



City Regions Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 23 November 2022
10.30 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **10.30 am on Wednesday, 23 November 2022**
Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

LGA Hybrid Meetings

All of our meetings are available to join in person at [18 Smith Square](#) or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

Catering and Refreshments:

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

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: labgp@lga.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Attendance:

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

LGA Contact:

David Pealing
david.pealing@local.gov.uk

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.

City Regions Board – Membership

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Cllr Toby Savage (Vice Chairman)	West of England Combined Authority
Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council
Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
Cllr James Moyies	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Simon Bennett	Wolverhampton City
Labour (13)	
Mayor Marvin Rees (Chair)	Bristol City Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Vice-Chair)	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
Cllr Nazia Rehman	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Graeme Miller	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Kerrie Carmichael	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jason Brock	Reading Borough Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Ian Ward	Birmingham City Council
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Elise Wilson	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Brenda Dacres	Lewisham London Borough
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Greg Stone	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Martin Fodor	Bristol City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr James Giles	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Agenda

City Regions Board

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

10.30 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 25 January 2023, 10.30 am, Hybrid



Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Meeting: City Regions Board

Date: 23 November 2022



LGA Plan 2022-25

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

On 19 October 2022, the LGA Board signed off a new 3-year business plan for 2022-25. The [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#) sets the direction for the LGA as a whole and includes our policy and campaigning priorities for the period.

The Board is asked to review the Plan and to discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities, and the new Government.

Recommendations

That the City Regions Board reviews the Plan and discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities, and the new Government.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 0207 187 7384

Email: rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

LGA Plan 2022-25



Background

1. On 19 October 2022 the LGA Board signed off the LGA's new 3-year business plan – [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#). The development of the Plan was led by a joint officer/member task and finish group, who considered feedback from consultations and discussions with member councils, lead members, group executives and staff. The plan is now final.
2. The new LGA Plan clearly sets out our vision to be **the Voice of Local Government** and our purpose to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. A copy of the Plan is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Content

3. The LGA Plan is in three parts:

Part 1:

- sets out the LGA's overarching vision and the golden thread that runs through the plan - to be **the Voice of Local Government**.
- sets out our purpose - to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. These form the three pillars of all our external facing work, including the work of the eight policy boards and the Improvement and Innovation Board.
- emphasises our commitment to work more collaboratively across the whole of local government to strengthen our voice on behalf of the sector.

Part 2:

- Promoting **local government** sets four policy and campaigning priorities
 - ✓ A sustainable financial future
 - ✓ Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy
 - ✓ Putting people first
 - ✓ Championing climate change and local environments.
- **Improving local government** sets out our main grant-funded commitments.
- **Supporting local government** highlights the excellent technical and professional support and services we deliver to councils in fields such as workforce, pensions, legal, communications and procurement and a range of place-based services.

Part 3:

- **Our business** – sets out our internal organisational priorities, including actions to support our political leadership and enhance our membership, increase our financial resilience and our commitment to Net Zero.

Delivering the LGA Plan

4. While the Board’s work is already well aligned with the overall aims of the LGA, members are invited to discuss any amendments to the Board’s work programme in light of the priorities set out in the new plan.
5. The main outcomes relating to the Board’s work are:

LGA plan outcome	City Regions Board theme
Theme 1: Press for freedoms that lead to greater local control over council tax and business rates, and a wider range of suitable funding sources for councils.	Theme 1: Future of cities Theme 2: Levelling Up Theme 5: Growth funding
Theme 2: Councils and combined authorities have the powers and resources to create the conditions for strong, inclusive local economies and good jobs as part of ‘levelling up’ the country, including through improved digital connectivity and viable transport networks.	Theme 2: Levelling Up
Theme 2: Employers, job seekers and those looking to progress in work are better supported through a more local employment and skills system.	Theme 2: Levelling Up
Theme 4: Government and councils work together to meet the country’s net zero carbon and climate change adaptation ambitions, restore the natural environment and, through a strong focus on waste prevention, deliver a waste and resource system that meets local needs and improves the use of resources.	Theme 3: Urban resilience Theme 4: Green jobs

6. The LGA Plan will remain a flexible document that will be reviewed and updated annually, and with the agreement of the LGA Board, may be updated to reflect changing circumstances.

New Government

7. While a national policy agenda is still emerging, the Board might also wish to consider any areas of work arising from the new Government they wish to see reflected in the Board's work, or any aspects of the Board's work they might wish to see amended in order to best influence the new Government and other political parties.
8. A separate paper will follow the Government's Autumn Statement on 17 November setting out the overall implications for local government and any particular issues emerging for city regions and urban areas.

Implications for Wales

9. The LGA Plan includes the support that we provide to the 22 Welsh councils, in membership of the LGA through the Welsh LGA. However, some central government grant-funded activities do not include support to Wales, where funding may be allocated through the Welsh government.

Financial Implications

10. Delivery of the LGA Plan is reflected in the LGA's medium term financial strategy. Our internal business priorities include priorities to ensure the financial sustainability of the LGA.

