goal 3) to safe education (Goal 4) to effective transport planning (Goal 11), local authorities are vital to the domestic delivery of the Goals. In return, the Goals offer an effective framework to support local authorities with developing plans, strategies and supporting overall progress on sustainable development. Local authorities are well placed to provide the vital link between local communities and businesses and the Goals by connecting local priorities with the Goals and raising awareness of their importance amongst stakeholders. They can also reflect the needs and unique circumstances of their residents and communities to ensure resources are directed in the most effective ways."

The SDGs and the LGA

7. The LGA has been engaged with the SDGs and the development of the Review at an officer and member level. This has included attending engagement events, including an 'emerging findings' session in the House of Lords. This event was chaired by the DfID Secretary of State, and we were represented by Lord Porter, who subsequently asked a written question on the Government's support to local partners.³

8. We have sought to publicise the Review and raise awareness amongst councils through contributions to the LGA Chief Executive's Bulletin and in an article in First Magazine.⁴ We have also worked with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to advise on progress within an international context and to inform domestic lobbying work such as a submission to the Environment Audit Committee.⁵

9. This month, the LGA's General Assembly voted in favour of a motion (included at **Appendix 1**) raising awareness of the SDGs and committing the LGA to:

³ <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-02/HL15013/>

⁴ <https://www.lgafirst.co.uk/features/global-goals-local-solutions/>

⁵ <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/environmental-audit-committee/sustainable-development-goals-in-the-uk/written/38341.pdf>

- Call upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area;
 - Encourage councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs; and
 - Declare a 'Climate Emergency', and commit to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.
10. These proposals, in combination with the need for local engagement set out in the Review, provide a framework for the LGA's future activity. The SDGs touch on many, if not all, of the LGA's priorities. A thorough review is required to understand the alignment of the SDGs with our current work programme; areas of opportunity for further development, and those elements that are less relevant to the LGA and local government in England. We would need to be clear that the language of 'targets' is not interpreted as imposing a centralised reporting structure on councils, but an opportunity to coordinate international ambitions with local priorities, backed by local data.
11. For example, Goal 5 – *Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls* – includes the following target: 5.3) Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. The LGA has an established position in supporting the work of the National FGM Centre and it would be relatively straight forward to include a reference to the relevant SDG to underline the importance and global relevance of this work. However, not all elements will be so clear cut.
12. To best understand how we might align our work programme, officers propose to review the SDGs and their indicators over the summer. The results of this work would be brought together into a comprehensive paper to Leadership Board in September that includes recommendations for areas of focus and next steps. In some cases, we could choose to use the SDGs to bolster the case for greater localisation of powers and resources to support communities.
13. As part of this process, officers will review the LGA's Business Plan and bring a draft amended version to the same meeting. This will ensure that the LGA's priorities complement the SDGs and councils' role in ensuring successful delivery of the UK's ambitions.
14. Alongside the LGA's review of its own work, it is proposed that officers consider ways to share good practice between councils. Where relevant, they will also consider any specific improvement needs arising from meeting the individual SDGs. These proposals will be included in the paper for discussion by Leadership Board.

Environmental protection and the climate emergency

15. Protection and improvement of the environment is an issue which councils have an important role in addressing. As well as working with government to shape the national agenda, councils are uniquely placed to address the environmental, social and economic aspects of this agenda in a coherent way. Climate change is an increasing priority. Many councils together with the LGA have acknowledged the urgency of the issue by declaring a climate emergency; with some agreeing a target date for achieving zero net carbon emissions.
16. The LGA has an important role in supporting councils to achieve their ambitions on environmental protection and improvement. We are working with councils and Government on the emerging Environment Bill which will give legislative underpinning to the Government's 25 year Environment Strategy.
17. The LGA's Environment Economy Housing and Transport Board (EEHT) has discussed this issue at its recent meetings. An LGA summit is now planned for October, bringing together councils, Government and other partners to consider the challenges in this agenda, including achieving zero net carbon by 2050 or sooner. The summit will be an opportunity to understand current good practice and the additional powers and resources that councils will need to meet the carbon and biodiversity challenges. The EEHT Board recognises that this agenda will be a significant priority for the LGA that will require senior political leadership, and the research undertaken to inform discussions at the summit (including the powers and resources needed by councils) will be presented to Leadership Board in September.

Implications for Wales

18. The LGA continues to work with all UK local government associations on this issue. While many of the policy areas covered by the SDGs will be devolved to Wales, we will work with the WLGA over the summer to understand areas of shared concern. In particular, to learn from their work developed under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015), which imposes a statutory duty on public bodies to take into account the needs of future generations when making decisions.

Financial Implications

19. Any budget implications above and beyond resources already set aside for the LGA's work programme will be highlighted in the September report.

Next steps

20. Officers to undertake a review of the Business Plan and work programme in line with members' comments.

Appendix 1 – Motion (as amended) and LGA Response

Motion Proposer: Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council.

Motion Seconders: Cllr Judith Blake, Leader, Leeds City Council.
Mayor Joe Anderson, Liverpool City Council.

Amendment Proposer: Cllr Peter Box CBE, Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council

Amendment Seconder: Cllr Nick Forbes CBE, Newcastle upon Tyne City Council

Propose that:

The Association values the importance of the [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) that address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation and prosperity. We welcome the work being done ahead of the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July that will consider how the UK's programmes and policies are contributing to achieving these Global Goals. The Association also welcomes the importance placed by HM Government that all levels of government work together and that its partnership with local government is a key component to successful domestic implementation of the SDGs.

Local government has a vital role to play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, work that will be key in delivering the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

SDG Goal 13 calls on partners to take urgent action to combat climate change. The Association recognises that a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions with cross-party support, in recognition of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC) warning that urgent action is required in order to avoid runaway global warming and climate breakdown.

If implemented properly, each of the SDGs has the potential to be transformative in moving our areas toward a more sustainable society with many of the Goals best supported by local co-ordination and delivery through local government and its partners. Our role can also help raise awareness of these challenges by engaging our areas through local partnerships and with our citizens.

Whilst the Association agrees with Government that such partnerships are a vital component and members have supported work on developing models that engage local stakeholders as effectively as possible, this engagement needs sustainable funding and support in order for councils to effectively share research and engagement with our networks, partners and citizens, particularly given our sector's continuing funding pressures.

The benefits of exploring SDG partnership co-ordinators would be to provide a focal point for activity in our areas and demonstrate the need for local perspectives to be embedded in the delivery of the SDGs, as well as improve the capacity for councils to deliver on the Goals.

Supporting such positions would also provide a common language and common roles across different areas, would facilitate the sharing of best practice and further enable the delivery of global and local priorities at the same time.

This Association therefore:

- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area;
- Encourages councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs; and
- Declares a 'Climate Emergency', and commits to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.

LGA Response

The LGA would like to pay tribute to Mayor Rees, Councillor Blake and Mayor Anderson for bringing this motion forward and thank Members who have contributed to this timely and helpful debate.

The LGA supports this motion and is committed to playing its part in enabling local government to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. If the Government is committed to delivering on our commitments to improving economic, social and environmental sustainability, it must be embraced across all Whitehall departments. Councils have a crucial role to play in shaping more prosperous and inclusive places, but they must be empowered and funded sustainably if we are to achieve our shared ambitions for the country, whether that is putting funding back into preventative services or enabling a more devolved employment and skills service.

We will set out to the new Prime Minister how councils can be a powerful ally in delivering on our shared priorities, and will use the upcoming Spending Review and all other opportunities to do so. We will also work with our member councils to share the excellent work that is already taking place around the Sustainable Development Goals and help other councils develop their activity.

This morning we have declared a climate emergency and the LGA will work to support councils taking this step, and in some cases committing to specific timescales for achieving net zero carbon. Councils are already mitigating and helping communities to adapt to climate change on matters such as air quality, flooding, transport and energy. The LGA will work with our membership and Government to understand the additional powers and resources that councils will need to achieve their ambitions. We will keep Members informed as this work progresses.

Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

This report provides a summary of progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes since the last meeting of Leadership Board.

Recommendations

That members approve the LGA policy position regarding the fire and rescue services' relative needs formula (paragraphs 8-10).

Action

Officers will proceed with the delivery of the LGA work programme on Further 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.

Contact officer: Sarah Pickup
Position: Deputy Chief Executive
Phone no: 0207 664 3109
Email: sarah.pickup@local.gov.uk

Business Rates Retention and Fair Funding Review Update

Background

1. This report provides a summary of progress on the Fair Funding Review and Business Rates Retention work programmes since the last meeting of Leadership Board.
2. In particular, this paper covers the following:
 - 2.1. Discussions at the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review;
 - 2.2. Discussions at the recent meetings of LGA/MHCLG technical working groups; and
 - 2.3. Progress on the alternative administration model of business rates retention.
3. Members of Leadership Board and Executive have previously agreed deliverables of an expanded LGA work programme on business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review as set out in **Appendix A**. The programme is now complete but will be kept under review as MHCLG work on these policies progress.

Fair Funding Review: fire and rescue services formula

4. In its 6 June meeting, members of the LGA Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review discussed the various options for the treatment of the fire and rescue services relative needs formula as part of the Fair Funding Review.
5. Fire and rescue services are proposed by the Government to be assessed under a service specific formula, as part of the overall relative needs assessment of individual local authorities.
6. The December 2018 consultation document said that the Government is considering three options on the shape of the fire and rescue services formula:
 - 6.1. Retaining the existing formula, but update the data wherever possible (eg population numbers) to arrive at refreshed values for each council;
 - 6.2. Replacing the current formula with a simple formula based on total population (with an extra weight for population aged 65+) and deprivation; or
 - 6.3. Replacing the current formula with a new formula, developed by looking at patterns between spending, need and local characteristics at ward level or smaller ('multi-level modelling').
7. A table which summarises each option is attached as **Appendix B**.

8. The Task and Finish Group discussed the paper, and noted that:
 - 8.1. The simplified formula (option 2) would be too simplistic for a service that is based on assessed risk rather than traditional concepts of 'demand'.
 - 8.2. Option 3 was preferred, but it was noted that it was probably not possible to deliver such a complex project in time for April 2020. Multi-level modelling exercises usually involve extensive additional research and data collection, with the whole process normally taking well over a year.
9. As a result, the Task and Finish Group proposed that LGA should support the combined option of:
 - 9.1. In the short term, using the current formula with updated data (option 1); and
 - 9.2. Calling on the Government to start work immediately on a completely refreshed formula using multi-level modelling techniques (option 3), with results to be introduced at the next possible opportunity.
10. This matches what officers understand to be the preferred position of the Chief Fire Officers' Association.
- 11. Members are asked to approve this to be the official LGA policy position.**

Technical working group on needs and redistribution

12. This working group, co-chaired by LGA and MHCLG and consisting of senior local authority finance officers, acts as a sounding board for the Government's work on the Fair Funding Review.
13. This group has been reconvened after a pause (last meeting was in late 2018), and the following items were discussed at the 25 June meeting:
 - 13.1. Summary of consultation responses received by the Government (already shared with Leadership Board and Executive);
 - 13.2. Progress on the development of a new children and young people's services formula which will be peer reviewed;
 - 13.3. Progress on the development of new Area Cost Adjustments; and
 - 13.4. The impact of higher or lower levels of notional council tax used in the council tax adjustment.
14. In the meeting, members requested further information be provided on the children and young people's formula and the area costs adjustments and suggested that the results

should be sense checked. On notional council tax members asked for a future discussion on how this will be set.

15. These issues will be discussed in more detail at the July meeting of the LGA's Task and Finish Group before bringing their policy recommendations to a future meeting of Leadership Board and Executive.

Business rates retention systems design working group

16. Discussions with MHCLG on the development of the alternative administration model of business rates retention have been continuing in joint meetings of the Systems Design and Implementation Working Groups. The groups are meeting monthly and have met once since the last meeting of Leadership Board and Executive. A further meeting is scheduled for 18 July. Papers can be found on the [LGA website](#).
17. The groups discussed how the alternative model, which will adjust for the effect of provisions and appeals on local authorities, could be operationalised and what this would mean for local authority budgeting, resourcing and operating systems. The groups also discussed how the levy and safety net would operate under the alternative model.
18. The alternative model will be a substantive item on the agenda of the July meeting of the LGA's Task and Finish Group on Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review. A summary of the key issues discussed and any policy recommendations will be brought to future meetings of Leadership Board and Executive.

Illustrative model of the Alternative administration model for business rates retention

19. The LGA commissioned a further modelling tool from LGFutures, comparing an illustrative version of the alternative administration model of business rates retention with the existing system. Unlike the previous business rates retention excel tool, this is backward rather than forward looking and covers the years from 2013/14 to 2019/20. For each authority, it enables users to see how they did under the existing system and how they might have done had a version of the alternative model, which adjusts for provisions for appeals, been adopted. It is not possible at this stage to build a model that removes the effect of appeals on local authorities although it is possible for authorities to enter their own information on appeals.
20. The model, which will be placed on the LGA website shortly, was cleared by the LGA Chairman and Group Leaders as per the procedure for the previous Business Rates Retention model and the Fair Funding Review models, having previously been agreed with the LGA's Task and Finish Group.
21. As highlighted above, MHCLG is still exploring how the alternative model of business rates retention could work and as this progresses we will explore what enhancements and improvements can be made to the modelling tool.

Next steps

22. Members are asked to approve the LGA policy position regarding the shape of the fire and rescue services' relative needs formula (paragraphs 8-10).
23. Officers will 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.

Implications for Wales

24. Local government funding is a devolved matter and business rates retention and the Fair Funding Review policies are limited to English local authorities.

