

Chief Executive's Report – July 2016

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2015/16 centres on five priorities:

- Funding for local government
- Devolution
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Economic growth, jobs and housing
- Sector-led improvement

The six-weekly Chief Executive's report sets out the LGA's main achievements against those priorities. In part two, the report summarises the LGA's media outreach and provides an update of membership related activity.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for July 2016.

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Report – July 2016

LGA Annual Conference 5-7 July 2016

1. It would be remiss of me to begin this month's report without a review of the 2016 LGA Annual Conference in Bournemouth – my first as Chief Executive of the LGA. Members will consider separately the detailed feedback from delegates but my observation was that this was a successful event, which both progressed our existing five priorities, launched two important documents and highlighted some substantial new areas of work for the LGA to engage in on behalf of the sector.
2. In summary:
 - 2.1 1600 delegates attended Annual Conference. The conference programme covered all of our five priorities with 76 speakers covering topics in plenary sessions, workshops and our Innovation Zone.
 - 2.2 We welcomed 4 Members of Parliament to speak at conference, led by Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who gave a key note address. All of the DCLG ministerial team attended conference.
 - 2.3 We launched our discussion paper 'What next for devolution?' sharing 800 paper copies with delegates in addition to 910 downloads of the document. Our Housing Commission also launched with 600 paper copies of our report shared and a further 853 copies downloaded.
 - 2.4 On Twitter, our hashtag #LGAconf16 attracted 703 posts from 464 users. Our handle @LGAcomms tweeted 233 times, these were retweeted 737 times with potential Impressions of 5.3 million.
 - 2.5 Our gold sponsor at conference this year was CCLA. Our silver sponsor, Newton Europe, supported the Innovation Zone and ENGIE exclusive sponsor of the Local Authority Chief Executives' Dinner.
 - 2.6 I would like to take the opportunity formally to thank all the members and staff who worked so hard to make the event such a success in the context of post-Brexit uncertainty and a rapidly evolving national political picture.

Achievements against our five priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for Local Government

- 3.1. **100 per cent Business rates retention: policy development** – continued joint work with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on the development of the policy. The LGA's member Task and Finish Group met in June, the officer steering group also met in June, and the five officer working groups continue to meet. Regular meetings for all these groups are planned up to December. Further information is available [here](#).
- 3.2. **100 per cent Business rates retention: engagement with local authorities** – officers attended a number of events including meetings of Chief Executives and Chief Finance Officers in the regions and in county areas, and support for the Chief Executives' Sounding Board, as well as presenting to external conferences.
- 3.3. **Guide to Business rates retention** – published '[Don't be left in the dark: What localised business rates mean for your council: a guide to business rates retention](#)' to provide members and officers

with the latest information on the changes to business rates.

- 3.4. **Sector led body for making appointments of auditors** – entered a submission to the first stage in DCLG’s process that will lead to the ‘specification’ of a sector led body (SLB) for making appointments of auditors. Since March 2016, over 200 councils have expressed an interest in opting-in to an SLB.

Priority 2 – Devolution

- 4.1 **Devolution green paper** – produced a [keynote paper](#) that was launched at the LGA Annual Conference with the aim of initiating a national conversation across local government and beyond regarding devolution and will significantly shape the LGA’s future policy and support offer.
- 4.2 **Devolution support (events)** – held three well-received events on devolution focusing on: communications (hosted by Newcastle City Council); the role of parish and town councils (a joint event with NALC); and, the role of the councillor in a devolved context.
- 4.3 **Devolution support (publications)** – prepared three reports for publication at conference: [a guide to establishing a combined authority](#); [a report on international examples of local governance arrangements](#); and, [a set of devolution FAQs for officers, members and parliamentarians](#).
- 4.4 **Devolution support (places)** – continued to provide direct support to councils across the country, including a formal offer of support to a devolution deal area.
- 4.5 **Devolution support (research)** – commissioned research from the New Economics Foundation into community engagement activity in combined authority areas; launched [new research](#) that shows how devolution of economic growth, transport, skills and business support could further grow the visitor economy.
- 4.6 **RSA Inclusive Growth commission** – LGA officers attended initial funders meetings to frame objectives and ambitions of the project and two evidence gathering seminars on skills and productivity.
- 4.7 **Leading Places project** – arranged the first meetings of the joint pilot project between Universities UK, the LGA and the Higher Education Funding Council for England focused on facilitating strengthened relationships between universities and local councils for early July.