Equalities implications

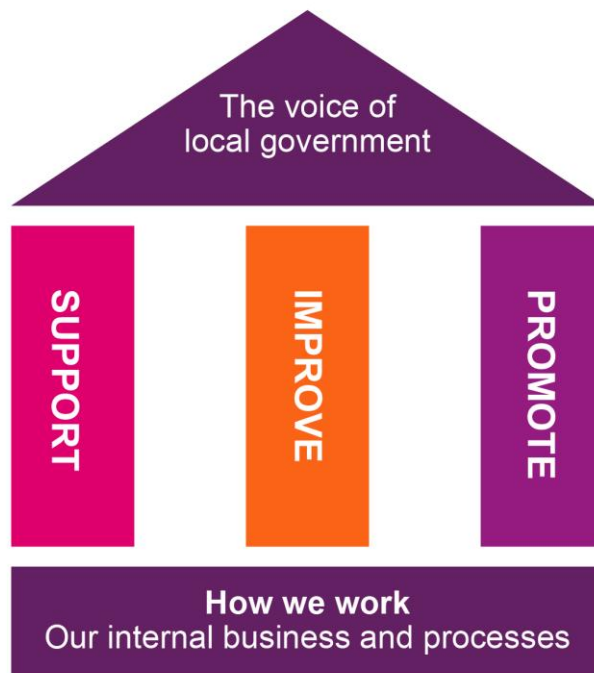
11. Our internal business priorities include the delivery of the LGA's equalities strategy and action plan.

Next steps

12. Subject to members' comments, the Board's work programme will be updated to reflect the priorities of the LGA Plan 2022-25.

LGA plan 2022-2025

The voice of local government



Part 1 – About the LGA

The Local Government Association (LGA) is **the voice of local government** – not just of councils but of local government in its widest sense. This is both our vision and the golden thread that runs throughout this three-year plan.

As the national membership body for local authorities, we provide the bridge between central and local government and we help councils deliver the best services to their local communities.

Our core members are English councils in full membership and Welsh councils in corporate membership through the Welsh LGA. Our Associate members include fire and rescue authorities, fire, police and crime commissioners (PCCs), national parks authorities and town and parish councils through their membership body National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Over the period of this business plan, we intend to strengthen our representation of local government in its widest sense by working more closely with combined authorities and their mayors and with PCCs and police, fire and crime commissioners (PFCCs) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

Our purpose

We exist to **promote, improve and support local government.**

We are politically-led and cross-party and we work to give local government a strong, credible voice with national government and across the political parties. Supported by our team of experts covering every area of local government activity, we influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to our members so they can deliver local solutions to national problems.

We know that priorities change and that we need to stay relevant to all our membership. We work across the breadth of local government, drawing in every tier of interest to promote and defend the reputation of the sector, focusing our efforts where we can have real impact.

Our extensive range of improvement programmes are sector-led and peer-based. Using expertise drawn from the sector, we build the capacity of councils to improve, so they can drive sustainable growth, deliver better public services and empower communities.

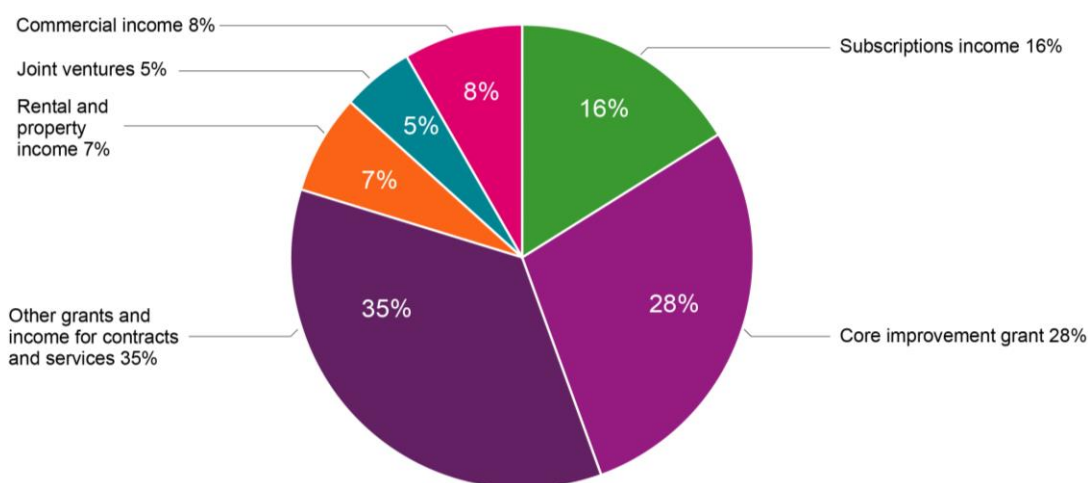
Part 2 of this business plan sets out our priorities to promote, improve and support local government.

Our business – how we work

Delivering on our ambition to be the voice of local government demands an efficient, well-managed and financially resilient business and a reputation for delivering high quality and value for money. Our internal business priorities are set out in **part 3** of this business plan

The context

Our funding



- 16 per cent of our funding comes from the subscriptions of our member councils
- 28 per cent of our funding comes from the improvement grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
- 35 per cent of our funding comes from other central government grants and contracts
- 7 per cent of our funding is rental and commercial income from our two central London buildings – 18 Smith Square and Layden House Farringdon
- 5 per cent of our funding comes from our joint ventures – GeoPlace and Local Partnerships
- 8 per cent of our funding comes from our other commercial activities, including our conference and events programme and consultancy services.

All numbers based on 2022/23 LGA group budget

Our membership

- 331 of 333 English councils are in full membership of the LGA
- all 22 Welsh councils are in membership through the Welsh LGA
- 31 fire and rescue authorities along with the Essex, Northants, North Yorkshire and Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners are associate members
- our associate scheme also includes national parks authorities, town and parish councils, fire, police and crime commissioners and other joint arrangements.