Financial Implications

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

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

Project	Purpose and description	Quick update
Criteria for assessing proposed distribution models and methodologies	To give the LGA a structured and consistent way to assess new distribution models.	Complete
Formula grant: update the data	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. 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.	Complete
Distribution model: develop a distribution model	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	Complete
Council tax equalisation: develop a model	A model to identify the impact of adjustments for council tax and council tax support on individual authorities. To inform LGA policy and to help individual member councils evaluate Government proposals.	Complete
Damping /transition mechanisms	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.	Complete
Business Rates Retention model	A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of system design choices in areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setting of business rates baselines; • The extent and frequency of business rates resets; • Dealing with losses due to appeals; • The level of the safety net and how it is funded; and • The split of business rates income in two-tier areas. 	Complete
Alternative Administration Model of Business Rates Retention	A model to enable LGA and local authorities to assess the impact of the alternative administration of Business Rates Retention.	Complete – published shortly

Appendix B. Proposed options for assessing relative needs for fire and rescue services

Option	Short description	Factors	Comments
<p>Use the existing formula but update the data (option 1)</p>	<p>This would mean that the review only updates the values of the factors used in the formula (eg population) but does not review the weightings of those factors.</p>	<p>Total population</p> <p>Coastline</p> <p>Population density</p> <p>Population sparsity</p> <p>Risk index (working age adults with no qualification, working age adults with no employment, standardised mortality ratio <75 years, recipients of income support, income based Jobseekers' Allowance or the Guarantee element of pension credit)</p> <p>Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) sites per person</p> <p>Property and societal risk top-up (estimated by the Secretary of State, based on buildings information derived from the Valuation Office Agency and property and societal risk frequency for other buildings information from the 2006 Fire Services Emergency Cover [FSEC] Toolkit)</p> <p>Community fire safety top-up (consisting of factors such as pupils aged 5-10, residents living in areas with a greater need for fire safety education, population aged 65+)</p> <p>Area cost adjustment</p>	<p>The simplest and quickest approach.</p> <p>However,</p> <p>It does not assess whether the formula is still reflective of spending/demand patterns.</p> <p>Not all of the data can be updated</p>

Option	Short description	Factors	Comments
Build a new simple formula (option 2)	This would focus on a smaller number of factors, with weightings decided through the use of past expenditure-based regression which tries to produce a 'best fit line' between variables and past spending at council level.	To be determined but the current shortlist (as included in the Government's December 2018 consultation document) includes: Total population Deprivation Proportion of residents aged 65 and over Area Cost Adjustment	Would lead to a simplified formula, and is a quick exercise. However, The indicator set does not include a wider range of factors that are considered to be related to risk
Build a new formula using multi-level modelling (option 3)	This would include a robust analysis of spending and risk at 'lower super output area' (up to approx. 10,000 residents).	To be determined by the analysis (to include an area cost adjustment)	A statistically robust approach which is capable of including wider set of 'risk' factors assuming they are statistically significant. However, Takes time and is expensive – unlikely to be deliverable in time for implementation from April 2020



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2019 Annual Reports

Purpose

For information and decision.

Summary

All Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are required, under the LGA Constitution, to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year.

Copies of the SIG Annual Reports received to date are included at **Appendix B**.

Recommendations

That the LGA Leadership Board:

1. considers if it has any future requirements in respect of Special Interest Groups; and
2. indicates if it wishes to invite any Special Interest Groups to a future meeting to discuss their work.

Action

Officers to take forward in accordance with the Leadership Board's views.

Contact officer: Paul Goodchild
Position: Member Services Manager
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Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - 2019 Annual Reports

Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for member authorities with common characteristics or interests to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The LGA's Statement for Special Interest Groups is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Currently there are nineteen SIGs which have been approved by the LGA Leadership Board. A list of current groupings can be found at **Appendix B**.

2019 Annual Reports

3. All SIGs are required to submit a full report to the LGA Leadership Board each year outlining: the aims and objectives of the group; its current membership and lead authority; and key activities and outcomes of any work undertaken during the past year.
4. Sixteen SIGs have submitted an annual reports this year. The remaining SIGs who have not yet submitted reports are:
 - 4.1. Shared Chief Executives SIG (*This SIG became dormant as of January 2016, however do not wish to disband*);
 - 4.2. Co-operative Councils Network; and
 - 4.3. National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Financial Implications

5. SIGs are encouraged to raise their own resources from their membership and administer these resources themselves. The LGA does not pay any allowances or travel and subsistence costs to members attending SIG meetings.
6. The LGA does however offer limited administrative support and the use of certain meeting rooms at a reduced rate, as set out in the Statement for SIGs.

Appendix A – Statement on Special Interest Groups

Introduction

1. The LGA Governance Framework provides for 10 or more full member authorities with common features, interests or concerns to form a Special Interest Group (SIG). Under exceptional circumstances, the LGA Leadership Board may agree for smaller groups of councils to establish a SIG.

Part 3 – LGA Political Conventions – Special Interest Groups

7. *If ten or more Member Authorities with common features, interests or concerns so request by formal notice to the Chief Executive, then the Association, acting through the Leadership Board, may establish a Special Interest Group (SIG). Membership shall be open to all Member Authorities with those common features. Political proportionality does not apply.*
8. *In any case of doubt as whether a Member Authority is eligible for membership of a SIG, the Leadership Board shall determine the matter.*
9. *SIGs are able to speak for their interests as part of the LGA provided that their policies or statements do not conflict with or undermine LGA policy as a whole, or damage the interests of other member authorities.*
10. *Each SIG shall report annually on its activities to the Leadership Board. Detailed information on the process and procedure for setting up and running a SIG is set out in the SIG protocol.*

Rules of Operation of SIGs

2. If requested, and subject to the availability of resources, the LGA will provide:
 - ✓ secretarial support to Special Interest Groups for up to a maximum of 3 meetings per year in London;
 - ✓ free use of commercial meeting rooms on floor seven of 18 Smith Square for up to 6 meetings a year (any additional bookings or rooms on other floors will be charged at LGA membership discounted rate);
 - ✓ catering at normal LGA rates.

The LGA is a paperless organisation, therefore printing and hardcopy mailing will not be supported in line with the LGA's internal policies.

3. The LGA will not make any payments to members attending SIGs, including:
 - × Attendance allowances
 - × SRAs
 - × Subsistence

These expenses remain the responsibility of member authorities.

4. SIGs are permitted to raise any resources they might need to support their activities and running costs from their member authorities.
5. SIGs are able to make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest, and to obtain LGA assistance in doing so. However those representations must not conflict with or undermine LGA policy as a whole or damage the interests of other member authorities. The LGA has agreed protocols relating to local government finance and other distributional issues.
6. The LGA has strict protocols relating to press and media activity. SIGs should not issue press releases or undertake any direct media activity that claims to be on behalf of the LGA.
7. All SIGs are required to submit a full report at the end of April each year to the LGA Leadership Board covering such matters as their dealings with Government Departments. The Leadership Board reserves the right to invite the Chairman of a SIG to discuss an Annual Report or issues arising from it.
8. SIGs may also be required to report to the appropriate board, whose remit covers the SIG's particular area of interest.
9. The LGA will review support for SIGs annually.

Application to set up a SIG

10. Applications to establish a SIG should be made in writing and sent to:

Chief Executive or memberservices@local.gov.uk
LGA
18 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

11. Applications should:

- 11.1. define the purpose of the SIG and the nature of the common feature or interest
- 11.2. include the names of at least 10 authorities in full membership who have committed to join the SIG
- 11.3. undertake to admit to membership all authorities who share that interest ¹

¹ In case of any dispute over whether an authority is eligible for membership of a particular SIG, the LGA Leadership Board will decide.

Appendix B – SIG Annual Reports

SIG Name:	County Councils Network (CCN)
Lead Member:	Cllr David Williams, Chairman
Lead Officer:	Simon Edwards, Director

Overview

Vision

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

Aim

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

CCN Core Functions

The 2019/20 business plan set out the 'core business' and activity that CCN delivers on behalf of our member councils as a special interest group (SIG) of the LGA, including;

National Advocacy & Representation

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

Research & Policy Development

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

Sharing & Promoting Best Practice

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

National Collaboration and Commissioning

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

Communications & Public Affairs

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

Political Leadership

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

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

- **Chairman:** Cllr Paul Carter (Kent County Council)
- **Vice Chairmen**
 - Cllr Philip Atkins (Staffordshire County Council)
 - Cllr Simon Henig (Durham County Council)
 - Cllr Jon Hubbard (Wiltshire Council)

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

CCN Officer Team

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

Director	Simon Edwards
Head of Policy & Communications	James Maker
Senior Policy Officer	Jonathan Rallings
Senior Policy Officer	Peter French
Senior Policy & Public Affairs Officer	James Holden
Media & Communications Officer	Ian Burbidge

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Over the past 12 months CCN has succeeded in delivering the core objectives set out in our [Business Plan and Work Programme](#), continuing our progress as an effective membership, research and policy development organisation and delivering real, tangible changes in government policy.

CCN has increased our national profile and enhanced our position as the leading voice for county and county unitary authorities. Our profile and engagement across Whitehall, Parliament and third-party stakeholders has been significantly improved, with CCN extending its reach within Government Departments, including MHCLG, the Treasury, Departments for Education, Health, and Business.

CCN has seen a significant increase in our media profile, with an exponential rise in national and trade media hits.

CCN has undertaken a range of major research and policy projects, leading to the delivery

of several highly influential and respected reports, including our ground breaking [Independent Review of Spending Need and Funding](#).

Key activities/outcomes over the last 12 months include:

- Winter Pressures Funding: CCN advocacy with partners across the sector highlighted winter pressures in the health and social care system. This led to the in-year investment of £240m, funding that will be repeated in 2019/20. CCN councils will receive 44% of this funding.
- Social Care Funding: This year, CCN's targeted advocacy helped the sector secure £410m of additional funding for social care. Our advocacy was directly responsible for ensuring that this funding was distributed via the adult social care relative needs formula - and contained the flexibility to be used across children's social care.
- Roads Investment: Our dedicated advocacy on the funding pressures highlighting planned reductions in road maintenance helped secure in-year investment of £420m for local highways. Our member councils received 71% of this funding, with the government distributing the funding according to road length; a direct recognition of the pressures in county authorities.
- Negative Revenue Support Grant: This year saw confirmation that Negative RSG would be cancelled. This followed a two-year campaign on behalf of those member councils affected by the policy.
- Fairer Funding: CCN has maintained and grown the momentum on our fair funding review campaign. Our advocacy resulted in the recent consultation setting out welcome proposals that have the potential to deliver a much fairer funding formula for counties.
- Social Care Green Paper: Earlier this year CCN published its own positioning paper to influence the development of the long-trailed reforms to social care. The report has been downloaded over 1,150 times and position CCN as a key stakeholder on the future of health and social care.
- High-Needs Funding: CCN research highlighted escalating overspends in high-needs education funding. In December this helped secure an additional £250m of funding over two years.
- Business Rates: 12 out of the 15 new 75% business rate retention pilots are in county areas. CCN has specifically argued that the London pilots should be reduced to the same level as those open to counties, with the resources reinvested to ensure more counties benefit.
- Social Mobility: CCN on behalf of the County APPG conducted a comprehensive inquiry into social mobility in county areas. With support from Localis and evidence submitted by member councils, the report made a major impact across the sector and Parliament.
- Housing: CCN has become a national stakeholder on housing policy, building on its advocacy on strategic planning. We launched two research reports and hosted the first national conference dedicated to the strategic role of county and county unitary authorities in housing, planning and infrastructure.
- LEP Review: Following several years of advocacy on the importance of coterminosity of LEP boundaries, the government announced in its LEP review it would seek to eliminate overlaps.
- Reform: CCN continued to shape the national narrative on local government reorganisation. We have supported Dorset Council, securing their continuing membership from April 2019 and our advocacy helped turn the Government's minded-to decision in Buckinghamshire into a final decision.
- Devolution: After officially adopting CCN's call for a more open, transparent and

structured approach to devolution through the publication of a 'common framework', the network has continued to make the case for ambitious devolution deals for counties. CCN has been engaging government to ensure non-mayoral and combined authorities' models are considered, while ensuring the integrity of county geographies.

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

Aims

- Support coastal councils in delivering sustainable development on England's coast
- Strengthen the capacity of coastal councils to deliver sustainable coastal management
- Promote awareness of the important role of local government on the coast

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

House of Lords and Coastal Regeneration

The Coastal SIG was asked by a House of Lords Select Committee to support their evidence gathering on Regeneration of Seaside Towns and Communities. The SIG facilitated a workshop for Leaders and Chief Executives of twenty-three authorities and with ten Lords committee members present, five of whom facilitated the workshop tables themselves. The report is now available.

Coastal SIG support managing the coast in a changing climate

In response to the SIG highlighting concerns, the Committee on Climate Change initiated a report on the long-term challenges facing authorities who manage England's coastline. The report concluded that the current approach to coastal management is not sustainable in the long term. Report at <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/managing-the-coast-in-a-changing-climate/>

Coastal Adaptation

The SIG continues to champion this topic with government. Defra have undertaken research (yet to be published) that identifies for the first time a +ve benefit cost analysis of coastal adaptation. Work continues with the EA, Defra, MHCLG etc however government is reluctant to acknowledge and deal with this issue.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Members and officers were represented on some key focus groups that fed in to the development of the Environment Agency's FCERM strategy, which is currently under consultation till 4 July.

Coastal Concordat / Defra 25-year environment plan

The Defra 25 year plan mentions that all coastal authorities will be signed up to the Coastal Concordat by 2021. The Coastal Concordat originally developed in 2013 by the Coastal SIG and the MMO to help to streamline the planning application process and speed up application time. The SIG are now working with Defra to sign all coastal authorities up.

Fair Funding Review

The SIG has been working to ensure that maintenance of coastal assets was recognised as a local burden. Further discussions with MHCLG, Defra and EA have been focussed on finding a fairer way to allocate funds.

National Infrastructure Commission

The group have developed beneficial links with the National Infrastructure Commission, working to change the status of coast defence assets to be recognised as infrastructure.

Marine Licensing

The SIG has developed improved relationships with the MMO marine licensing team who attend two meetings a year to stay in touch with coastal authorities to maintain good understanding of the

process.

Environment Agency Large Project Review Group (LPRG)

The SIG has managed to establish representation for a local authority officer to sit on the Environment Agency LPRG. Great news so we can better understand the system and ensure l.a.s receive fair treatment.

Brexit, Ports and Planning

The SIG were invited to take part in the Department for Transport's Summit to discuss governance of Ports, Port Authorities, and the planning and regulatory systems.

Bathing Water

Many of our coastal authorities have struggled to get the excellent blue flag status that they work hard to achieve. Working through Defra, the EA have now agreed to provide resource and expert opinion to help.

Coastal waste sites

Concern has been highlighted by the SIG about erosion of historic coastal waste sites and the potential of pollution. There is both a lack of understanding of the issues nor any designated funding streams to access. Working with partner l.a.s and university researchers, this issues is now recognised and being discussed.

Sharing learning and issues

Members continue to share good practice and help a knowledge exchange at Lewes District Council.

8 national consultations were responded to: <https://lgacoastalsig.com/resources/consultation-responses/>

SIG Name:	Councils with ALMOs Group (CWAG)
Lead Member:	Manchester City Council
Lead Officer:	Rob Main – Newark and Sherwood DC (CWAG Chair)

Aims

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

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

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

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

CWAG aims to develop positive partnerships with ALMOs, the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA), the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) and others to ensure best outcome for tenants / leaseholders.

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

During the past year CWAG has focussed on the following key areas:

Responding to the National Policy Agenda

With the publication of the Social Housing Green Paper in August 2018, there have been more opportunities to influence and represent our members' interests.

The Group has submitted consultation responses to both the Social Housing Green Paper and the use of receipts from Right to Buy sales. There have also been a number of opportunities to provide specialist input on key work streams arising from the Green Paper e.g. meeting with the RSH to discuss regulatory issues, discussions with MHCLG covering ALMO and TMO management issues, consumer standards and decent homes changes.