Priority 3 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing

- 5.1 **Sustainability and Transformation Plans** – continued to support local government and their partners in developing STPs. This includes participation by the Chief Executive in challenge sessions with senior NHS colleagues, led by Simon Stephens. LGA colleagues continue to work with regional leads to support regional development of STPs.
- 5.2 **Health and care integration** – the LGA, NHS Confederation, and NHS Clinical Commissioners launched ‘[Stepping up to the Place: the key to successful health and care integration](#)’ at the NHS Confederation annual conference on 15 June to a positive and receptive NHS audience. The integration self-assessment tool launched at the LGA Annual Conference is available [here](#).
- 5.3 **NHS Five Year Forward View Board** – The Chief Executive has been invited to sit on the NHS FYFV Board alongside the Chief Executives of the NHS Arms-Length bodies.
- 5.4 **Supporting unaccompanied children and refugees** – worked with Government, regional leads and partners on the new transfer scheme for unaccompanied children, which is expected to start in July.
- 5.5 **Syrian refugee settlement** – published a guide for local authorities on Syrian refugee settlement, available [here](#).

- 5.6 **Social Care Providers Summit** – held a summit with social care providers on the challenges facing the social care sector with a view to influencing the next spending review.
- 5.7 **Carers** – the LGA is now part of a Department of Health (DH)-led group working on the new Carers Strategy. The LGA will produce a submission to the call for evidence to inform the development of the new strategy.
- 5.8 **End of Life Care** – a session was held for members examining the issues around End of Life Care. As a result the LGA has joined the Ambitions Partnership, whose role is to coordinate national policy and delivery.
- 5.9 **Armed Forces** – held an event with the Ministry of Defence (MOD), councils and stakeholders on the emerging findings from the armed forces covenant review, examining the results of the council consultation, which has seen a 55% response rate.
- 5.10 **War Disablement Pension** – received confirmation that the War Disablement Pension, which will now be fully disregarded in social care contributions, will be fully funded, as called for by the LGA in its 2015 spending review submission.

Priority 4 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 6.1 **Apprenticeship Levy** - worked with DCLG, BIS and other government departments to ensure councils get the right advice and help to take forward the ambitious government apprenticeship policy.
- 6.2 **Bus Services Bill** – welcomed a number of aspects of the Bill introduced into the House of Lords, but called for franchising powers to be automatically available to all areas and for proposals to prevent the creation of new municipal bus companies to be dropped.
- 6.3 **Transport consultations** - responded to the Department for Transport's consultations on the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and Reducing Roadworks disruption to local 'A' roads.
- 6.4 **Supported housing for vulnerable people (letter)** – the LGA Chairman wrote to the Chancellor, and the Departments of Health, Communities and Local Government and Work and Pensions to reflect the concerns of LGA members on the proposal to introduce a cap on the amount of housing benefit those in supported housing can receive.
- 6.5 **Supported housing for vulnerable people (event)** - the LGA held a joint event with the National Housing Federation for councils to discuss future funding models for supported housing.
- 6.6 **Planning Advisory Service (PAS)** - worked with planning authorities to develop proposals for transformational work associated with the localised setting of planning fees. Also promoted the PAS support offer for this year, details of which are [here](#).
- 6.7 **Superfast broadband** – submitted responses to the Government's consultation on the broadband Universal Service Obligation and to Ofcom's Call for evidence on its design and implementation.

Priority 5 - Sector-led Improvement

- 7.1 **Children's Services Improvement** – published action research on improvement in children's services, including a practical summary for Lead Members for Children's Services and senior leaders, available [here](#).
- 7.2 **TEDD 100 Initiative** - launched an initiative to help councils understand their workforce culture, values and engagement. TEDD – [The Employment Deal Diagnostic](#) – helps councils assess the level of engagement of employees and the impact managers have on improving employee performance.

- 7.3 **Innovation Zone at LGA Annual Conference** – the LGA’s [Innovation Zone](#) offered a full programme on the themes of leadership, collaboration, digitalisation, integration of services and tools of innovation.
- 7.4 **Innovative Councils Knowledge Hub Group** – refreshed this [Group](#) to cover all things innovation in local government. It builds on the previous Creative Councils Group through which six councils and their partners received funding to develop, implement and spread transformational new approaches.
- 7.5 **Learning from our Digital Experts Programme** – conducted a [review](#) of this Programme, which revealed that councils have saved millions of pounds by going digital.
- 7.6 **Latest Shared Services Map** - launched [the latest shared services map](#), which helps people to learn about what other councils are doing before embarking on new shared services projects and to help find partners for new shared services.
- 7.7 **Be a Councillor campaign** - launched the Be a Lancashire Councillor campaign at the LGA Conference, and secured funding for the Be a Birmingham Councillor campaign ahead of all out elections there in 2018.
- 7.8 **E-learning for councillors** – released an e-learning module on Licensing and Regulation module, available [here](#).
- 7.9 **Evaluation of our leadership development offer** – began an evaluation of the impact of our leadership development offer for councillors to better understand how their learning has become embedded.
- 7.10 **Evaluating the effectiveness of our National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp)** – began an evaluation of the effectiveness of the ngdp in order to gather feedback on the success of the programme and to learn more about the different journeys that graduates have taken.