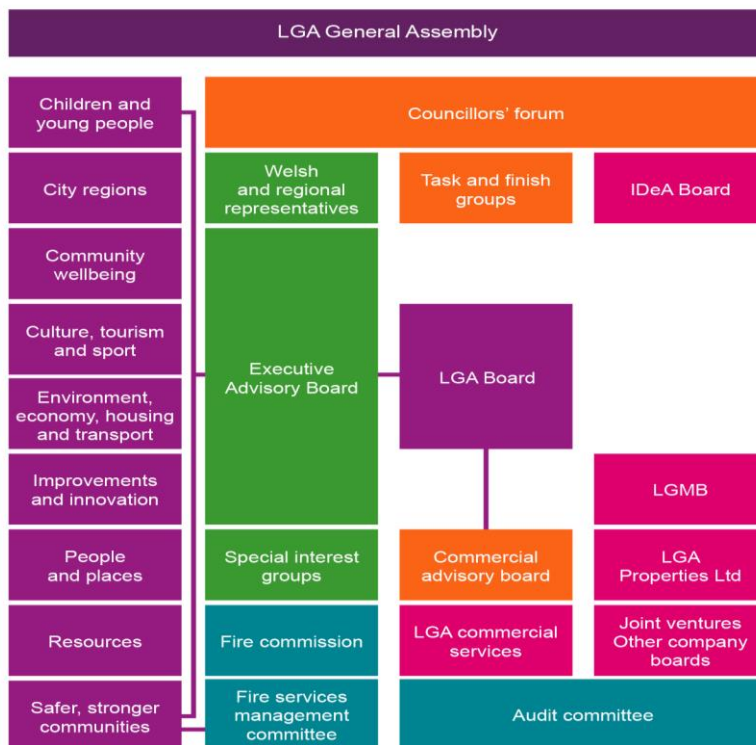
Our political leadership

- 450 elected members from across England and Wales are actively involved in the LGA through our boards, committees, forums and task and finish groups
- over the last two years, 161 member peers and 257 officer peers have actively led and supported our peer support activities.

Our governance

Our boards, committees and task and finish groups lead our work to promote, improve and support local government and ensure that we can speak and act with authority on behalf of our sector.

This business plan frames their work and the work of all the staff who support them.



- The LGA is an unlimited company and the LGA Board is its Board of Directors. The LGA Board sets the strategic direction of the LGA in consultation with the Executive Advisory Board and agrees the annual budget and business plan.
- The eight policy boards and the Improvement and Innovation Board develop our policy lines and steer and oversee our activity in their respective areas, in line with the LGA priorities. The Improvement and Innovation Board also oversees delivery of the LGA's improvement work in line with our grant funding agreements and contracts.
- Each board has its own work programme and monitors performance against that work programme. The boards present their reports to the Councillors' Forum every six weeks. A summary of performance is included in the quarterly performance reports to the LGA Board.

Key wins on behalf of local government

Over the period of the last business plan we secured on behalf of councils:

- £4.8 billion of additional grant funding as part of the 2021 Spending Review
- over £10 billion of grant funding to deal with costs arising from COVID-19
- over £155 million in improvement support for councils
- £26 million to speed up Local Land Charges Register transfers.

Practical support

Over the period of the last business plan:

- 3,500 councillors participated in one or more of our leadership programmes
- over 460 graduates were recruited and placed in councils across England and Wales through the National Graduate Development Programme
- we provided practical support on emerging issues, such as COVID-19 and the resettlement of new arrivals from Syria, Hong Kong, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Our influence and engagement

In the 2021/22 parliamentary session we:

- were quoted 592 times in Parliament
- briefed MPs and Peers for 56 parliamentary debates and 39 debates on legislation
- appeared before 30 parliamentary inquiries
- produced 47 written submissions to inquiries to help inform a wide range of recommendations in parliamentary reports.

In the year ending 31 March 2022, we:

- featured **34,979** times in national, trade, regional, broadcast and online media, including **1,510** mentions in national articles – an average of **29** times a week
- secured an average **four** national media hits a day
- secured **114** interviews on national broadcast media for our lead political spokespeople
- organised **160** events with an overall satisfaction rating of 95 per cent.

What our members say about the LGA

In the 2021 membership perception survey:

- 79 per cent would speak positively about the LGA
- 76 per cent were satisfied with the work of the LGA
- 83 per cent agreed the LGA keeps members informed about its work
- 99 per cent of chief executives, 96 per cent of directors and 91 per cent of council leaders have said our improvement support has resulted in positive impacts for their local authority
- 100 per cent of councils participating in a Corporate Peer Challenge said that the process had a positive impact.

Part 2 – Promoting, improving and supporting local government



Promoting local government

One of the LGA's key roles is to influence government policy and to shape how that policy is delivered through partnership at the local level.

Our offer to government reflects the significant local leadership role played by local government and the technical expertise that it brings, both in areas of service delivery and more generally across social, economic and environmental themes. We draw on good relationships with ministers and officials but we also build alliances with a range of other stakeholders and, where useful, explain our positions through the media. The scope is very broad and prioritisation is critical to ensuring that we are as effective as possible in our promotion of the sector.

The LGA's thematic boards lead our policy work and are essential to the prioritisation process. The boards grapple with immediate policy challenges but also engage in forward thinking to ensure that local government is at the forefront of policy development.

Over the next three years, the main thrust of our work will centre on four main themes:

- a sustainable financial future
- stronger local economies, thriving local democracy
- putting people first
- championing climate change and local environments.

We will also continue to respond to unplanned immediate issues that impact on the sector. In the past this has included Grenfell, COVID-19 and the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Theme 1 – A sustainable financial future

High levels of inflation and energy costs and higher than expected forecasts of the National Living Wage mean that councils are facing significant additional cost pressures. Fair and sustainable funding would allow councils to plan and deliver essential, resilient public services beyond the short term.