CWAG continues to work closely with the LGA, ARCH and NFA to develop a shared understanding and response across the council sector. We are also involved in a number of cross sector groups including:

- Consumer Standards Working Group – this group has been leading on a sector led response to the Green Paper proposal for the development of a workable set of Performance Measures that are meaningful for tenants in holding their landlord to account.
- MHCLG Technical Finance Group and LGA Housing Finance Group – these groups meet regularly to discuss current policy, share views and expertise as well

as acting as a sounding board on key issues e.g. Universal Credit and the issue of the 53 week year.

Providing support for CWAG Members – Networking and Sharing Good Practice

CWAG continues to provide information and support to members as well as opportunities for networking and information sharing with other councils with ALMOs who face similar issues.

Regular CWAG news updates aim to keep members up to date with important policy developments, provide briefings and relevant housing news.

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

Executive Member specialisms provide leadership and a point of contact on particular policy areas.

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

CWAG Meetings and Events

The meetings programme is a key part of the CWAG "offer" to its members. At least four events are organised each year and the cost is included in the annual subscription fee.

Meeting topics are identified from member feedback and suggestions. In the past year the programme has covered a range of topics including:

- **Resident Engagement Challenges** - Jenny Osbourne, Chief Executive of TPAS
- **Tenancy Audits** - Karen Loweman -Director of Housing Colchester Borough Homes
- **Key themes and Challenges in The Social Housing Green Paper** - Helen Kelly and Kavneet Jolly from MHCLG
- **'Municipal Dreams' – an overview of the history of social housing and future prospects** - John Boughton
- **Finance and Business Planning Workshop** - Steve Partridge, Director Housing Consultancy, Savills
- **New build Network** - Meetings bring together representatives from ARCH, CWAG and the NFA with an interest in developing new council housing. There have been three meetings of the New Build Network during the past year reflecting the increasing focus on local authority development.

Forward Programme

This includes proposal for a CWAG commissioned project with TPAS for a 'Tenant Engagement Good Practice Toolkit' to identify good practice where tenant engagement is delegated to the ALMO but the council as landlord retains responsibility for overall performance and outcomes.

In addition, we are also looking to implement a number of changes to the CWAG website addressing feedback from members. Changes aim to make the site more user friendly, providing more streamlined user journeys and improve the site layout.

CWAG is keen to continue to receive support from the LGA on key policy areas, in

particular in respect of discussions around changes to regulation, further measures to promote local authority new-build and highlighting the ongoing impact of welfare reform on both tenants and landlords.

SIG Name:	District Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr John Fuller
Lead Officer:	Matthew Hamilton – DCN Director

Aims

The District Councils' Network (DCN) aim is to be the national voice of District Councils, working with our authorities, partners and government to deliver national growth and prosperity at a scale that resonates and reflects how local communities live their lives.

The DCN have four core themes which the priorities in our workstreams are guided by:

1. Stronger Economies

Districts are integral to the UK's future prosperity as the Planning, Housing and Growth Authorities, growing the national economy, one local economy at a time.

2. Better Lives

Districts ensure that no one gets left behind by tackling the complex needs of today whilst helping to prevent the social challenges of tomorrow. We act at a scale where it is possible to solve problems rather than simply manage caseloads.

3. Enhancing Quality of Life

Districts play a crucial role as local leaders who are on the side of residents. Our priorities are shaped by our understanding of and engagement with local communities. Districts protect and enhance the quality of life by safeguarding our environment, promoting public health and leisure and creating attractive places to live, work and raise families

4. Sustainable Finance and Workforce

Districts must work within a financial framework that incentivises and rewards local growth, whilst supporting those areas in greatest need

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Over the past 12 months we have had numerous lobbying victories on a number of key issues such as:

- the removal of negative RSG for 2019-20 with an average saving of £380,000 per affected district
- no further increase in the new homes bonus baseline
- lifting of HRA cap
- introduction of 20% flexibility to increase planning fees
- seeing the withdrawal of proposals for funding for short term supported housing to be delivered to County councils
- seeing additional monies for DFGs being transferred directly to district councils
- confirmation of the end of the process (sunset clause) that forced unitarisation where not all councils were in agreement
- greater recognition of the district role in prevention and establishing closer partnerships with PHE and NHS England
- engaged with parliamentarians through the APPG for district councils on LEPs, housing and finance
- successfully called for High Street Funding to be available only to districts in two

- tier areas
- secured a proportion of the Brexit grant for district councils who were due to receive nothing

In 2018/19 we have delivered:

- Our Annual Conference (which achieved very high satisfaction ratings)
- 3 DCN Assemblies /AGM.
- Chief Executives' conference
- Finance seminar on Fair Funding
- 4 Staff Development Programme events
- A joint event with Homes England
- A survey on the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 6 months on
- A survey on recycling and waste services ahead of government consultation

Our total attendance for events was over 800 people for 2018/19 with 88% of our members engaging with us in this last year which is a 6% increase on engagement in 2017.

DCN Annual Conference

This was our third DCN annual conference, welcoming over 100 districts to join us in celebrating "Districts Delivering the Difference". Building on last year's success, the event was attended by high profile speakers including:

- Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Rt Hon Liz Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- Rishi Sunak MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Mark Pawsey MP, Chair of the APPG for District Councils
- Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Tom Walker, Deputy Chief Executive, Homes England
- Bill Grimsey, Author of The Grimsey Review: The vanishing high street

We are delighted with the success of the conference, with an extremely positive rating from 92% of attendees.

Publications

In 2018/19 we produced 4 high profile reports which have received national coverage and have been shared with Senior Ministers. These are:

- Transformation in Localities Toolkit - in conjunction with Grant Thornton UK LLP, this report helps districts to achieve collaborative transformation.

- Delivering the District Difference - a joint report with the APPG for district councils on the future of local government finance
- Tackling Homelessness - our report on homelessness and rough sleeping based on the results of our survey of members following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018)
- Shaping Healthy Places; exploring the district council role in health – our joint report with the LGA using case studies from a number of districts who have improved the health of their local areas.

Communications and Media

- We have introduced a bi-monthly Chief Executive newsletter alongside our bi-monthly Chairman's newsletter which provides an update on DCN activities
- We have seen an 83% increase in media coverage since 2017
- We have had over 230,000 impressions through our 120 tweets on Twitter
- We have produced a video to accompany our Shaping Healthy Places report which you can find on our [website](#)

SIG Name:	F40 campaign for fair school funding
Lead Member:	Cllr James McInnes, Devon County Council
Lead Officer:	Karen Westcott

Aim

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The f40 campaign group was launched more than 20 years ago with the central aim of influencing significant change in the way Government allocates funding to local authorities and schools. The group is made up of 42 local authorities who are among the lowest funded for education in England.

f40 seeks fairness and equal opportunities in education for all children, regardless of where they live, and wish to see schools properly funded and equipped to enable them to provide a quality education to meet the future needs of Britain.

Under the current system, schools are not funded equitably. We recognise that those schools with pupils with higher additional needs should receive more funding, but the way this is applied across the country is inconsistent and unfair. Historically some schools are getting additional funding through a range of add-ons and protections and we believe that this is fundamentally wrong. All schools should receive the same core funding to allow them to operate successfully and to offer the best education possible to their pupils.

The campaign's first major breakthrough occurred when the government recognised that a new, fairer and more transparent school funding system should be introduced. Following consultations in 2016 and 2017, f40 hoped that the case for fair funding for schools had been won as the Government agreed that the funding allocation system was unjustifiable and unfair. The introduction of a National Funding Formula and additional funding of £1.3billion for 2018-19 and 2019-20 were welcomed and f40 viewed the overall outcome as another step towards fairer funding.

However, regrettably, the group continues to have fundamental concerns about the new formula as some of the historic unfairness has been locked into the new formula. We believe the Government has replaced one unfair system with another.

The National Funding Formula falls short of what was expected, does not deliver true fairness and is, therefore, in need of fundamental change. Particular concerns are that the formula does not give enough basic entitlement to schools and allows too much for add-ons, enabling big differences in funding to occur between different local authorities and schools.

The main objectives of our ongoing campaign are:

- Urgent changes to the National Funding Formula to make it fairer, more easily understood and transparent so that it meets the aspirations for equity set out in early

consultations. We seek the removal of the historic inequalities and funding protections in the system, and the raising of basic entitlement to ensure the core cost of running a school are met.

- An immediate increase of £2.4billion in the amount invested in schools to ensure there is sufficient to meet the cost pressures facing all schools and to allow them to operate successfully and provide quality education for all children, regardless of where they live. This must be index-linked.
- An immediate injection of £1.5billion of additional funding to deal with a crisis in High Needs provision across the country. We also seek legislation to allow structural change in the way High Needs is managed by local authorities.

f40 has undertaken significant work on updating its own formula proposals which are based on a 'bottom up' construction of the real costs of running a school. Updated modelling was presented to the Department for Education in April 2019. We continue to believe in its validity for future adjustment of the NFF.

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

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

SIG Name:	Key Cities
Lead Member:	Cllr Peter Box CBE (Leader, Wakefield Council)
Lead Officer:	Merran McRae (Chief Executive, Wakefield Council)

Aims

The Key Cities Group aims to provide focus, collaboration of learning and a unified voice to ensure that those cities within the group are more visible and are consistently represented in policy-making at a national level. We are working to lobby Government and engage with critical Government Ministers based on a clear and consistent set of key asks and messages which are unique to our group – in order to influence sufficient influence over the national agenda.

WHAT IS THE GROUP'S PURPOSE?

- To provide a united voice for mid-sized cities
- To make the case for greater investment in our cities
- To share expertise and promote collaboration between cities, sectors and industries to seize post-Brexit opportunities
- Develop policy to strengthen resilience, and improve economic performance and social cohesion in our cities

WHAT MAKES KEY CITIES UNIQUE?

- Available land with room to expand
- Diversifying economies
- Reduced dependence on single industries
- Targeted and sophisticated strategies to support economic development
- Major strengths in manufacturing and exports

WHAT DO KEY CITIES OFFER?

- Strong returns on public investment to boost productivity
- 'Test beds' for innovative government policies
- Agility to respond quickly to new opportunities
- A strong partnership with central Government

Key Activities / Outcomes of work

Group Meetings

The Key Cities Executive Group meet on average 6 times a year, with Full Group meetings taking place quarterly.

APPG

We are supported by an All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster. Our APPG was re-launched on the 28th April 2018.

- The next APPG meeting has been scheduled to take place Wednesday 10th July 2019 with a focus on bridging the skills gap through the Industrial Strategy.

Conferences and Events

- Young People's Conference held in Huddersfield (hosted by Kirklees Council) on 25th July 2018.
- Beyond Brexit event held in London (hosted by Sunderland) on the 20th November 2018.
- Future of City and Town Centres conference on 29th January 2019. This conference was fully booked and exceeded the venue capacity of 250 people.
- NLGN "Cities in Action" parliamentary launch on 5th February 2019.
- Key Cities and Core cities "Cultural Cities enquiry" launch on 5th February 2019.
- Fringe event at the LGA's annual conference in Bournemouth 6pm-7pm 3rd July 2019.
- Joint Fringe event between Key Cities and Core cities 3rd July 8am-9am at the Marriott Hotel, Highcliffe, Bournemouth. Focus to be on tourism levies.

Media activity

- Significant press coverage around the Key Cities Future of City and Town centres conference including Open Access Government and the Guardian.
- Significant press coverage and media activity/commentary across a range of issues effecting local government from the perspective of the medium sized city – coverage across trade and national and local press – including the Guardian, The Times (Raconteur), First and MJ.

Collaborative partnerships

- Developing relationships and linkages with think tanks, (including Onward) and universities (including Leeds Beckett University) to develop policy positions on a range of issues relevant to local government.
- Working in collaboration with other local government networks including the Core Cities, County Council's Network, SIGOMA, and the Industrial Communities Alliance.

Other projects

- Commissioned a research report on Economic Growth to be completed in partnership with New Local Government Network (NLGN).
- Commissioned a research report on Cities in Action to be completed in partnership with New Local Government Network (NLGN).

SIG Name:	Local Authority Pension Fund Forum
Lead Member:	LAPFF Executive Committee
Lead Officer:	Doug McMurdo, LAPFF Chair (Acting)

Aim

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is the UK's leading collaborative shareholder engagement group. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together 80 public sector pension funds and six pools from across the UK with combined assets of over £230 billion, representing a majority of funds under management by local authorities.

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

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

LAPFF provides a platform for discussion of investment issues and shareholder engagement for local authority pension funds and LGPS pools. Member investment activities have important implications for beneficiaries, local communities and the wider economy. The collective influence gained by members collaborating on issues of common concern has an impact in relation to the companies in which they invest.

- During the year under review, LAPFF undertook 166 company engagements with 98 different companies including over 40 face-to-face meetings with companies. In the 2018 AGM season, LAPFF attended eight AGMs and issued 12 voting alerts. The alerts primarily related to carbon risk reporting. LAPFF's work was been covered by a wide variety of UK and global media outlets.

- LAPFF's presence in the policy domain was maintained through a number of consultation submissions. A response to the FRC on revisions to the corporate governance code referred to companies' culture as well as commenting on issues with the FRC's own culture. The Forums critique focused on the relevance of the FRC's failings in the context of the collapse of Carillion. In April 2018 the Secretary of State announced that Sir John Kingman would lead a review of the FRC. LAPFF was invited to meet Sir John early in his inquiry and then made a full submission. This included that the FRC cannot be remodelled and it should be disbanded.

- The Forum engaged with a number of companies on employment standards including Ryanair. As strikes by Ryanair crews widened, factors identified in the Forum's previous public statements outlining the flaws in the Company's governance and working

practices were realised. A LAPFF Executive member attended the company AGM and recommended opposition to the re-election of Chair David Bonderman. Other related engagement on employment standards was with Sports Direct International. The Forum had opposed the re-election of Keith Hellowell as Chair since 2015 when concerns increased about the Company's poor employment standards. At the AGM in September 2018 the company announced that Mr Hellowell would step down.

- LAPFF continued to advocate for strategic resilience in the face of the climate crisis. A meetings with National Grid explored the company's approach to sustainability in light of the ongoing 'energy revolution'. In its work towards the development of a net zero carbon economy, the Forum issued a Climate Change Investment Policy Framework to help member funds and others guide their policy approach to investment risks and opportunities related to the impact of climate change. A newer theme on environmental risk was the impact of plastics, for asking Unilever about its strategy for reducing single use plastics.

- A recurring concern for the year under review was that of cyber security and the risks to investors that poor management of the issue represents. LAPFF responded by increasing its engagement with companies, meeting with the chairs of Lloyds Banking Group and WPP to discuss their related governance and risk management arrangements.

- LAPFF continued to extend its reach through regular meetings of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Local Authority Pension Funds. The APPG is chaired by Clive Betts MP, chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. Pooling remained a prominent topic for discussion alongside opportunities for members in infrastructure investment. LAPFF also continued its programme of fringe meeting events during the party political conference season with meetings organised at the Labour, Conservative and Scottish Nationalist Party conferences.