Other membership activity

Media and Public Affairs

8. The LGA was mentioned **85 times** in the Houses of Parliament.
9. The LGA gave evidence to **3 parliamentary inquiries** (including oral evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on discharging older people from hospital and written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee’s inquiry into local plan-making).
10. The LGA circulated formal written briefings to MPs and Peers for **7 parliamentary debates**. We briefed on, and suggested amendments to, a range of primary legislation including the Children and Social Work Bill, the Policing and Crime Bill and the Bus Services Bill.
11. Our Annual Parliamentary Reception included opening speeches from LGA Chairman Lord Porter, LGA Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes, LGA President Lord Kerslake and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP.

Media Source	Issue
BBC Daily Politics, BBC News channel, BBC Radio 5 Live	The LGA's concerns about the implications of the National Living Wage on stretched adult social care budgets.
Mail	Asylum, Refugee and Migration Taskforce Chairman Cllr David Simmonds's warning that councils may have to increase council tax to help pay for looking after child refugees, unless there is additional funding from government.
Telegraph, FT Online	Resources Portfolio Holder Cllr Claire Kober's response to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's report on business rates.
BBC Online, Guardian Online, ITV Online.	The LGA's response to the 'Leave' vote in the EU referendum, calling for councils to play a key part in decision making over how to replace EU laws and for powers to be devolved to local areas.
Times	The LGA's view that the planning system is not a barrier to development.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's call for the universal minimum broadband speed to rise in line with the national average to ensure areas are not left too far behind
Guardian	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's call for supported housing to be made exempt from the benefit cap.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's concerns about how discounted starter homes will be out of reach for the majority of people who most need them.
FT	The LGA's warning about a growing construction skills shortage.
BBC Radio 2, LBC, Times, i paper, Express, Mirror, Sun, Mail, ITV Online, Sky News Online, BBC Radio 5 Live.	The LGA's release on how efforts to reduce smoking are being undermined by the black market in illegal tobacco, with a follow-up interview by Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn.
Guardian Online	Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Portfolio Cllr Gillian Ford's comments on how health and wellbeing boards are tackling mental illness.
Independent Online, BBC Online	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's response to a National Audit Office report on delayed discharges from hospital.
Mail Online, Guardian Online, Independent Online	The LGA's response to new quarterly statistics on the number of identified cases of FGM in England.
Mail Online	Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Vice Chair Cllr Martin Tett's concerns about the serious public health risk caused by litter and fly-tipping
Telegraph, Times, Mail, Express, i paper, Star, ITV Online, Mirror Online, Metro Online, ITV News, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC	The LGA's release ahead of Child Safety Week warning of the dangers of children mistaking laundry tablets for sweets, with one case being reported every day, with follow-up interviews by Community Wellbeing spokesman Cllr Jonathan McShane.
Mail	The LGA's lines on how councils are working with schools and parents to restrict the growth of hot food takeaways near schools to help combat childhood obesity.
BBC Online, Guardian, Sun, Mirror, Mail, Times, Telegraph and Express Online, BBC Radio 5 Live	The LGA's warning about the number of children developing Type 2 diabetes as a result of being overweight or obese, with a follow-up interview by Community Wellbeing spokesman Cllr Jonathan McShane.
Times, Guardian	The LGA's reaction to NHS Chief Executive Simon Stevens' statement to the NHS Confederation conference that extra funding intended for the NHS should instead be invested in social care
Guardian, BBC Online, Sun Online, Mirror, Mail, Times, Telegraph, FT	The LGA's response to the High Court ruling in favour of a father who refused to pay a fine for taking his daughter on holiday in term time
Sunday Times	Children and Young People Vice Chair Cllr Richard Watts's comments