We will work to secure the following outcomes:

- Continue to highlight the cost pressures on all council services and press for longer term funding that reflects current and future demand for services.

- Press for freedoms that lead to greater local control over council tax and business rates, and a wider range of suitable funding sources for councils.
- Councils can access a range of sources of finance to encourage investment, supported by an appropriate financial framework.

Theme 2 – Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Strong local economies help to build a resilient national economy which can unlock economic potential across the country and ensure no community is left behind. Councils already have an important role in [securing private and foreign investment](#) in infrastructure. With more localised powers, greater diversity of elected representatives and high standards of conduct they can help to level up the country.

We will work to secure the following outcomes:

- Councils and combined authorities have the powers and resources to create the conditions for strong, inclusive local economies and good jobs as part of ‘levelling up’ the country, including through improved digital connectivity and viable transport networks.
- Employers, job seekers and those looking to progress in work are better supported through a more local employment and skills system.
- Councils and combined authorities can maximise their cultural, heritage, and sporting assets to support their local economy and communities.
- Local government has a key role in reducing socioeconomic inequality by increasing opportunity, strengthening communities and safety nets, and promoting long-term financial inclusion and resilience.
- Councils deliver democratic systems that everyone can engage with, including fair and safe elections and transparent and well-run governance arrangements.
- Councillors engage in healthy and positive debate and display the highest standards of conduct; abuse and intimidation of councillors and officers is taken seriously by all agencies and appropriate steps are taken to prevent and respond when it occurs.

Theme 3 – Putting people first

Local government is unique in offering a range of specialised services which impact the direct quality of life that residents of all ages experience on a daily basis. Councils can convene local partners to help everyone live safe, healthy, active, independent lives.

We will work to secure the following outcomes:

- The reform of adult social care gives councils the resources to address their funding pressures; changes in the adult social care assurance framework helps them improve quality and standards.
- Councils remain at the heart of work to integrate health and care and can make effective contributions to integrated care systems and place-based partnerships.
- Councils have the appropriate leverage to enable them to deliver their public health and health protection responsibilities.

- Councils have a clear ongoing role in promoting and supporting high educational standards and the resources, powers, and flexibilities to ensure every child has fair access to a place at a good local early years setting, school or college.
- Councils have the powers and funding to meet the needs of all local children and young people including looked-after children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability and ensure that children and families have access to the help they need and the opportunities they deserve.

Theme 4 – Championing climate change and local environments

Everyone wants to live in a green and safe local environment. Councils are actively working to address climate change whilst continuing to consider the broader environmental factors which help to make safer more sustainable communities.

We will work to secure the following outcomes:

- Government and councils work together to meet the country’s net zero carbon and climate change adaptation ambitions, restore the natural environment and, through a strong focus on waste prevention, deliver a waste and resource system that meets local needs and improves the use of resources.
- A properly resourced local plan-led system that supports net zero carbon ambitions and through which councils can build more council homes and facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of their local communities.
- The Government’s fire reform agenda is shaped to ensure fire and rescue authorities have the resources to address their challenges, including those from climate change.
- Councils have the powers, resources and support to work with local partners to tackle crime and prevent people being drawn into criminal behaviour.
- Through proportionate and risk-based social housing regulation and private rented sector reforms, communities have a safe, secure and high quality private rented sector that is fairer for both tenants and landlords and delivers improved services for social housing tenants.
- Councils continue to drive higher safety standards across all types of housing and are supported to ensure remedial action is taken by building owners and to prepare for the new building safety regime.

Our campaigns

We will support all this work through [our four priority campaigns](#):

- [Debate not hate](#)
- [Build back local](#)
- [The future of adult social care](#)
- Bright futures

Over the period of this business plan we will continue to develop new campaigns that match our priorities.

Improving local government

As the voice of local government, we are committed to supporting local government continuously to improve.

Our sector-led approach is underpinned by the core principles that local government is responsible for its own performance, is accountable locally not nationally and that there is a collective assurance responsibility within the sector as a whole.

Using local government expertise –peers in particular –to provide leadership, challenge and support, we help councils to improve, innovate and deliver positive outcomes for their communities. We provide tools and resources that enable councils to respond to present and emerging challenges and ensure that they have in place the building blocks of what makes a good organisation – a clear vision and set of priorities, strong political and managerial leadership, clear and effective leadership of the place, robust financial planning and capacity to improve.

We will continue to provide improvement support in the following areas:

Governance and finance

Our improvement offer will continue to provide councils with tools to enhance governance and financial resilience, including through effective use of peers and data. It features:

- Our [regional support and improvement programme](#), which uses expert peers and regional support teams to provide councils with a suite of improvement options, including tailored and bespoke offers. Our range of resources and tools includes peer challenge, post-election and bespoke support, and relies on peers to challenge, support and guide councils on specific issues.
- Our peer support, research and data offers, including our award winning LG Inform data platform which provides tools and support to compare and enhance local capabilities and support good and effective governance. We will continue to facilitate sharing of notable practice and innovation across the sector.
- Our [financial resilience programme](#), which helps councils to achieve productivity, efficiency and prioritise how they spend reduced resources.

Support for councillors

Our four political group offices – Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent – provide the main route through which we extend our reach to councillors, from back benchers through to council leaders. Working with and through them we will continue to offer advice, support and development opportunities for elected members including:

- [political leadership training and development](#) to attract new talent and support councillors to be confident, capable local leaders
- [Civility in Public Life programme](#) supporting councils to address abuse and intimidation of councillors and improve standards of political discourse and behaviour in public office.