- Support for LAPFF's work has resulted in membership growing to 80 funds and six pools.

SIG Name:	The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA)
Lead Member:	
Lead Officer:	Mr Graham Wilson OBE, Chief Executive

Aim

To facilitate communication between Members and others, and between the Association and Departments of the Government and other public bodies on matters of common interest affecting the administration of markets and matters incidental thereto (a) in promoting or opposing new legislation; (b) in amending existing legislation; (c) in regard to the administration of legislation, relating to markets and matters incidental thereto.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

2018/19 was another successful year for NABMA. Engagement with Government was through the All-Party Markets Parliamentary Group and Bob Neil MP was welcomed as the new Chairman.

The Love Your Local Market campaign went worldwide, promoting entrepreneurship, and the involvement of young people in markets. We continue to work with partners in WUWM that enabled the concept of Love Your Local Market to go global.

NABMA had a sustained membership and our Conferences and other events attracted a large number of delegates.

The Annual Conference at Stratford Upon Avon attracted a record number of delegates and the One-Day Seminar at Birmingham was highly successful with Mark Lloyd, the Chief Executive of the LGA presenting the Great British Market Awards.

The Great British Market Awards, promoted by NABMA, provided a wide range of entries for each category and demonstrated the quality and innovation clearly evident at many markets across the UK.

NABMA continues to emphasise that markets should not be seen in isolation. This is now particularly important with the launch of the Future High Streets Fund when NABMA has provided references for many members in their bidding for the important funding that is available.

As a Special Interest Group, NABMA can only operate successfully if there is a framework within the LGA which enables the LGA and Special Interest Groups to work together where the flow of information is both effective and meaningful. Discussions have taken place with the LGA to achieve this but, with the Future of the High Street so high on many agendas then NABMA believes, as a key organisation, that it is worthy of a seat at the table when town and city centre strategies, and consultations are promoted.

2019 is a landmark for NABMA as it celebrates its centenary. It has appointed a new Chief Executive who will take up office in October 2019. It now operates as a separate company in terms of trading but its aims, objectives, and work programme remain consistent with its heritage.

In summary, 2019 is a very important year for NABMA and as such dialogue and involvement with the LGA to promote markets in a wider forum is regarded to be essential.

SIG Name:	New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Holdcroft, East Suffolk Council (until 2 May 2019)
Lead Officer:	Lisa Chandler, East Suffolk Council

Aim

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Key activities / outcomes of work undertaken:

1. The last elected Chairman, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, was replaced following Local Council elections by Cllr Rivett. At the annual NNLAG conference to take place in June 2019, the Isle of Anglesey County Council has agreed to take over the Chair, and this will take place at the annual conference on the 20 June 2019. The Isle of Anglesey County Council will therefore takeover the secretariat role including responsibility to report to the LGA annually. The Chair is expected to serve for a period of two years.
2. During 2018-19 officer meetings were held in June 2018, November 2018, and March 2019. These take forward the sharing of knowledge and information as the new nuclear build picture emerges nationally, we also seek NNLAG view on certain issues raised by government including consultations.
3. The annual NNLAG conference is being held in June 2019 in Somerset and will be hosted by Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset West and Taunton Council and Somerset County Council. Councillors, officers and invited guests, including promoters from new nuclear development sites, will hear from a wide range of speakers and panels and (hopefully – yet to be confirmed) from a senior official at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
4. The co-ordination of the group is now with East Suffolk Council (following the merger of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council). There is an annual charge to members to cover the costs of organising and administering the group. The fee for 2018-19 was £500. Additional costs such as delegate rates for meeting attendance and conference attendance are charged at cost to the appropriate attending authority.
5. There are work streams established in the group and these have been focussed and directed during the last year and have engaged where appropriate with each other as well as government. The workstreams include Community Benefit, Resourcing, Infrastructure, Economic Development, Generic Design Assessment, Housing, Accommodation and Policy. This information is shared amongst members through the KHub website.
6. The group have written to central Government, most recently in relation to infrastructure pressures in new nuclear local authorities and opportunities to maximise growth potential arising from new nuclear proposals.

SIG Name:	NuLeAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum)
Lead Member:	Cllr Brendan Sweeney (Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council)
Lead Officer:	Philip Matthews, Executive Director, NuLeAF

Aim

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

The Aims are:

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

General

- Held 4 Steering Group meetings including AGM and 3 meetings of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Meeting topics included: annual review with Magnox Ltd of their work programme, the prospectus for the Geological Disposal Facility siting process, and the Site Evaluation process for the same, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) work programme, in-situ disposal of radioactive waste; joint working between local authorities and site operators to produce a site masterplan, and socio-economics and nuclear skills with BEIS and NDA.
- Published 8 newsletters for contributing member authorities, 4 e-bulletins issued to full mailing list and responded to 6 consultations, circulating draft responses to members both for comment and as a resource for their own responses.
- Reviewed all NuLeAF Briefing Papers and Policy Statements prior to revision where necessary.

Geological Disposal Facility

- Gave evidence to UK Parliament Select Committee on National Policy Statement.
- Presented to Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (RWM) staff on the local authority issues and views of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Supported RWM at LGA Conference 2018 to raise awareness amongst local authorities of the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.
- Provided updates to LGA policy officer following the launch of the Geological Disposal Facility.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

- Engaged with NDA on their work on socio-economics and the development of a new socio-economic strategy
- continued engagement with government on work on Proportionate Regulatory Controls (PRC) and in-situ disposal of radioactive waste for nuclear licensed sites;
- Assisted NDA is attracting a local authority audience to their Stakeholder Summit in Gloucestershire, including a delegation of European local authority representatives.

Other meetings attended and other workstreams:

- Inaugural meeting of reconvened Radioactive Substances Policy Group
- 2 plenary meetings of the Committee of Radioactive Waste Management as observer.
- 4 liaison and 3 teleconference meetings with BEIS/NDA/RWM regarding the Geological Disposal Facility and other workstreams; plus 4 meetings and 2 teleconferences with RWM to discuss specific issues. Also met with senior staff of RWM to discuss work proposals.
- 7 NDA Theme Overview Group meetings on Site Restoration and Integrated Waste Management.
- 4 meetings of the Low Level Waste National Waste Programme Group and 3 meetings of the Integrated Radioactive Waste Programme Group.
- Visited underground facilities in Dessel, Belgium and held meetings with European Commission and Parliament. Participated in AGM of Group of Municipal Facilities with Nuclear Sites, and at their request carried out review of their future work programme.
- In liaison with BEIS, represented UK at a conference organised by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on experience of communities with radioactive waste facilities.
- Attended networking event with Nuclear Industry Association Decommissioning Group

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

Aim

The Consortium aims to:

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

Hosted 6 plenary and 3 executive meetings

The Consortium has responded to the following consultations:

Consultation on the use of Section 19 & 22 Permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain

DfT Registration process and appeals mechanism

Easier Fares consultation

Cross Country passenger rail consultation

Cross Country franchise

Bus Services Act 2017 – Accessible information

Bus Services Act 2017 – Open Data

Government response to Consultation – Registration of local bus services in an Enhanced Partnership Area.

Rail Industry review (Williams)

Taxi & Private Hire Licensing consultation on Statutory Guidance for Licensing Authorities

DfT Pay as you go rail fare consultation

East West Rail consultation

Welsh Government White Paper on legislating for reform of bus services and taxi and private hire vehicle licensing

Liaised with:

Department for Transport on a variety of topics such as Open Data, the Use of Section 19 & 22 permits

Greengauge 21, including involvement in the organising of the Plymouth Seminar on 28 February,

Transport Focus

Confederation of Passenger Transport regarding the KPMG report on Trends in English

Bus Patronage
Rail Delivery Group
Transport Knowledge Hub, including representation on the Board.

Arranged a regional meeting and study tour to Durham for members, touring the Hitachi train depot at Newton Aycliffe and the Beamish Museum

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

Aim

Our main aim is to act as the national champion for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice. We are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole. Our work focuses on four priorities, and we also recognise Rural Vulnerability as a cross cutting issue.

- Public Sector Funding
- Barriers to Access
- Future of Rural Areas
- Health and Wellbeing

For Sparse Rural our main priority is the funding formula and working to ensure that rural areas receive fair funding to enable them to deliver their services, taking into account the additional costs of service delivery in rural areas.

For the Rural Assembly, our main priority will be to seek to influence Government and policy makers across a whole range of issues facing rural service providers and communities in line with the four priorities set out above.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The major outcome from our work this year was the increase in Rural Services Delivery Grant to £81 million, an increase of £16million more than was planned for 19-20 which was £65Million.

We recognise however that this is a temporary solution and more importantly have been working hard to gather evidence for rural authorities to support the Fairer Funding Review which is taking place. We have a representative that sits on key technical working groups alongside MHCLG putting across the rural perspective.

In the year 2018-2019 the SPARSE-Rural and Rural Assembly collective debated:

- Brexit – the impact on rural communities
- Sounding Board survey on access to cash difficulties
- Rural Conference 2018
- Community Banking
- Rural Bus Services
- Findings of the Rural Crime Survey
- Time for a Rural Strategy Campaign
- Business Rate Retention Consultation
- Needs and Resources Consultation

In addition, thematic groups further explored the specific challenges facing the Economy in rural areas and Health and Social Care in rural areas. This led to discussions about the House of Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy, the challenges facing the rural economy, the long - term funding of adult social care, the use of assisted health and social care technology in Shropshire and Hampshire and a presentation from the Bank of

England.

The RSN hosted a successful conference at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham in Sept 2018 which focused on “Delivering services differently in rural areas”. This enabled the member authorities to attend and hear from expert speakers and debate key issues around rural service delivery.

We hosted six free seminars/networking meetings for member authorities to attend at venues around England offering the opportunity for further explore and discuss key topics impacting on rural local authorities.

We provide the Secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services and have this year established the House of Lords Panel on Rural Issues. We also gave evidence to the Lords Select Committee on the Rural Economy.

The RSN however is not just about meetings and we provide a wide range of services to our member authorities which include:

- E-bulletins featuring rural news stories, commentary and analysis
- Rural Observatory providing a statistical view of rural life
- Neighbourhood Planning Evidence Base for Parishes of Member Authorities
- Bulletin of Funding opportunities

Further information about our work and services can be found at our comprehensive website on www.rsonline.org.uk

SIG Name:	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)
Lead Member:	Cllr Keith Artus (Chairman)
Lead Officer:	SASIG Secretariat c/o Northpoint Aviation Services

Aim

SASIG's objectives are:

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

SASIG Policy Principles

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

and methodologies for identifying, measuring and addressing effectively the noise, health, social infrastructure and wider strategic planning impacts of airport development.

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

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

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

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

Department for Transport, CAA & Defra

- Although the Department for Transport's Aviation 'External Advisory Group' (EAG), which SASIG is a member of has been suspended in favour of a Brexit 'Roundtable', which we are not, SASIG is now recognised as a 'strategic stakeholder' by DfT and its views are actively sought during consultations.
- Evidence of this is that in late 2018 the SASIG Chairman was invited to sit on the board of the DfT's new Airspace Strategy Board chaired by the Aviation Minister. The first meetings were held in October 2018 and February 2019 both of which our Chairman attended.
- SASIG regularly attends the DfT's Airspace & Noise Engagement Group (ANEG). The last two meetings were held in September 2018 and March 2019 with the next meeting scheduled to be held in July 2019.
- The CAA also continues to seek SASIG's views on its programme of work, particularly now on how decisions on airspace change should be made and, once again, invited SASIG to attend the meeting of its Board on 7th November 2018 along with other selected industry stakeholders.
- SASIG also regularly attends the CAA's Community Discussion Forum (CDF). The last meeting was held in July 2018. The date of the next meeting is yet to be advised.
- SASIG is a member of the DEFRA Noise and Nuisance Team external stakeholder panel and attended the last meeting on 17th October 2017. Date of the next meeting to be advised.
- SASIG met with Aviation Minister, Baroness Sugg in November 2018 to highlight its work and promote future mutual co-operation with Government officials.
- In June and July 2018, SASIG attended a number of DfT focus groups regarding

airspace modernisation and noise issues.

- In March 2019 the Chairman met with Catherine Adams, Deputy Director, Aviation Strategy, Department for Transport

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

SASIG's Secretariat has met with, and is continuing to liaise with, other prominent stakeholder groups including the AOA, LEP Network, COSLA, BEIS, Key Cities, Sustainable Aviation, Aviation Environment Federation and Gatwick Airport Conservation Campaign. In December 2018, the SASIG Chairman met with the newly appointed Head of the Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN). In March 2019, the Head of Secretariat met with Stephen Dark, Deputy Director Tourism at DCMS.

Conferences and Public Fora

In July 2018 SASIG attended the UK Airport Infrastructure Development Forum in London. The SASIG Chairman was also a guest speaker at the Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar: Priorities for the UK Aviation Strategy in April 2019.

SASIG Newsletter

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

SIG Name:	SIGOMA
Lead Member:	Sir Stephen Houghton
Lead Officer:	Frances Foster

Aim

To lobby central government in order to help secure sufficient, sustainable and fair funding so that our members can maintain vital services and continue to invest in improving their local areas.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

- Representing our member's interests on business rates working and steering groups.
- Responding to a range of consultations and inquiries including the recent Review of Local Authorities' Relative Needs and Resources and consultation on Business rates retention reform.
- Participating in conference calls with government departments and other sector representatives to help facilitate information sharing in preparation for a possible no deal Brexit, raising our members concerns and passing on the latest guidance.
- Organising meetings of our officers and leaders groups to share our research and detail the progress of our campaigns, providing an opportunity for our members to feed in their views and ideas.
- Creating videos and infographics to better communicate our key messages that local government funding must be sufficient, sustainable and fairly allocated.
- Producing PR and Op-ed pieces to communicate our stance in the local, regional and national press.
- Building an active and growing presence on social media in order to ensure our content reaches an even wider audience.
- Delivering creative campaigns across print, online and social media.
- Providing a regular email bulletin service to help SIGOMA finance officers keep abreast of the latest policy developments, legislation changes, funding allocations and technical insights in local government.
- Providing insights, analysis and advice to finance officers regarding the local government finance settlement, spring and autumn statements and other milestones in the local government calendar.
- Issuing official correspondence and FOI requests to ministers and other organisations to ensure our members have a clear understanding of central government policy and to seek to hold power to account.



Agenda Item 8b
Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

SIG Name:	Unitary Councils' Network
Lead Member:	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE – Leader of Bracknell Forest Council
Lead Officer:	Stuart McKellar – Borough Treasurer of Bracknell Forest Council

Aim

To promote, support and represent the aims and ambitions of the Unitary Councils of England.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

The past year has been one of consolidation for the Unitary Councils' Network, establishing itself as the unique voice and representative body of unitary councils throughout England to ministers and their civil service officials. Meetings and regular dialogue have been set up with ministers and MHCLG officials, as well as MHCLG briefing the network at its own regular meetings.