	about the increasing competition for good-quality school places.
BBC Online	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry's response to the Children and Social Work Bill and Education For All Bills.
Mail Online, Good Morning Britain, BBC Radio 4's You and Yours	The LGA's call for a common sense approach to term-time holidays, with follow-up interviews by Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry.
BBC Online, Mail Online	The LGA's response to the latest school applications and offers statistics.
Times	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Roy Perry's comments about how councils are doing everything they can to support 100 per cent attendance at school.
BBC Online	The LGA's call for a change in the law to make parents declare when their children are being home-educated.
Independent Online, BBC Online	Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder Cllr Izzi Seccombe's response to a National Audit Office report on delayed discharges from hospital.
BBC Breakfast, TalkSport, Metro, Mail Online, ITV Online, Express Online, BBC Radio 5 Live	The LGA's release on how councils are warning communities to prepare for flash flooding, with a follow-up interview by Environment spokesman Cllr Martin Tett.
BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Breakfast, BBC News channel, BBC Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 5 Live, Channel 5 news bulletins, Times, Guardian, i paper, Mirror, Telegraph Online, BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast	The LGA's release warning of a surge in online ticket fraud, with follow-up interviews by Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming.
BBC Online, Guardian, Mirror Online, Sun, BBC Radio 4's Today	The LGA's release about 'legal highs' being criminalised under the Psychoactive Substances Act, highlighting that councils led calls for the new law.
FT, BBC Online, Sky News Online, Mail Online	The LGA's response to a new report on flood prevention by the Environmental Audit Committee.
Mail	The LGA's call for the maximum bet on fixed-odds betting terminals to be reduced from £100 to £2.
Sunday Express, BBC	The LGA's release on how councils across the country helped more than 1,000 street parties take place to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday
Telegraph, Times, Express, Mail, Mirror, Sun, Star, i paper, Independent Online, BBC Online, ITV Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, BBC News, BBC Radio 5 Live, TalkSport news bulletin	The LGA's release calling for fire-risk tumble dryers to be recalled

Layden House and Local Government House

- After a lengthy pre-application process, Islington's planning committee approved our application for the refurbishment and redevelopment of Layden House on 12 July. Plans for the temporary relocation of the LGA to Layden House during the refurbishment of Local Government House are now moving forward, with a target date of end October/early November for the move. In the meantime, the application for the seventh floor extension and relocation of plant at Local Government House have been submitted to Westminster City Council for consideration.

LGA Membership

13. Seven local authorities and National Parks England – are on notice to leave LGA membership on 31st March 2017. Three local authorities remain out of membership.

On notice to leave on 31 March 2017

- 13.1 East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
- 13.2 Hartlepool Borough Council
- 13.3 Gosport Borough Council
- 13.4 Waverley Borough Council (rolled over)
- 13.5 Preston City Council (rolled over)
- 13.6 West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
- 13.7 London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
- 13.8 National Parks England (corporate membership for 10 English National Parks)

Out of membership

- 13.9 London Borough of Bromley
- 13.10 London Borough of Wandsworth
- 13.11 London Borough of Barnet

Membership visits for the Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
10 th June	Surrey CEXs' meeting
13 th June	LGA Annual Parliamentary Reception
14 th June	Association of NE Councils
14 th June	Hartlepool Borough Council
16 th June	MJ Awards
17 th June	Yorkshire and Humber CEXs' meeting
17 th June	Wakefield Metropolitan Borough Council
21 st June	Public Services People Managers' Association conference
28 th June	Five Year Forward View NHS England Leadership Event
29 th June	National Housing Federation
5 th -7 th July	LGA Annual Conference
8 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
11 th June	LGIU APPG Parliamentary Reception
13 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: North Region
14 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: London Region
15 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: South Region
18 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
Forward plan: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
22 nd July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
25 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: Midlands and East Region
Deputy Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
16 th -17 th June	NHS Confederation Conference

22 nd June	Public Services People Managers' Association conference
23 rd June	LGC and HSJ summit
24 th June	LGA, NHS England, NHS Improvement and Public Health England visit to Havering Council
29 th June	Health+Care conference
5 th -7 th July	LGA Annual Conference
6 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: South Region
8 th July	Association of Local Authority Treasurers' Societies meeting
12 th July	King's Fund event
13 th -14 th July	CIPFA conference
20 th July	Sustainability and Transformation Plan event: North Region
Forward plan: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
28 th July	King's Fund event
Associate Director's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
10 th June	West Midlands Combined Authority
10 th June	Staffordshire
15 th June	West Midlands Combined Authority
20 th June	Brighton
30 th June	Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset
1 st July	West Midlands Combined Authority
8 th July	West Midlands Combined Authority
13 th July	West Midlands Combined Authority
19 th July	Sheffield City Region
Forward plan: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
2 nd Sept	West Midlands Combined Authority
13 th Sept	West Midlands Combined Authority
Head of Workforce's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
13 th -14 th July	London Borough of Southwark
18 th July	London Borough of Southwark
Forward Plan: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
25 th July	Cheltenham Borough Council
Head of Policy's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
1 st July	London Borough of Croydon
Forward Plan: 21st July – 14th September 2016	
15 th August	Halton Borough Council
15 th August	Sefton Council CEXs
Head of Improvement's Membership Visits: 9th June – 20th July 2016	
16 th June	Worcester City Council
17 th June	London Borough of Harrow
1 st July	London Councils
18 th July	London Borough of Brent