Support for officers

We will continue to provide training to council officers to increase their skills and improve council capacity including through:

- [Highlighting managerial leadership offer](#) to help improve the leadership capacity of local government professionals now and in the future
- [National Graduate Development Programme \(NGDP\)](#), our flagship management development programme, which recruits the brightest and best graduates and places them in councils across the country.

Partners in Care and Health (formerly Care and Health Improvement Programme)

The recently rebranded PCH team is currently tendering for a range of contracts and discussing a small number of direct awards to enable us to continue to support councils and their care and health partners to deliver high quality adult social care and public health.

Subject to the outcome of the process, we aim to continue to prioritise:

- delivering the Better Care Fund (tender won)
- improving commissioning, the fair cost of care and shaping the care market
- recruitment and retention in the adult social care market
- digital transformation in social care
- public health.

Children's Services Improvement programme

Our Children's Services Improvement programme supports councils to help children, young people and families to achieve the best possible outcomes. We will continue to offer:

- leadership training, networking opportunities, mentoring and coaching for political and corporate leaders with responsibilities for children's services
- improvement support and diagnostic activity framed around specific themes and issues (including peer challenge)
- Early Years Speech and Language programme.

Other service specific support

We will continue to offer the following service specific programmes:

- [climate change programme](#), to help councils address climate change, adaption and environmental sustainability
- support, advice and training for councils to communicate effectively with residents, media, partners and employees through our [communications improvement programme](#)
- [culture and sport improvement programme](#) to help councils tackle the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities for culture, tourism and sport
- [equality, diversity and inclusion programme](#), to help councils in reduce inequalities and enhance inclusion and cohesion within their communities.

Supporting local government

As the voice of local government, we offer additional expert technical and professional support that responds to a wide range of issues, challenges and opportunities outside our main improvement programmes. These include a comprehensive workforce offer, specialist legal and communications expertise, support to councils in their role as guardians of place and data and digital support.

Over the next three years we will focus on the following key areas:

Support to the local government workforce

Recruiting and retaining good staff at all levels is central to delivering excellent local services and a thriving local democracy. The cost of living crisis, and its impact on the workforce following years of restricted supply of key professions and reduced competitiveness with other employers, will be an acute challenge in the coming years. Our comprehensive workforce offer involves leadership of national collective bargaining, as well as supporting councils to address capacity and capability issues.

We will:

- Lead on national collective bargaining across councils, schools, fire and rescue authorities, police support staff and other related workforces.
- Deliver comprehensive workforce support including workforce planning, officer-member relationships, diversity and equality, and HR/OD reform looking at organisational structures, pay frameworks and employee engagement.
- Provide specialist pensions support, including training courses for councillors and employers; as well as regulatory support from our team of expert advisers.
- Promote national programmes that enhance and support the local government workforce and respond to significant skills shortages, including T Levels and apprenticeship support programmes.

Legal and governance support

The LGA has a proven track record of successful legal action on behalf the sector, costing councils a fraction of the cost and delivering significant benefits. We also provide expert governance support. We will:

- Continue to offer/commission specialist legal support on issues affecting a number of councils – our current priorities are the collective actions on Mastercard/Visa and the trucks cartel.
- Contribute to public inquiries in support of the sector – our current priority is the COVID-19 Inquiry.

Communications and events

Our communications expertise is a core benefit of LGA membership and the work of our communications teams increases our reach and ensures that our voice is heard both within and far beyond our sector. We will continue to offer:

- A comprehensive programme of free and paid for events. These will either be in-person, hybrid or via a virtual platform and will include an average 30 per cent discount to members councils for paid for events.
- Emergency media support to member councils on a 24/7 basis.
- Daily updates from the national and broadcast media on coverage that relates to local government and LGA media releases.
- LGA Communications and Parliamentary Network, providing public affairs and communications insights through bulletins, events and support.
- Media relations activity promoting member council good practice and case studies to promote and defend the reputation of local government as well as lobbying, campaigns and improvement work by the LGA on behalf of member councils.
- First magazine – our monthly publication that promotes good practice and highlights the LGA's work to over 18,000 councillors.

Supporting local people and places

Councils are the guardians of place. Our range of place-based programmes are designed to support councils in that role. We will continue to offer a range of practical and technical support, including:

- The [Behavioural Insights programme](#), which supports councils to encourage behavioural change amongst local communities to improve outcomes and reduce demand on public services.
- Practical and technical support to locally-led public sector partnerships to make the best use of their land and buildings through [One Public Estate](#) (OPE).
- Advice, support and training on planning and service delivery through the [Planning Advisory Service](#).
- [Levelling up](#) and [devolution support](#) to help councils lead their place-shaping ambitions and enable further devolution.
- [Economic growth support](#) on all aspects of councils' economic development plans, including employment, re-skilling, high streets, SME support and business retention.
- [Procurement and commissioning support](#), to help councils add value and deliver better outcomes for local people through our supply chains.
- [Housing](#) and [building safety](#) support to help councils seeking to innovate in meeting

the housing needs of their communities and ensure all homes are safe.

- Support for councils to take action against private owners of blocks with combustible cladding and make them safe through the [Joint Inspection Team](#).
- Support for [fire authorities](#) and National Employers to conduct collective bargaining, implement workforce requirements relating to fire reform and deliver effective services for local communities. The LGA will also continue its role as the secretariat for the NJCs for firefighters, middle managers and brigade managers.