To further the relationship between UCN and MHCLG, the services of an independent consultant have been engaged to further work on the unique offer that UCN can make to MHCLG in the furtherance of joint ambitions.



Councillor Paul Bettison OBE
 Leader of Bracknell Forest Council
 Chairman of the Unitary Councils' Network

SIG Name:	World Heritage UK (WH UK)
Lead Member:	Bath and North-East Somerset Council
Lead Officer:	Tony Crouch

Aim

To promote and support for the benefit of the public the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the UK's World Heritage Sites, defined as those places considered by the United Nations Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as having such Outstanding Universal Value that they warrant being inscribed on the World Heritage List through the powers of the international Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972.

To support for the benefit of the public the development of World Heritage Site nominations for the UK's Tentative List Sites, defined as sites on the UK Government's official Tentative List for nomination for World Heritage Status.

To advance the education of the public in general in respect of the significance and values of the UK's World Heritage Sites and Tentative List Sites, as defined above.

To undertake effective advocacy for the joint benefit of the UK's World Heritage Sites and for the WH Convention.

To facilitate and encourage networking, share good practice and exchange information between relevant organisations. Undertake joint projects and provide a platform in order to promote the UK's WH Sites to allow more people to experience access and enjoy.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

WH UK continues to liaise closely with Historic England, DCMS, and the UK UNESCO National Commission which provides for information exchange, training and support, and contact with Parliamentarians. We have collaborated with Cadw and Historic Environment Scotland in arranging meetings and are appreciative of the sponsorship offered by all these bodies.

Within the period of this report we held two major events to meet our Objects;-

1. A two day national World Heritage Conference at The Tower of London WHS on the subject of "Setting the Scene for World Heritage". Over 100 delegates attended, including the Minister. Controversial issues, such as tall buildings in WH Sites, were debated;
2. A technical skills development workshop at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre focussing on youth involvement.

They have all elicited very positive feedback and have given us confidence that we are achieving success as a charity, and also learning from our members. Over the period we grew our membership in terms of both voting and non-voting members, and disseminated

a large number of news blogs in relation to the subject matter.

The Review of the UK's WH Sites is underway under the direction of our President, Chris Blandford. This focuses on the needs of the UK's WH Sites particularly in terms of economic sustainability, given reduced public funding. The review also has the purpose of expanding the advocacy, networking and promotion of World Heritage UK to strengthen awareness and establish partnerships.

In connection with the Review a successful application has been made to the HLF Resilience Fund. A Project Manager is to be appointed.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

Applications to form Special Interest Groups

Purpose of Report

For decision.

Summary

The LGA have received two applications to form Special Interest Groups (SIGs) as follows:

1. Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (**Appendix A**); and
2. Climate Emergency Network (**Appendix B**).

For reference, the LGA's Statement on SIGs is included at **Item 8 Appendix A**.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board approves the applications to form two new SIGs, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, and the Climate Emergency Network.

Action

Officers to action in accordance with the Board's decision.

Contact officer: Claire Holloway
Position: Head of Corporate Services
Phone no: 020 7664 3156
Email: Claire.Holloway@local.gov.uk

Applications to form Special Interest Groups

Background

1. The LGA Constitution provides for 10 or more member authorities with common features, interests or concerns to form a Special Interest Group (SIG). The LGA's Statement on SIGs is attached at **Appendix C**.
2. Two applications have been received to form new SIGs: the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (**Appendix A**), and the Climate Emergency Network (**Appendix B**).

Purpose of the SIGs

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers

3. The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers has the following key objectives:
 - 3.1 To provide a strong voice for local authority historic environment services and promote these within local government to strengthen and develop their role within local government in delivering local, regional and national government policy;
 - 3.2 To ensure that local government historic environment services are included within policy (national, regional and local) for culture and education;
 - 3.3 To ensure that policy aims to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
 - 3.4 To promote development of high standards in the historic environment profession.

Climate Emergency Network

4. The Climate Emergency Network's key objective is to support local authorities in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and implementing plans to achieve carbon neutral status as quickly as possible.

Financial Implications

5. Should these new SIGs wish to utilise the support offer open to SIGs (as set out in paragraph 2 of the LGA's Statement on SIGs), there would be minor budgetary and resources implications as a result of meeting room hire and cost of providing secretariat support services.



Appendix A – Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers Application to create an LGA Special Interest Group (SIG)

<p>Name of SIG</p>	<p>Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers</p>
<p>Purpose of the SIG</p>	<p>To represent archaeology within local authorities and national parks.</p> <p>ALGAO has four key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide a strong voice for local authority historic environment services and promote these within local government to strengthen and develop their role within local government in delivering local, regional and national government policy. • To ensure that local government historic environment services are included within policy (national, regional and local) for culture and education. • To ensure that policy aims to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment. • To promote development of high standards in the historic environment profession. <p>We feel that SIG status will strengthen our current working relationship with the LGA and help raise the profile of ALGAO objectives within local government.</p>
<p>Nature of the common feature or interest</p>	<p>Provision of archaeological advice in relation to land use and change. Maintenance of Historic Environment Records.</p>



<p>Authorities who have committed to join the SIG</p>	<p>ALGAO England Executive Committee currently has members representing Cambridgeshire County Council (CC), Essex CC, Gloucestershire CC, Kent CC, Northumbria National Park, Nottinghamshire CC, Reading Borough Council, Salford City Council and Warwickshire CC. The association currently has 89 members in England most of whom are employed by local authorities. Full list of current members (UK wide) is available at https://www.algao.org.uk/membership</p> <p>Membership of ALGAO is restricted to officers who have been nominated by the authority, usually by their director level line manager, together with either their job description or confirmation that they are the senior person providing archaeological advice.</p> <p>Local authorities get archaeological advice in a variety of ways e.g. shared services, externally hosted bodies and trusts. Therefore not all ALGAO members are employed by the local authorities to whom they give advice. Most members give advice to more than one LPA.</p>
<p>Lead Authority</p>	<p>Authority of the lead contact (chair of ALGAO) is currently Cambridgeshire County Council</p>
<p>Contact details for main contact</p>	<p>Name: Quinton Carroll Role: Historic Environment Team Manager Telephone number: 01223 728565 Email address: quinton.carroll@cambridgeshire.gov.uk</p>



Appendix B – Climate Emergency Network Application to create an LGA Special Interest Group (SIG)

Name of SIG	Climate Emergency Network
Purpose of the SIG	To support Local Authorities in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and in preparing and implementing plans to achieve carbon neutral status as quickly as possible.
Nature of the common feature or interest	An interest in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and achieving carbon neutral status as quickly as possible.
Authorities who have committed to join the SIG	Lancaster, Stroud, South Lakeland, Oxford, Hastings, Dorset, South Cambridgeshire, Three Rivers, Cheshire West and Chester, Teignbridge, Wakefield, Preston, London Borough of Lewisham, Nottingham, Leeds, London Borough of Newham, Bristol.
Lead Authority	Lancaster and Stroud.
Contact details for main contact	Name: Cllr Kevin Frea Role: Deputy Leader, Lancaster City Council Telephone number: 07716246672 Email address:kfrea@lancaster.gov.uk



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
17 July 2019

Chief Executive's Report – July 2019

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2018/19 centres on seven external priorities:

- Funding for local government;
- Adult social care and health;
- Children, education and schools;
- Housing;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution;
- Britain's exit from the EU; 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 July 2019.

Action

As directed by members.

Contact officer: Mark Lloyd
Position: Chief Executive
Phone no: 020 7664 3213
Email: mark.lloyd@local.gov.uk

Chief Executive's Report – July 2019

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for local government

- 1.1 **Business Rates:** we gave evidence to the Treasury Select Committee on the impact of Business Rates on business, following our written submission. Cllr Richard Watts, chair of our Resources Board, joined a panel of witnesses including the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Andy Street, to discuss a wide range of issues. This included the importance of Business Rates as a source of income for local government, the impact of online retailing and out of town developments, the need for flexibility around reliefs, and the need to tackle the effect of appeals as well as Business Rates avoidance.
- 1.2 **Business Rates Retention and the Fair Funding Review** are covered separately on the Leadership Board agenda.
- 1.3 **2019 Spending Review:** we are continuing our work on preparing for the forthcoming 2019 Spending Review by building the case for local government and reviewing evidence of how local government is a 'good investment' by generating savings in public spending. We used the publication launched at the LGA's Annual Conference to set the scene for our Spending Review submission later in the year, building on the 2019 Spending Review #CouncilsCan campaign.
- 1.4 Lord Porter gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on the Spending Review and local government finance. He stressed the urgent need for certainty to help councils plan appropriately, and highlighted the funding gap facing local services. He was joined at the panel by representatives from the District Councils' Network, County Councils Network and SIGOMA. You can read our written evidence on the Select Committee's website. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has said that it is unlikely that the Spending Review will be launched before Parliament's summer recess.
- 1.5 The 2019 Spending Review is covered in more detail elsewhere on the Leadership Board agenda.
- 1.6 **Council finances:** we unveiled new research that showed that one-third of councils fear they will run out of funding to provide their statutory services by 2022. In addition, almost one-fifth of councils do not think they will meet their savings targets because of issues like rising demand for adult social care, children's services and homelessness. Councils need the certainty of knowing what funding they will have if they are to plan delivery of these, and other, vital services.
- 1.7 New research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) supports many of the messages on council funding we have been promoting to Government ahead of the Spending Review. In our response we highlighted the pressure faced by councils in children's services, adult social care and efforts to tackle homelessness, and the impact this has on councils' ability to deliver other services. The IFS goes on to state that local government faces big choices on funding levels and how councils raise and distribute money.
- 1.8 **Council reserves:** BBC analysis of Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data that showed eleven councils would have fully exhausted reserves within four years unless they worked to replenish them. The CIPFA data showed that as of March 2018, 152 councils in England had £400 million less in reserve than in 2015. We commented that this is a result of systemic underfunding and that councils face a choice between using reserves to plug funding gaps or to cut service back to balance the books.
- 1.9 **Shared services:** councils up and down the country have made some £1.34 billion in efficiency savings for the taxpayer through shared services. Our latest Shared Services Map shows there are

626 arrangements between councils. 2018/19 alone has seen councils make efficiency savings of £200 million, cementing our reputation as the most efficient part of the public sector. We welcomed this news and praised councils' collaboration and sharing of ideas to help protect vital local services amid ongoing funding pressures.

- 1.10 **Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Board:** the Board met and agreed to work on refreshing and expanding its strategy, aimed at launching in 2020. The Board is supported by the LGA and is now seeking input from across the sector to help with developing the strategy.
- 1.11 **Ernst and Young Audit issue:** an issue has arisen with audit in 19 councils in East of England and East Midlands that are audited by Ernst and Young. The Chairman of the Resources Board, Cllr Richard Watts, has written to Public Sector Audit and Appointments (PSAA) and the Minister for Local Government to raise concerns. The issue was also discussed at the IDEA Board and officers are continuing to liaise with PSAA on the issue. Subsequently, at the LGA Annual Conference, the Secretary of State announced a review of the audit framework.
- 1.12 **Revaluations Bill:** currently in Parliament, this Bill sets the date for the next business rates revaluation at April 2021 and then every three years following that. On 25 June Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Resources Board, gave evidence at a Bill Committee on behalf of the LGA. He particularly highlighted the issue of the draft lists being published three months as opposed to six months before the new list comes into force and the possible effect on the local government finance settlement.
- 1.13 **Review of local government audit:** in his speech to our Annual Conference last week, James Brokenshire MP, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, announced a review of the Audit framework for councils. This was formally announced in a Written Ministerial Statement and Terms of Reference in which he confirmed that the review will be led by Sir Tony Redmond, former council chief executive, local government ombudsman and local government boundary commissioner. The review will look at the effectiveness of current audit arrangements and the transparency of reporting. It will also ask if auditors are making full use of reporting powers and the gap between taxpayers' expectations and what auditing delivers.

Priority 2 – Adult social care and health

- 2.1 **Social care:** to the mark the first anniversary of the publication of our Social Care Green Paper, we circulated an updated report which calls on Government to publish their own Green Paper by the time Parliament rises for the autumn party conferences in September. Our report also found that the extra funding needed to close the £3.6 billion funding gap adult social care faces by 2025 is similar to the 3.4 per cent annual real terms increase given to the NHS in the Long Term Plan.
- 2.2 **Social care funding:** the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee published a report entitled *Social care funding: time to end a national scandal*. The report notes that adult social care in England is inadequately funded, with rising levels of unmet need and the numbers of older people and working-age adults requiring care is increasing rapidly. The report recommends that the Government should avoid further delay and produce a White Paper with clear policy proposals for social care rather than a Green Paper and for £8 billion a year in additional funding for adult social care to improve current quality and access. Our response stated that local government stands ready to facilitate cross-party talks to ensure a way forward, so that people can continue to receive essential care and support. Responding to our demanding for action within 10 weeks of assuming office, both candidates to become our next PM promised a priority focus on social care.
- 2.3 **Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC):** April's DTOC figures have been published and show the average number of DTOC days attributed to social care has fallen to its lowest proportion since March 2015. The figure for social care now stands at 27.4 per cent compared to 63.4 per cent for the NHS. It's further evidence of how councils effectively turn investment in our services into tangible benefits for residents.