Data and digital

Effective management of data and digital systems is central to the delivery of excellent public services and to a thriving local democracy but increasingly cyber security presents one of the biggest threats. We will support councils through the following key programmes:

- [Cyber security and digital programme](#) to help councils safely digitalise services and improve productivity.
- [Data programme](#), including LG Inform and LG Inform Plus, to support local authorities in benchmarking and performance management and help them make better use of data.

Part 3 – Our business: how we work

Delivering on our ambition to be the voice of local government demands an efficient, well-managed and financially resilient business and a reputation for delivering high quality and value for money.

Our staff and members are central to that ambition. The leadership of our elected members, the technical expertise of our staff and our ability to speak on behalf of local government are our unique selling points.

Our four political groups provide the main route through which we extend our reach to councillors from every member council and into the wider local government sector.

We actively seek feedback from our member authorities so we can prioritise those issues that are most important to them and we rapidly reprioritise when circumstances demand.

[Equalities, diversity and inclusion](#) and action to tackle climate change and minimise the negative impact of our activities are central to the way that we manage our business.

Our values

Our values underpin all our work:

Inclusive – we ensure that our work is inclusive of all voices.

Ambitious – we are ambitious for councils and their communities and are committed to striving for excellence in all that we do to support our colleagues, our membership and the sector to deliver the best possible outcomes.

Collaborative – we bring together the expertise and skills needed, working as one team.

Our priorities

Over the next three years our organisational priorities will be:

Strengthening our voice

The closer we work across the sector, the stronger our voice on behalf of local government.

We will:

- Maintain membership levels amongst councils in England and Wales by keeping subscriptions affordable, offering value for money and continuing to offer membership benefits that meet their changing needs and expectations.
- Engage more fully with combined authorities and their elected mayors and with PCCs and PFCCs and their representative arrangements and maintain and develop our relationship with NALC on the issues where the interests of our members align.
- Deliver communications that reflect the issues that matter to councils, their residents and their communities – and that have the most impact.
- Offer a range of virtual and hybrid events and meetings to encourage member councils actively to participate in and contribute to our work.

- Exploit the full potential of the investment in our CRM system to enhance the delivery of integrated and targeted services to member councils, including a new online membership resource that sets out the benefits of membership.
- Review our approach to the work of our Special Interest Groups to ensure they are fully engaged with the wider LGA.

One politically-led organisation

Our politicians lead our work to promote local government's priorities and influence the political agenda. We will:

- Provide opportunities for political debate and challenge as part of the process of achieving consensus.
- Ensure that the members who sit on our boards, committees and task and finish groups are properly briefed and supported to deliver their roles so they can focus on the issues where they can make most impact.
- Provide high quality briefings to enable our political leadership to represent local government authoritatively in their engagement with secretaries and ministers of state and their opposition spokespeople and in the national media.
- Provide briefings and advice to our president and parliamentary vice-presidents and other key parliamentarians so they can speak with authority on behalf of the sector.
- Engage with parliamentary proceedings to influence legislation and select committee inquiries and to ensure that local government's voice is heard in parliamentary debates and questions.
- Influence the national policy agenda through our high-profile media activity, promoting local government's priorities in national print, online and broadcast media and the trade press.

Financially resilient and ambitious

Our medium-term financial strategy sets the framework for financial resilience and security, including diversifying our sources of income and investigating opportunities for new income streams to provide additional resources to further support our members. We will:

- Complete the Layden House programme and develop a comprehensive strategy for managing and exploiting our property portfolio, including our own occupation of 18 Smith Square and options for future income generation.
- Retender the 18 Smith Square catering contract and other major procurements.
- Launch and embed the revised commercial strategy setting out our approach to identifying and assessing potential funding sources, including an assessment of the costs and benefits to the LGA and to the sector.
- Build the LGA's bidding capacity and capability, supported by a structured bid development, risk assessment and approval process, with early involvement of legal, finance, HR, property and IT.
- Build on existing income generating and income source diversification successes and ensure they remain resilient and relevant and continue to work closely with all

relevant government departments (not just DLUHC), councils and partners to secure funding for improvement programmes and ensure delivery against improvement grant agreements, in support of our sector-led approach.

Efficient business management

Efficient internal systems and processes and excellent IT underpin our work to promote, improve and support local government. We will:

- In conjunction with Brent/Shared Technology Services, deliver the LGA's 'ICT road map 2022-25', which includes retendering our AV contract in 2022 and continuous improvement of our core systems and processes.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of our IT contract, delivered through LGA Digital Services, in 2023 to consider options for future.
- Continue to build awareness of cyber security and enforce secure business processes throughout the LGA.
- Review and develop our own crisis response and business continuity approach.
- Embed the LGA's new procurement strategy to ensure that all our procurement complies with our EDI policies and contributes towards our net zero ambitions.

Supportive people management

We want the LGA to be a great place to work. We will:

- Deliver the 'People Plan', which falls under the following five priority areas:
 - **Attract, recruit and retain** a diverse, skilled and committed workforce whose values and behaviours align with those of the LGA, whilst increasing **the diversity** of the organisation, particularly at senior levels.
 - **Develop and support** the workforce to help people fulfil their career potential.
 - **Strengthen employee engagement** by **valuing and listening** to staff whilst creating a workplace that is inclusive, inspiring, diverse, innovative, ambitious, and fulfilling.
 - **Create and maintain** a forward-thinking, collaborative workforce where individuals are supported to achieve a **positive work life balance**.
 - **Recognise the contributions that our staff make** through their delivery of the LGA's priorities.
- Deliver the equality, diversity and inclusion strategy and action plan 2021-24.

Committed to a sustainable future

In line with the motions passed by the General Assembly in 2019 and 2021, we keep action to minimise the impacts of climate change at the heart of the way we manage our business. We will:

- Keep our policies and practices under review to ensure that they contribute to combatting the adverse effects of climate change.
- Develop a Green Action Plan setting out our commitment to Net Zero and how we intend to achieve that.
- Based on the green audits carried out in 2020 and 2022, minimise the environmental impact of our two central London buildings.
- Ensure that our main external contracts have environmentally sustainable policies and practices.
- Encourage sustainable travel practices through our flexible working policy, staff and members' expenses policies and continued participation in national sustainable travel initiatives such as the Cycle to Work scheme.

Our service delivery partnerships

Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the LGA, HM Treasury and the Welsh LGA. Its support to local authorities and the wider public sector is focused on five main areas:

- climate response
- circular economy and resource efficiency
- infrastructure and assets
- complex contracting
- public sector capability and capacity.

GeoPlace

GeoPlace is a joint venture between the LGA and Ordnance Survey and is the central source for UK address and streets data. Working with the 355 councils in England and Wales, GeoPlace cleanses and validates the data they produce and creates and maintains national registers of 42.8 million addresses and 1.3 million streets. The data is distributed commercially by Ordnance Survey through the Address Base range of products.

GeoPlace's strategic objectives are to:

- deliver benefit from the use of spatial addressing and streets data
- create efficiencies and improvements in the public sector and
- provide an operational surplus back to the two partner organisations.

Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

PSAA is an independent company limited by guarantee and specified as an appointing person under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. PSAA appoints an auditor to relevant local government bodies that opt into its national scheme and sets a scale of fees for the work which auditors undertake.

UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc (UKMBA)

The LGA is a major shareholder in the local government-owned UKMBA, which aims to deliver cheaper debt financing to councils through the sale of bonds in the capital markets. UKMBA works through its managed service provider to aggregate borrowing requirements and issue bonds. The LGA provides support services to the company.

Measuring success

How we measure success:

External measures

KPIs and other measures agreed and routinely monitored for our improvement programmes

Quarterly resident satisfaction survey

Annual membership survey

Success in collective legal actions

Successful New Burdens applications

Continued Cyber Essentials Accreditation

Other external accreditations

Parliamentary polling

Funding and powers secured

Legal actions won

Internal measures

Staff survey

Regular staff 'temperature checks'

Statutory accounts and audit reports

Funding secured for the sector

Completion of contracts

Delivery against objectives of the IT roadmap and People Plan

Performance reports

Reports to boards against work plans

Progress against EDI and green action plans

How we communicate this:

Chief Executives report to the LGA Board

Board chair's reports to Councillors' Forum

Headlines report to SMT and LGA Board

Annual reports, including sector support annual report

Bulletins to council leaders, chief executives, members, council staff and stakeholders

Annual LGA in Parliament reports

Meeting: City Regions Board

Date: 23 November 2022



City Regions Board meetings Forward Plan

Purpose of report

For direction

Summary

This short paper sets out future Board dates with proposals for discussion topics.

Is this report confidential? No

Recommendation/s

That the City Regions Board comment on and agree the forward plan.

Contact details

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City Regions Board meetings forward plan



Background

1. The Board will meet five times over the course of the Board cycle. The following table sets out a draft forward plan for members' comment. The plan will be updated and further content added throughout the cycle in response to current events and Board priorities.

Proposal

Date	Papers	Guest speaker(s)
30 September 2022	<p><i>Terms of reference</i></p> <p><i>Work programme</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Future of Cities</i> 2. <i>Levelling Up Economic inclusion</i> 3. <i>Urban resilience</i> 4. <i>Green jobs – retrofit skills</i> 5. <i>Growth funding</i> 	
23 November 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>LGA Business Plan</i> 2. <i>Future of Cities</i> 3. <i>Growth funding – implications of the fiscal event for city regions and urban areas</i> 4. <i>Levelling Up – recommendations from LU Locally Inquiry</i> 5. <i>Health devolution and NHS local growth work</i> 6. <i>Green jobs – retrofit skills update on BEIS project</i> 	Simon Kaye, Reform

	7. <i>Learning from place pilots</i>	
25 January 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future of Cities – preparations for summit 2. Levelling Up – next steps for Work Local; overview on economic development teams’ skills needs and the LEP integration process; 3. Urban resilience – Bristol heat map 4. Green jobs 5. Growth funding project 	<p>Shared Intelligence</p> <p>Bristol officer; Space Syntax</p>
22 March 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future of Cities 2. Levelling Up Locally next steps 3. Findings from economic inclusion work 4. Urban resilience 5. Green jobs - retrofit skills project update and next steps 6. Growth funding – project findings 	
14 June 2023	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future of Cities 2. Levelling Up Locally next steps 3. Urban resilience 4. Green jobs 5. Growth funding – project findings 6. Board’s annual report 	

Next steps

1. With Ministerial portfolios now confirmed, officers will draft an invitation to Dehenna Davison MP, Levelling Up Minister, to join a future Board meeting.

Meeting: City Regions Board

Date: 23 November 2022



Theme 2: Future of Cities Update

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

This report outlines work since the last board meeting on the Future of Cities: City Citizen videos and plans to hold a second urban summit, in conjunction with Core Cities and the RSA in March 2023. It proposes that the aim of the summit would be to bring together the complementary strands of works from the RSA, Core Cities and the City Regions Board, as well as other work being carried out by London Councils and Key Cities and agree a series of propositions which would then be used for joint lobbying to Government and to influence political manifestos ahead of the next general election.