- 2.4 **Mental health:** the Prime Minister, Theresa May, announced extra funding to strengthen and deliver local suicide prevention plans. We welcomed this endorsement of councils' locally-driven approach to prevention and early intervention. The announcement included £600,000 for ourselves and the Association of Directors of Public Health to jointly develop a new suicide prevention sector-led improvement offer for councils. The funding will enable us to take forward the findings from a new independent analysis of local suicide prevention plans by the Samaritans and University of Essex. Commissioned by LGA and ADPH and supported by Public Health England, the analysis is based upon a survey completed by 150 out of 152 councils with public health responsibilities, and shows many excellent initiatives delivered in partnership to help drive down suicide rates.
- 2.5 **Public Health:** we were pleased to welcome the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, to our Councillors' Forum on 6 June. There he announced that public health services will remain with local government following our "comprehensive, compelling and clear" submission to the Department which showed how councils have delivered on public health. In our media response, we welcomed this news and highlighted the hard work councils have put in to provide and commission the likes of sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol treatment services and health visitors.
- 2.6 **Public Health funding:** the King's Fund and Health Foundation have echoed our calls for public health funding cuts to be reversed in order to help people live longer, healthier and happier lives. These cuts amount to £700 million in real terms between 2015/16 and 2019/20. We commented that cuts to these budgets suggest Government does not view prevention services as essential. As part of our #CouncilsCan campaign ahead of the Spending Review, we are pressing Government to recognise the vital work councils do to tackle teen pregnancies, air quality, child obesity, sexually transmitted infections and substance misuse.
- 2.7 **Sexual health report:** the Health and Social Care Committee has launched its report into sexual health services. The report agrees with our evidence and calls for a new national sexual health strategy, ensuring the services are sufficiently funded in the Spending Review and that responsibility for commissioning should remain at a local level and not revert to the NHS. In our response we called on Government to ensure the upcoming green paper on prevention contains measures to address access to contraception and to tackle the growing threat of sexually transmitted infections.
- 2.8 **Sexual health statistics:** we responded to the latest figures from Public Health England that showed visits to clinics for sexual health reasons reached 3.5 million in 2018, a rise of 21 per cent since 2013. This is putting a severe strain on council resources and it is a challenge to maintain services at the current level. Although it is positive to see people taking their sexual health seriously, without appropriate funding levels, waiting times could increase and patient experience deteriorate.
- 2.9 **Prevention:** our calls for prevention to form the bedrock of a healthier, more equal and prosperous society have been echoed in a new report from the Institute for Public Policy Research. We welcomed this, highlighting the connection between early intervention and prevention and the country's wider economic health.
- 2.10 **NHS Long Term Plan:** a new report on the NHS Long Term Plan from the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee made several recommendations reflecting our evidence to the Committee on your behalf. We are pleased with the report's recognition that Health and Wellbeing Boards have a crucial role to play in developing fully integrated health and care systems, as part of a new health and care landscape outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan. In our response, we highlighted the recommendation that Government must give greater consideration to the role of councils and not just focus on NHS England. We are keen to ensure any legal changes do not undermine the good collaborative work that goes on between the NHS and local government.
- 2.11 **Carers:** Government has announced a £5 million Carers Innovation Fund as part of its Carers Action Plan. This aims to invest in innovative ways of supporting unpaid carers, outside of mainstream health and care services. and help build more carer-friendly communities. In our response, we highlighted the

amazing work unpaid carers provide for thousands of people every day and welcomed this new money. We also called for more to be done, however, as with around 6.7 million unpaid carers across the UK saving the country about £132 billion a year, this falls short of what is required.

- 2.12 **Health and Wellbeing Boards:** our latest research into Health and Wellbeing Boards has found that they are making a huge difference to people's lives through reducing hospital admissions, helping smokers quit and reducing unemployment. We also highlighted that the collaboration that goes on between councils, the NHS and the community and voluntary sectors is vital in making progress on improving health and wellbeing.
- 2.13 **ADASS budget survey:** the latest annual ADASS budget survey shows that increasing demand and insufficient funding continues to have negative consequences on people needing care, their families and those providing services. The survey rightly acknowledges the brilliant efforts of the workforce but notes the fragility of the provider market; more than 7,000 people have been affected by providers handing back contracts or closing altogether in the last six months alone. The survey calls for certainty of funding in the short-term in respect of several funding streams that are due to end in March 2020. The valuable evidence from ADASS aligns entirely with our key messages on the importance of resolving the future of adult social care funding.
- 2.14 **Refugee resettlement:** the Government has written to council leaders announcing that the refugee resettlement scheme will continue after 2020. This came ahead of an announcement in Parliament which recognised the hard work of councils in supporting those resettling in new communities. We called on the Government to ensure funding for this important scheme, and other programmes for asylum seekers and refugees that councils support. The Chief Executive and Home Office Group met to agree an approach for more equitable and sustainably funded asylum dispersal and discussed joint solutions to current pressures in local areas. Our LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group met with Caroline Nokes MP, the Immigration Minister, on 8 July to discuss these and the need for ongoing engagement in the development of any future programmes.
- 2.15 **Evidence:** Deputy Chair of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board, Cllr Richard Kemp, gave evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Adult Social Care. Cllr Kemp highlighted pressures councils face in commissioning adult social care services and called for a long-term strategy to allow communities to plan for the future.
- 2.16 Sally Burlington, LGA Head of Policy, gave evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Care. The session focused on the social care workforce and the recruitment and retention challenges facing the sector. Ms Burlington highlighted our Green Paper recommendation that the Government should launch an awareness campaign on the value of social care and its workforce.

Priority 3 – Children, education and schools

- 3.1 **Children's services:** new data from Ofsted has shown the proportion of council children's services rated good or outstanding has increased. This is despite the challenges facing councils with regards to the funding of children's services. These were also highlighted in a new report from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Childcare and Early Education that found nurseries in poorer areas face closure. As we said in our responses to both, it is vital that these services are properly funded to allow delivery of the high quality children's services that residents and communities rely on.
- 3.2 **Childhood obesity:** Bradford, Blackburn with Darwen, Nottinghamshire, Lewisham and Birmingham councils will receive £100,000 per year over the next three years as part of our Childhood Obesity Trailblazers programme. This funding and support is aimed at developing and implementing innovative ideas to tackle childhood obesity, and to share their findings. In our response we restated the importance of this work to help the next generation, particularly those from the most deprived areas, where children are twice as likely to be obese.
- 3.3 **Children in Need Review:** Education Secretary, Damian Hinds MP, gave a speech outlining the

Government's Children in Need Review. This found that more needs to be done to improve educational outcomes for children in need. In our media statement, we welcomed the Government's commitment to looking at how to improve education for disadvantaged children. We recommended that it could support and incentivise mainstream schools to improve inclusion, with Ofsted holding schools to account for this. We also called for the Spending Review to ensure councils and schools have the funding needed to provide all children with the support they need to succeed.

- 3.4 **Child health:** tougher regulations are needed to improve child oral and physical health according to a new report from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. We said that councils were best-placed to tackle childhood obesity given their links with local health, community and voluntary services, as well as schools. We also called on Government to reverse the cuts that public health has faced over the past five years. This money would enable councils to intervene earlier and develop schemes aimed at improving access to sporting activities, weight management services and oral health education.
- 3.5 **Children and young people's mental health:** the LGA has commissioned Isos to research and map out the local government role in children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. Over the summer we will be meeting with councils to gain an understanding of their financial investment in these services and also any blockages and opportunities for providing better mental health support for our young people. We will be reporting in November 2019.
- 3.6 **Sure Start:** new Institute for Fiscal Studies research has found that the Sure Start programme has had major health benefits for children in poorer neighbourhoods. We responded that children's centres are a lifeline, providing advice on physical and mental health, caring for babies and a place for children to play and interact. Councils have done excellent work adapting how they provide these services in light of funding cuts.
- 3.7 **Childcare and early education:** the APPG for Childcare and Early Education has launched its report on the financial sustainability of childcare providers, which we gave evidence to earlier this year. The report echoes our concerns over funding and recruitment and retention in the sector, and our response also highlighted the important role of early education in improving outcomes for disadvantaged children.
- 3.8 **SEND pressures:** latest figures have shown that last year more than 130 extra children and young people aged 0-25 with special needs are being supported by councils every day, equating to 48,900 new Education, Health and Care Plans. This is at a time when councils in England face a possible SEND funding gap of up to £1.6 billion by 2021. In our response, we stated that councils take this process extremely seriously but that rising demand pressures mean Government must ensure these services are properly funded.
- 3.9 **Speech and language:** a new report from the Children's Commissioner warns that many vulnerable children are not getting the speech and language therapy they need to be ready for school. In our response we drew attention to the financial pressures councils face as a result of the £700 million cut to public health budgets and the £1.6 billion funding gap facing special needs funding by 2021. We also highlighted the excellent work councils are doing to work with local early education and childcare providers and clinical commissioning groups to ensure children are ready to start school.
- 3.10 **Nursery workers:** new research from the National Day Nurseries Association has found the number of qualified nursery workers has fallen in the last four years, from 83 per cent of the early years workforce to 52 per cent. This echoes our recent survey which found more than three-quarters of councils were concerned about the training and retention of Level 3 practitioners working in early years settings. We highlighted the importance of ensuring that early years providers are properly funded. This will allow them to provide sufficient numbers of qualified staff who are able to deliver the high quality childcare that families want for their children.
- 3.11 **Education funding:** we briefed MPs for a debate on education funding. Our briefing highlighted the well documented pressures on school funding and the need for the Government to address this, in

particular the pressures on SEND funding.

3.12 **Free schools:** we issued a briefing ahead of a debate on free schools. Our briefing highlighted councils' key roles in improving schools and our recent analysis that council-maintained schools receive better Ofsted ratings, and improve more quickly, than other types of schools.

Priority 4 – Housing

4.1 **Housebuilding:** following the publication of a report from the Public Accounts Committee that found the Government's housebuilding target of 300,000 homes a year is in "jeopardy", we called on Ministers to use the Spending Review to enable councils to retain 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts. We also said the planning system is not a barrier to housebuilding, with councils approving nine in 10 applications. We also responded to a new report from the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee, emphasising that it was good that the Committee recognises the role councils can play in solving our housing crisis. The last time we achieved this figure was in the 1970s, when councils contributed some 40 per cent of them.

4.2 **Housing delivery:** in partnership with the National Housing Federation, we are hosting a half-day roundtable that will explore how better collaboration between housing associations and councils can deliver more new homes. Issues that will be tackled include barriers and challenges to closer collaboration, examples of innovative partnerships and developing new initiatives to promote closer working.

4.3 **Understanding local housing markets:** we published a report that provides local authorities with advice and guidance on how to best understand the various complexities within their local housing markets in order to inform their decision making. It also includes access to data reports and maps for individual local authorities. The report warns that many young people face renting until retirement, and that young people are half as likely to own their home as they were 20 years ago. We are calling for councils to be given powers and funding to fix Britain's "broken" housing ladder by building new social rented homes which enable people to save for a deposit. As we mark the centenary of the Addison Act, which began the first great wave in council house building, it is fitting we seek to start another housing revolution with councils at its heart.

4.4 **Planning:** new planning proposals that will form part of an Accelerated Planning Green Paper, designed to speed up the process, were unveiled by the Prime Minister. We welcomed recognition that council planning departments needed more resources in our media statement but pressed Government to ensure its Green Paper includes measures that allow councils to set their own planning fees. Our #CouncilsCan campaign is making the case for this ahead of the upcoming Spending Review.

4.5 **Permitted development:** in light of the extension to permitted development rules, we called for an independent review on their impact on residents and businesses, as well as the capacity of local planning departments. Council resources are stretched as a result of increased workloads and loss of income, while the impact of extensions cannot be fully explored without going through the full planning process. Permitted development rules have resulted in the potential loss of thousands of affordable homes through councils' inability to require provision of affordable homes through section 106 agreements. It is also taking away local communities' rights to shape the area they live in.

4.6 **Building Better, Building Beautiful commission:** we submitted a response to the Building Better, Building Beautiful commission which focused on ensuring that councils have the right level of oversight and influence in shaping places through a properly resourced, local plan-led system. This included our calls to scrap permitted development rights and a need for renewed national leadership on standards for new homes.

4.7 **Garden cities:** government has announced that it will seek to create an extra 19 garden villages across

the country, aimed at delivering over 73,000 new homes. These developments will be supported with £2.85 million of funding, with each of the 19 receiving £150,000 to pay for specialist reports and planning applications. The plans include a dementia-friendly settlement in Rutland, allowing sufferers to live with the support and facilities they need.

- 4.8 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** the Government has now laid regulations which will make a number of changes to the way CIL is implemented by local authorities. In particular, they will remove the section 106 pooling restrictions for all councils, something the LGA has been advocating for some time, and streamline consultation requirements for the introduction and revision of a CIL.
- 4.9 **Social housing:** we welcomed the Prime Minister's call for new design standards to ensure high-quality homes and more social housing as part of an ongoing "housing revolution". We will be working to make sure these standards provide homes that are accessible for all, meet the needs of our ageing population and are environmentally sustainable.
- 4.10 **Accessible homes:** the Housing Association, Habinteg, has published research that has found that by 2030 less than a quarter of homes built outside London will be suitable for older or disabled people. In our response, we called on Government to ensure proper incentivisation for the building of accessible homes. We also said it was crucial that work is encouraged to adapt existing homes as people's needs change.
- 4.11 **Homelessness:** a new report from the Local Government Homelessness Commission has echoed our calls for councils to be given the powers they need to carry out their duties to help prevent homelessness. We said in our press release this could include enabling councils to invest in genuinely affordable homes by allowing councils to keep 100 per cent of Right to Buy receipts. Government should also use its upcoming Spending Review to sustainably fund councils to prevent homelessness, and to adapt welfare reforms to protect families at risk of homelessness.
- 4.12 We responded to new Government figures that showed a five per cent year-on-year rise in homelessness to 83,700 households in December 2018. These highlight councils' difficulties in coping with rising homelessness and finding suitable accommodation for those in need. These services face a £110 million funding gap in 2019/20, rising to £421 million by 2024/25 and we are calling on Government to provide sustainable funding for councils to prevent homelessness.
- 4.13 **Vagrancy Act:** Crisis has launched a campaign to repeal the Vagrancy Act 1824, which makes rough sleeping and begging illegal in England and Wales. We responded that councils want to help people living on the streets and will always consider how using their powers might affect vulnerable people.
- 4.14 **Building safety:** the Government has announced a new consultation on reforms to building safety following the Grenfell Tower fire. We welcomed many of the proposals, which include the extension of the new regulatory framework to residential buildings over 18 metres in height, which we had called for. This framework will be overseen by a new building safety regulator. We are also calling for a consistent approach to all buildings and clear duties for designers, developers, product manufacturers and building owners in regards building safety.
- 4.15 **Cladding:** MHCLG has written to building owners asking them to register their intent to apply for part of the £200 million funding announced back in May. This will be used to replace unsafe aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding from private high-rise buildings. Councils with private high-rise buildings with ACM should have also received a briefing about what the funding will cover. We also produced a briefing for a debate in the House of Commons ahead of the two-year anniversary of the Grenfell Tower Fire. The briefing highlighted the work done to date by councils to remove dangerous ACM cladding from social housing and set out our views on where further progress needed to be made to ensure the safety of residents living in blocks that are covered in cladding.
- 4.16 **Building regulations:** on 8 July, Lord Porter gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on the Independent Review of building regulations. The Committee was taking evidence from a range of experts, as well as survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire. They asked

about whether enough progress had been made since the fire and whether the Governments current proposals go far enough. Lord Porter highlighted that making sure that residents are safe is a priority for councils, who have acted quickly to remove ACM cladding from their residential blocks.

Priority 5 – Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution

- 5.1 **Local roads funding and maintenance:** we responded to a report by the Transport Select Committee on local roads funding and maintenance. The report rightly recognises the significant funding pressures councils are under and the detrimental impact this is having on local services such as roads maintenance. Councils are fixing a pothole every 17 seconds but need long-term government investment in the Spending Review in local road maintenance to address the nation's £9.3 billion roads repair backlog. We stated that it is not right that the Government spends 43 times more per mile on maintaining our national roads – which make up just 3 per cent of all roads – than on local roads, which are controlled by councils and make up 97 per cent of England's road network. We also stated that whilst the extra one-off £420 million funding announced in last year's Budget has helped, we need government to follow with a long-term funding plan in this year's Spending Review.
- 5.2 **Tourism sector deal:** the Government announced a new Sector Deal with the tourism industry, which offers five places the chance to become tourism zones, receiving additional support to help grow tourism in the zone. As we said in our response, this is a positive step towards tackling some of the challenges faced by our tourism sector and we are pleased the Government has recognised points made by our Culture, Tourism and Sport Board. To be successful this should include ensuring local economies have a skilled workforce, a challenge highlighted by our latest research. We continue to push for councils to be equipped with the tools to coordinate skills and employment investment decisions, through our Work Local campaign, and for the Government to provide councils with the resources to create a thriving tourism sector.
- 5.3 **Apprenticeships:** Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education, announced that Government will not hit its target of three million apprenticeship starts by 2020 and we repeated our calls for further reform. Councils feel they are being held back where apprenticeship standards are still in development, such as in adult care, early years, and building control. We want Government to realise there is more councils can do to boost apprenticeships if they could collaborate with employers more easily and make better use of apprenticeship levy funds, as outlined in our letter to the Secretary of State in April.
- 5.4 **Organised crime:** in response to a new National Audit Office report that found shortcomings in the Government's approach to tackling serious and organised crime, we highlighted the need for investment in local services that protect and support young people, and keep them from a life of crime. We have been pressing Government on approaches such as Youth Offending Teams, which have done such good work but are under huge pressure due to funding cuts. We'll continue to push Government to make more money available as part of the Spending Review.
- 5.5 **Serious violent crime:** a broader multi-agency approach is required in order to tackle serious violent crime, taking in Government departments, councils, health, education, social services, charities, youth services and practitioners. This is the main recommendation in our response to Government's consultation on tackling and preventing serious violent crime. In it we also agreed with the World Health Organisation's public health approach which aims to consider the underlying causes and risk factors, as well as highlighting the funding pressures councils are under.
- 5.6 **Domestic abuse:** the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill has reported and made a number of recommendations. It makes specific mention of the role of healthcare professionals and teachers in prevention and early intervention. This is something we have called for to ensure the bill is fit for purpose. In our response, we also said councils' ability to provide services for victims is limited due to budgetary constraints and that often it is vital earlier support services and prevention schemes that are affected. Cllr Simon Blackburn had given evidence to the Committee the month prior on the

impact of the Draft Bill on councils and was quoted several times in the final report.

- 5.7 **Work Local:** our latest Work Local report, *Making our vision a reality*, was launched, recommending that Government commits to enabling you to work with partners to test devolved and integrated approaches to employment and skills. Working with local pathfinders will better enable you to address the unique skills and labour market challenges faced by your area. It also sets out key findings from the LGA Skills Taskforce which brought together industry experts and stakeholders.
- 5.8 **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):** we've made the case that Government should publish its consultation on the UKSPF, which replaces the European Structural Investment Fund from December 2020. As we outlined in our report into Brexit last year, local areas use current funding to create jobs, improve infrastructure and deliver growth in their communities, but Brexit represents an opportunity to improve the system. Government should empower communities to make their own decisions on funding. With £5.3 billion available for local areas between 2014 and 2020, we'll keep pressing Government to ensure councils are consulted and can transition to UKSPF in good time. Members of our Brexit Task Group met with Keir Starmer, the Shadow Brexit Secretary in Bournemouth.
- 5.9 **Post-Brexit England Commission:** published its final report on the future of non-metropolitan England at LGA Annual Conference 2019. It provides an in depth focus on the role councils in rural and coastal areas can play: growing more productive and inclusive economies, shaping future investment in rural areas; and creating better connected places. The report was launched at a Conference plenary session on the future of local leadership.
- 5.10 **Local Industrial Strategy:** working closely with the Cities and Local Growth Unit, the LGA commissioned a comprehensive improvement support offer to councils looking to instigate or further their contribution to Local Industrial Strategy development. Two reports capturing the learning from this offer have now been published and focus on the key components of LIS development and the role of councils in contributing to this process.
- 5.11 **High streets:** Government has launched a new task force aimed at revitalising our high streets and town centres. This High Streets Task Force will bring together experts who can provide guidance and advice to councils who want to ensure their town centres remain a vibrant place at the heart of our communities. This announcement comes as part of the Great British High Street Week and links with the Great British High Street Awards, which will celebrate the importance of high streets and share best practice.
- 5.12 **Veterans:** with more than two million veterans in England and Wales, we have warned that two-thirds of councils are not receiving funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to help them support serving personnel and veterans. We know how useful the Trust has been in helping councils get projects off the ground that support their forces communities. We are calling on the Government to address the funding challenges the Fund faces to ensure the armed forces community, who often face significant challenges in accessing services, receive the support they need.
- 5.13 **Armed Forces Covenant:** we have published new research on councils' understanding of the presence and needs of the Armed Forces Community, and the actions being taken to meet those needs. This comes as marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. It is full of good practice and the steps councils are taking to ensure the fair treatment of members of the Armed Forces Community and that they are not disadvantaged as a result of their service. There are some key lessons for councils, Government and the Covenant Fund Trust as well, such as the need to invest in places that have not yet benefited from dedicated Covenant funding.
- 5.14 **Connectivity:** fast and reliable connectivity is widely considered as "the fourth utility" on a par with water and electricity. In line with the LGA's series of councillor handbooks, a guide has been produced for councillors who want to expand their technical and policy knowledge of digital connectivity and infrastructure. It provides a range of case studies outlining how councillors have played an instrumental role within their communities advocating for better connectivity to be provided to their residents. This will be available on the LGA website by the end of July.

- 5.15 **Bus franchising powers:** we welcomed news about the first use of bus franchising powers through the Bus Services Act 2017. Alongside city region areas and others, we have called for this long overdue reform for local areas to take control of local bus services to address poor existing provision and provide modern public transport. We hope the Government will support other areas to come forward with their own proposals. We have continued to call for funding to be reformed alongside legislative reform, and are pushing for the forthcoming Spending Review to address the £650 million funding gap for administering the concessionary fares scheme.
- 5.16 **Telephone boxes:** new Government regulations came into force at the end of May that remove both the permitted development right for telephone kiosks and the associated advertising deemed consent. This follows our concerns and those of a number of councils that the rights were being exploited to use telephone kiosks to advertise in towns and cities. The proliferation of these advertising boards disguised as phone boxes has been a personal pet gripe and has impacted upon councils' economic growth ambitions and pedestrians' experience. Planning permission will now be required for new kiosks and any associated advertising, which will enable councils to consider the need for such kiosks and their appropriateness in a given location.
- 5.17 **Waste efficiency:** Local Partnerships, which aims to help the public sector deliver local services and infrastructure and is jointly owned by Treasury, the Welsh Government and the LGA, has published a new report on waste efficiency in the south-east. It found that estimated savings and avoided costs of those who took part in the review totalled £21 million, reflecting good practice that is being delivered across the region.
- 5.18 **Recycling:** we gave oral evidence to the HCLG select committee on the impact of DEFRA's waste and recycling proposals on local government. Our evidence highlighted the need for local flexibility in service delivery, and for retailers and packaging producers to pay the full costs of recycling.
- 5.19 **Sustainable development:** during our General Assembly we passed a motion confirming our support for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The motion was moved by Mayor Marvin Rees of Bristol, who spoke on the importance of the SDGs and how they will help us pass on a better world to the next generation.
- 5.20 **Food safety:** a National Audit Office (NAO) review of food safety and standards has called on Government to develop a coherent view on a sustainable funding model for food regulation. The NAO audit found that the level of funding councils allocate to food controls has been declining for a number of years as a result of significant funding pressures and increased demand for services. Our response highlighted the work that councils have done to target limited resources most effectively, and reinforced the need for proper funding for regulatory services.
- 5.21 **Fire and rescue services:** we responded to a new report that found that fire and rescue services are good at responding to emergencies. The report also raised concerns, however, about the variation in response standards, risk identification and defining high risk premises. We pointed to the continued dedication of staff at a time when finances are constrained. With nearly half of services relying on old or unreliable equipment, investment to modernise will need to be made available soon if they are to continue to protect the public.

Priority 6 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 6.1 We are continuing to work with the nine regional chief executives acting as communications links in the central and local government Brexit work, who met with senior officials at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 20 June to ensure preparation is underway for the various October scenarios. They shone a bright light on the need for more work across central and local government to understand and mitigate the economic consequences of the different ways of leaving the EU.

Priority 7 – Supporting Councils

7.1 LGA Annual Conference 2019: from 2-4 July, we held our annual conference in Bournemouth. We welcomed more than 1,500 delegates and offered over 100 sessions. James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government joined us and talked about the important role councils play in our everyday lives. Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care reassured us that Government understands the challenges faced around adult social care, and that the Green Paper on it will be published as soon as possible. We were joined by Liberal Democrat deputy leader (and leadership candidate) Jo Swinson MP, who highlighted all the excellent work councils do on issues ranging from air quality to housebuilding. Unison General Secretary, Dave Prentis, spoke passionately on behalf of local government workers and we heard from Cllr Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party. Our plenary panellists - Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of Bradford MBC, Ann Limb, LEP Ambassador, Sarah McMonagle from the Federation of Master Builders, Dianne Grannell, Principal of Bournemouth and Poole College and Tej Parikh from the Institute of Directors – held a lively discussion on the skills challenge, facilitated by Broadcaster Samira Ahmed. At the plenary session on leading people and places with Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, Aldís Hafsteinsdóttir from the Association of Local Authorities in Iceland and Emily Norton from Savills, we launched our report into the future of non-metropolitan England. We were also joined by Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, and Caroline Nokes MP, Minister of State for Immigration.

7.2 Councils Can: we set out the major themes of our Annual Conference in a new report, #CouncilsCan, which calls for a new settlement for local government. This includes a long term sustainable funding solution and a new localism bill that will empower councils to take on greater responsibilities for their places. This call to arms will form the basis of our campaigning as we engage with the new Prime Minister and his Cabinet. The paper has had an almost immediate impact, having been quoted already in the House of Lords by Government and Opposition Ministers and peers.

7.3 Sector led improvement: the programme of improvement support work, funded through a £19.2 million Improvement Grant, has now been formally agreed with MHCLG. Our agreement with MHCLG, which can be found on our website, reflects those priorities councils identified during consultation including political leadership, peer challenge, productivity, efficiency support and housing. This is alongside separately funded support for adult social care, children's services and integration of care and health.

7.4 Sector led improvement report: we launched a report on the lessons from sector-led improvement in local government, following interviews with council leaders and chief executives who have benefited from Corporate Peer Challenges or received sustained improvement support from the LGA. These interviews provided examples of the impact this support has had on their councils, including boosting a council's ambitions, challenging the council to grasp particular issues, and strengthening a council's leadership. The review shows that sector-led improvement has been a success.

7.5 LGA in Parliament: we held our annual event in Parliament to highlight local government's work with MPs and Peers. The Local Government Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, and Shadow Leader of the House of Lords, Baroness Smith, both spoke about the amazing work being done by councils across the country. We launched our LGA in Parliament 2018/19 report at the event highlighting our work with MPs and Peers, including influencing legislation, giving evidence to Select Committees and raising questions in the Houses of Parliament.

7.6 Transformation and Innovation Exchange: we have launched a beta version of our Transformation and Innovation Exchange, which aims to bring together guidance, case studies and other resources that councils might find useful. We hope councils will be able to identify further innovation opportunities and take advantage of the support as they continue on their improvement journey.

7.7 NHS Trusts: we are working closely with the 45 councils being taken to court by seventeen NHS Trusts, who are arguing they should receive the same business rates discounts as private hospitals. In our view, as these trusts are not charities, they are not eligible for business rate relief and we will be making

this case at a preliminary hearing on 4 November. If the Trusts are successful in their court action, it could cost councils and Government around £2.4 billion in backdated rebates.

7.8 Public Sector exit payments: the LGA has responded to the HMT consultation on capping exit payments together with the executive summary. We continue to engage with HM Treasury, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and others.

7.9 Pensions: on 27 June the Supreme Court denied the Government's request for an appeal in the McCloud and Sargeant case in respect of age discrimination and pension protection. The case will now be referred back to the Employment Tribunal for remedy, the nature, cost and timing of which are uncertain. We are liaising closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to determine the potential impact on councils.

7.10 Workforce survey: our Workforce and Research teams have just released our latest Workforce Survey report, which covers data on key issues such as sickness absence, training spend, pay and recruitment. We received input from 174 councils. The report is useful as a benchmarking tool for councils.

7.11 Workforce Data: due to demands for more contemporaneous HR data we have started a quarterly workforce bench-marking club. We will collect data on five core issues: sickness, turnover and vacancy rates, top 5 per cent earners and training budgets. The club launched this month, collecting data for April to June 2019, there will also be an opportunity to upload data for 2018/19.

7.12 Gender pay gap: LGA analysis shows that the 2019 mean gender pay gap in local government is 6.1 per cent; the median is 4.0 per cent. We have updated LG Inform's gender pay gap report for authorities to effectively benchmark against a comparison group of choice as well as last year's data to show how your gender pay gap has changed since last year.

7.13 NHS workforce: the NHS has launched an interim people plan, focusing on immediate issues around leadership and nursing recruitment. We will be sending representatives on behalf of councils to the board that is being established to take the plan forward. Growing integration of health and care workforce development at a local level is vital for healthy communities. We are keen to demonstrate the many excellent examples of council work on this in our discussions with NHS colleagues.

7.14 The Employment Deal Diagnostic (TEDD) tool: the LGA has been supporting councils to transform their workforce by providing new insights into how to improve workplace culture. Using the LGA's TEDD tool the LGA provided analysis to show where managers were effectively managing performance and culture change and where the organisation needed to focus more effort. The LGA has helped Norfolk County Council, Cardiff City Council, Solihull MBC and Coventry City Council this period.

7.15 Apprenticeship Levy: the LGA has secured further funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency to help councils get the most from their Apprenticeship Levy. The support programme aims to help up to a further 40 councils take a more strategic approach to using the apprenticeship levy and provides practical help to plan and deliver more apprenticeship starts. Last year's programme helped over 35 councils create effective workforce plans and use the levy to address recruitment, development and retention challenges in areas such as adult social care, IT and town planning. So far this year we have over 30 councils who have applied for support.

7.16 Councillor intimidation: the LGA has launched its guide for councillors on handling intimidation, threats and personal safety. The LGA has also written to MHCLG, the Cabinet Office and the Committee on Standards in Public Life regarding the issue of intimidation of councillors, the increasingly toxic nature of public discourse and the review of the councillor code of conduct.

7.17 Markets and modelling project: this aims to support councils to better manage their social care provider market and to develop the next generation of market position statements. 82 councils across six regions have submitted data for the national learning disability dataset exceeding our target of 60%. Pilot versions of the two developed market analysis tools are now being demonstrated to councils with positive

reviews.