Is this report confidential? No

Recommendation/s

Members are asked to note progress on the *Future of Cities: City Citizens* videos and provide feedback on the first cuts of two of the videos.

Officers will continue to work with *The means* to complete the *Future of Cities: City Citizens* project, continue to liaise with the RSA, Core Cities and other key stakeholders to arrange an urban summit for late March 2023 which will bring together several strands of work and produce a series of propositions for agreement at the summit to feed into future lobbying work.

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Theme 2: Future of Cities Update



Outcome and Purpose

1. The purpose of this project is to reach an agreed set of asks and offers around the future of cities, which can be used to feed into the LGA's lobbying to Government and political manifestos ahead of the next general election. This will be achieved through bringing together the voices of city leaders, experts, and now urban residents, to draw on their understanding of how cities need to change to meet the needs of the future.
2. Key stakeholders to engage for this work include the RSA, Core Cities, Key Cities, London Councils and 3Ci. Officers will continue to work with these organisations, particularly where similar projects can be brought together.
3. The desired outcome of this work is that leaders of our city regions will be empowered to play a key role to play in the shaping of cities in the future, ensuring that they are inclusive, flourishing regions able to manage global challenges.

Background

4. At the last meeting of the City Regions Board, members heard from *The Means* and their partners who had been commissioned to carry out work on the *Future of Cities: City Citizens* project.
5. This project aims to supplement the essays and videos already included in the [Future of Cities online collection](#). It will highlight a broad range of perspectives and include voices not often heard in the debate around what cities of the future should be like through a series of six videos, each filmed in a different city, with urban residents talking about their experiences of city life and how cities could change to help them meet their aspirations in the future.
6. At the September Board meeting, members fed back on the cities presented as options for filming. Following comments from members during the meeting and an email to members following the meeting, the following locations were chosen:
 - 6.1 Wrexham
 - 6.2 London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
 - 6.3 Birmingham
 - 6.4 Norwich
 - 6.5 Plymouth
 - 6.6 Newcastle

7. Members also fed back that they would like to see the impact of the cost of living and the health and wellbeing implications of cities to be incorporated into the interviews that shape the filming. Members also noted that as far as possible within the constraints of six videos, they would like a proper matrix that accounts for income levels, background, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and disabilities should be applied.
8. Members also fed back on the proposal to hold a second urban summit, and asked officers to work with Core Cities and the RSA to ensure that the Board's work aligns with the UK Urban Future Commission.

Proposal

9. Following the meeting, officers have continued to work with *The means*. At the time of writing, three of the six videos have been filmed – in Richmond, Wrexham and Birmingham, and work is underway to recruit and select participants to be filmed in Norwich, Plymouth and Newcastle. A first cut of two of these videos (Richmond and Birmingham) will be ready to be shown at the Board meeting.
10. Officers have also progressed plans to hold a second urban summit. Officers met with Core Cities and have agreed to bring together the Board's Future of Cities work and the UK Urban Futures Commission, which has been commissioned by Core Cities and is being carried out by the RSA.
11. The UK Urban Futures Commission has looked at very similar themes to the Future of Cities work, including looking at the three questions posited at the urban summit held in March: "What are cities?", "What do we need our cities to be?" and "What is the difference and how do we get them there?". By March, the RSA aims to have produced work looking at the first two of these questions, and the summit could be an opportunity to present the findings from these workstreams and receive input from city leaders and urban experts on these findings.
12. The summit will also provide an opportunity to launch the *City Citizen* videos, which are due to be completed in December. These videos will be used to inform the discussions that take place at the summit and ensure that less often heard voices are included as part of these debates.
13. The urban summit is planned to take place in late March, and a date will be agreed and circulated before the end of the year. Officers will bring a full agenda for agreement to the next meeting of the Board in January. The ultimate aim of the summit is to bring together the complementary strands of works from the RSA, Core Cities and the City Regions Board, as well as other work being carried out by London Councils and Key Cities and agree a series of propositions which would then be used for joint lobbying to Government and political manifestos ahead of the next general election.
14. These propositions will be drawn from the existing Future of Cities collection, the discussions at the previous urban summit, and the *City Citizen* videos, but members may wish to suggest themes or ideas that they would like to be included. For example, it may be useful to consider the Board's work related to urban resilience or the economic composition of cities within a broader policy context.

Implications for Wales

15. This work is being carried out within the context of the Levelling Up White Paper, which presents a vision for the UK. While many of the investment and policy levers are likely different within the Welsh context there will be value in drawing on the experience of Welsh cities, and one of the six videos has been filmed in the Welsh city of Wrexham. This ensures that a Welsh perspective has been included as part of the diverse range of urban experiences that the *Future of Cities: City Citizens* project aims to highlight.

Financial Implications

16. The cost of commissioning the series of videos capturing the views of urban residents, the cost of arranging an urban summit as well as any additional policy activity arising from this paper will be met from the Board's policy and research budget.

Equalities implications

17. The specification for the Future of Cities: City Citizens project explicitly stated that we expect the supplier to recruit a diverse group of people, and this was reiterated in both the previous Board meeting and in subsequent meetings with *The means*. The specification also stated that the bidder must demonstrate an understanding of the equality and diversity issues relevant to the project. All bidders were required to provide a detailed explanation of how these equalities issues will be addressed in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project.

18. Similarly, officers will ensure that the urban summit has a diverse range of speakers which reflects the diversity of cities in the UK.

Next steps

19. Officers will continue to work with *The means* to produce six videos encapsulating the views of a diverse group of city citizens.

20. Officers will also work with Core Cities and the RSA to agree a date and agenda for the urban summit and bring this to the January meeting of the Board.

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