7.18 Induction session: an induction for new political and clinical leaders in health and care was held on June 26. The session considered current policy issues, leadership challenges and related to leaders' local contexts. This is the first in the annual series of national leadership events including three Leadership Essentials programmes and culminating in the Annual Summit in March 2020.

7.19 Design in the Public Sector: we are partnering with the Design Council on Design in the Public Sector, which supports work to explore the challenges affecting local communities and identify opportunities to deliver change. The programme provides workshops and coaching sessions for project teams.

7.20 Museums: a handbook for councillors: produced with Arts Council England, this handbook shares innovative case studies and advice for council-run museums, including operating models, partnership working and how museums can contribute to wider local priorities. It responds to findings by the Government's Mendoza review of museums that public museums were struggling when compared to the rest of the museum sector, and significantly less successful at securing grants or generating commercial income.

7.21 Library peer challenges: we have delivered 9 library peer challenges on behalf of Arts Council England, in addition to the regular 3 cultural peer challenges. The challenges have been well received and discussions are underway with ACE about continuing the offer in the future.

7.22 New powers and duties: our annual review of legislation, performed with the help of Kent County Council's legal team, is now complete. As a result, we have updated the legal Powers and Duties of local authorities and requirements for Records Retention to take account of changes over the last year. New pieces of legislation with provisions which came into force or were changed during 2018 include the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Digital Economy Act 2017 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016.



Local Government Association
Company Number 11177145

LGA Leadership Board
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Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

1. All LGA member councils will remain in LGA membership for the forthcoming year.
2. Four councils are currently on notice to leave the LGA on 31 March 2020. They are:
 - East Staffordshire Borough Council
 - Hastings Borough Council
 - Leicestershire County Council
 - Lincolnshire County Council
3. The Broads Authority National Park is on notice to leave LGA associate membership.
4. Chippenham Town Council have joined associate membership via our corporate scheme with NALC.
5. Four councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.

LGA properties

6. 18 Smith Square: the lease for the third floor tenancy is due to be signed in the next few days, with work on fit out scheduled to begin shortly after that. Agents Cushman and Wakefield continue to report positive feedback on the second floor and remain confident of securing a tenant in due course. An item on the transfer of the building to the LGA is included separately on the agenda.
7. The Stills/Layden House: there is significant interest in all floors of the building, with some offers already received. These will be reported under the Layden House update item at the end of the agenda.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team

Chief Executive	
13-14 June	ACCE Spring Seminar, Nottingham
18 June	North East Lincolnshire Council, Chief Executive
2-4 July	LGA Annual Conference, Bournemouth
<i>Forward look</i>	
2 August	Cambridge City Council
7 August	Leicester City Council, Chief Executive
13 August	Calderdale Council, Chief Executive
5 September	DCN Chief Executive Meeting
6 September	East of England Chief Executive Forum
10 September	Kent Chief Executive Meeting

Media

Funding for local government
Lord Porter was interviewed on BBC News at 6 and 10 about our Annual Conference <u>press release</u> on future funding for councils (BBC Online, Independent Online, Mirror Online, the Telegraph, Times, i paper, Mail, FT, Guardian, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 The World Tonight, BBC Radio 4 Six O'clock News, LBC Radio and TalkRadio (twice))
A column by former Chairman, Lord Porter, about his time as LGA Chairman and his call for more funding (Times Red Box)
Bank of England Governor Mark Carney's spoke about the challenges facing local government at our Annual Conference (Times, Independent, Mail, Guardian Online)
Resources Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts warned about the £8 billion funding gap facing councils in England by 2025, in a story on council tax collection rates (Mail Online)
We responded to a national review that will look at the rates councils pay for social care to prevent more homes going bust (Mirror)
Our <u>response</u> to a Transport Select Committee report which said that councils should be given a five-year funding settlement to tackle the "national scandal" of potholes on England's local roads (ITV Online, the Times)
The Federation of Small Businesses' magazine reported Chair of our Resources Board, Cllr Richard Watts', column on business rates (First Voice magazine)
Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities funding analysis (Mirror, Sun, Guardian Online, Mirror Online)
Our lines that bus routes could be cut amid funding cuts (Mirror)
Our homelessness funding analysis in a piece that said the number of homeless camps removed by councils across the UK has more than trebled in five years (Guardian)
Our lines on council funding cuts and the recovery of missed council tax payments (BBC Radio 5 Live, Observer)
Our funding analysis in an article about UK recycling rates (Telegraph, Mail Online)
Our lines on reserves and how councils need them to manage growing financial risks to local services (Star)
Adult social care and health
Community Wellbeing Board Chairman, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, was interviewed live about our <u>response</u> to a Lords committee report on social care funding and our <u>call</u> for government to publish its long-delayed green paper in the next 10 weeks (BBC News channel (twice) BBC Radio 4 Today, BBC Radio 4 World at One, Telegraph, Guardian Online)
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, talked about the health risk from smoking at our Annual Conference (Guardian Online)
The Health Secretary, Matt Hancock's spoke at the LGA Conference yesterday (Mail Online)
Our Annual Conference <u>press release</u> , calling on government to publish its much-delayed social care green paper in the next 10 weeks before party conference season starts, has been sent to all media (BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4's Six O'clock News, Talk Radio, Express)
We <u>responded</u> to the Healthwatch England report that found people with dementia are being denied vital care because councils are struggling to meet basic legal standards (Mail Online, the i paper)
Our adult social care funding gap analysis in a piece about tax promises made by the remaining runners in the Conservative leadership race (Telegraph Online, Telegraph and Express)
We warned about the adult social care funding crisis following Jeremy Hunt's admission in a BBC debate that social care funding may have been cut too much (Mirror Online)
Our response to a Royal Society for Public Health report on illegal tattooists (Guardian).
Our funding analysis was reported in an opinion piece on young carers (Independent Online)
Children, education and schools
Cllr David Simmonds, Deputy Chairman, was interviewed about our <u>press release</u> highlighting that councils are seeing more than 560 cases of children with mental health disorders every day, up more than 50 per cent in three year (BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Independent and Mirror)



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We <u>responded</u> to the Children’s Commissioner’s report on vulnerable children. Commissioner Anne Longfield also cited our figures in live interviews (BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC News channel, Independent Online, Times)
We responded to Education Secretary, Damian Hinds, statement on the Children in Need review (Guardian Online, Mirror Online)
Our lines in response to the Supreme Court judgement that has ruled councils can be sued if they fail to protect vulnerable young people and children who are considered to be at risk (Independent Online, BBC Radio 4’s You and Yours (twice))
Our lines on childhood obesity in response to proposals for crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks to be sold under cigarette-style plain packaging (Independent, Mail Online, Sun Online, Mirror)
Housing
Former Chairman, Lord Porter, was interviewed live on Sky News and pre-recorded and interview with Channel 4 News to discuss progress on fire safety regulations on the second anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire. Our lines about councils being forced to delay the replacement of thousands of faulty fire doors (Channel 4 News, Sky News, Huffington Post)
Former Chairman, Lord Porter, featured in a piece about an investigation which revealed that many homeowners across the UK are living in buildings wrapped in non-ACM materials that may be just as combustible as those on Grenfell Tower (Sunday Times)
Our <u>press release</u> revealing that young people today are half as likely to own a home as they were 20 years ago (Mail Online, Huffington Post, Independent Online, the Express, Sun and Mirror)
We <u>responded</u> to a Commons Public Accounts Committee report warning that the Government’s target of delivering 300,000 new homes a year is “way off track” due to problems with the planning system (Independent, BBC Online, Mail, BBC Radio 4 Today programme, BBC Radio 2)
Our lines in response to Shelter’s proposal to introduce a new consumer regulator for social housing tenants (Mirror Online)
We <u>responded</u> to the publication of the Government consultation on building safety reforms following the Grenfell Tower fire and subsequent Hackitt Review (FT)
Inclusive growth, jobs and devolution
Supporting councils
The election of the new LGA Chairman, Cllr James Jamieson, was reported (Guardian Online)
Former Chairman, Lord Porter featured in an exclusive interview ahead of Annual Conference about why he is backing Boris Johnson for Conservative leader (Telegraph)
Our lines on roadside verges (BBC Online)
Our lines in response to <u>Confused.com</u> research on council parking charges were reported (Mail)
Our <u>research</u> which found that online retailers are making illegal sales of knives to under-18s (Mail Online)
We <u>called</u> for children to be taught about cold water shock (Mail Online, Huffington Post, LBC Radio, BBC Breakfast, BBC News channel, Sky News and in the Mirror, Sunday Times, and i paper)
We <u>responded</u> to a report by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS), that said the Home Office, National Fire Chiefs Council and the LGA should establish a programme of work to make fire service inspections consistent (ITV Online)
Our response to a National Audit Office report which found that regulation to ensure food safety in the UK is showing “signs of strain” because of spending reductions on food hygiene (Mail Online, Mirror Online and ITV Online)
Our <u>press-release</u> warned that fraudsters are contacting residents by text, email and phone to con them out of money and access personal bank details (Mail)
Our response to a trial of alcohol-tracking ankle tags that will be voluntarily worn by vulnerable addicts (The Sunday Telegraph)
Our previous lines on the dangers of counterfeit make-up were reported in a story on police warning social media influencers to stop wearing fake make-up in online tutorials (Independent Online)
We responded to the Royal London report that shows UK cremation fees have increased since 2004 (BBC Radio 4 You and Yours)
A single voice for local government
Chairman, Cllr James Jamieson’s, call to give councils more powers at our Annual Conference



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(The Guardian)
Our concerns over the impact of FOBTs on poorer communities were referenced (BBC Radio 4's PM programme)
We responded to a Children's Society report on 'county lines.' (Sky News Online, LBC Online and BBC Breakfast)
We featured in coverage of the Fawcett Society research that found that just 34 per cent of councillors in England were women (Huffington Post)
Our response to a study, commissioned by the RAC Foundation, which found that council are set to make £1 billion from parking charges in 2019/20 (ITV Online, BBC Online, iNews, Huffington Post, TalkRadio, Absolute Radio, LBC Radio, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 2 and the Telegraph and Express)
Our lines on the work local authorities are doing to tackle substance misuse (The Times and Sunday Times)
PM candidates Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt visited 18 Smith Square to address Conservative councillors (Mail Online, Guardian Online and the Telegraph)
Our <u>response</u> to calls for Ministers to repeal the Vagrancy Act, which makes rough sleeping and begging illegal in England (Independent Online)
We <u>responded</u> to the Refugee Resettlement Scheme announcement (Independent)
Our statement in <u>response</u> to the Government's announcement to extend the Blue Badge scheme to people with non-physical disabilities and carry out a review of fraudulent use (BBC Online, ITV Online, LBC Online, BBC Radio 3 Counties, TalkRadio, Independent Online, Metro Online, Star Online, i paper, and the Telegraph, Mail and Guardian, Express Online, Mirror Online)
Our drug and alcohol treatment and prevention lines (Independent Online)
Our press-release warning that fraudsters are contacting residents by text, email and phone to con them out of money and access personal bank details (ITV Online, Independent Online, Express Online, Mail, Sun on Sunday, Mirror and i paper)
Brexit
Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of our Brexit Taskforce, was interviewed live on Sky News' All Out Politics programme about our Annual Conference press release, calling for the Government to begin its consultation into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Cllr Bentley's comment piece about it has featured on Telegraph Online (Guardian Online, Independent Online and Express Online)
Our concerns over the Government's delayed announcement to replace EU regional cash for important social, employment and infrastructure funds (Guardian 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.

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 Leadership Board, LGA Executive and Councillors' Forum.

Action

Officers to take any action as directed by members.

Contact officer: Paul Goodchild
Position: Member Services Manager
Phone no: 020 7664 3005
E-mail: Paul.Goodchild@local.gov.uk

LGA Forward Plan

LGA Leadership Board LGA Executive Councillors' Forum

September

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 11.09.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit Update	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
Centre for Public Scrutiny	To submit an annual report on CfPS's activity.
Local Partnerships	To submit an annual report on Local Partnership's activity.
UN Sustainable Development Goals	To consider the LGA's work programme on UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Review of Annual Conference	To review feedback from the Annual Conference.
Autumn Budget Submission	To comment on the Autumn Budget submission to Treasury and commend to Executive for approval 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.
LGA Business Plan	To agree and recommend the Business Plan to the LGA Executive.
Chief Executive's Report	To hold the Chief Executive to account against delivery of business plan priorities.
Forward Plan	To consider topics for discussion at LGA Leadership Board, Executive and Councillors' Forum.
Minutes 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 Commercial Advisory Board.
UK Municipal Bonds Agency Update	To receive an update on work on the UK Municipal Bonds Agency.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

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

LGA EXECUTIVE 12.09.19	
Summary / Purpose	
Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Governance Structures	To note membership, terms of reference and appointments
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Autumn Budget Submission	To discuss and approve the Autumn Budget submission to the 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.
Government Adult Social Care Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Adult Social Care Green Paper (if published).
LGA Business Plan	To agree the Business Plan as recommended by the Leadership Board. Page 99

Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

October

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 30.10.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit Update	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
LGA Budget	To note a proposed LGA budget framework prior to full report in January.
Government Adult Social Care Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Adult Social Care Green Paper (if published).
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.
Annual Perceptions Survey	To note the results of the Perceptions Survey and agree headline principles for a revised action plan.
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.
Minutes 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 Commercial Advisory Board.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.
Layden House / 'The Stills' Update	To receive an update on the Layden House / 'The Stills' refurbishment project

COUNCILLORS' FORUM 31.10.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence	Rt Hon Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence, will address Councillors' Forum on the department's work on the Armed Forces Covenant.
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 31.10.19	
Summary / Purpose	
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Government Adult Social Care Green Paper	To consider the LGA's response to the Government's Adult Social Care Green Paper (if published).
Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

December

LGA LEADERSHIP BOARD 05.12.19	
Item	Summary / Purpose
LGA Business	
Brexit Update	To update and take a steer on the LGA's Work Programme on Brexit.
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.
LGA Membership	To agree a proposed approach to the LGA membership offer for the following year
Performance Report	To review six month performance report.
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.
Minutes 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 Commercial Advisory Board.
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

LGA EXECUTIVE 05.12.19	
Summary / Purpose	
Brexit	To update on the LGA's work programme on Brexit.
Business Rates Retention and Fair funding	To receive an update on the LGA's work on the government's proposals for business rates retention and fair funding review.
Autumn Budget	To discuss the Autumn Budget and the LGA's response.
Minutes of LGA Leadership Board	To highlight key issues from the LGA Leadership Board meeting.
Minutes of the last LGA Executive	To agree the note of the last meeting.
Part 2: Confidential	
Spending Review	To consider LGA activity around the Spending Review.

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LGA location map

Local Government Association
 18 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

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

Public transport

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

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

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

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

Bus routes – Millbank

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

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

Cycling facilities

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

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

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

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
 Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

