

Chief Executive's Monthly Report – October 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 activities and provides an update of membership related activity.

The LGA's Business Plan is currently being updated and a draft plan for 2016/17 is included as a separate item on the Agenda.

Recommendation

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

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Monthly Report – October 2016

Achievements against our five priorities

Priority 1 – Funding for Local Government

- 1.1 **Autumn Statement Submission** – the submission details three objectives that must be pursued: 'creating the conditions for change', including continued momentum on devolution and sustainability; 'delivering opportunities for all' through investment in housing, transport, digital connectivity and skills and employment infrastructure; and 'supporting everyone to contribute and benefit' by ensuring the sustainability of vital local services.
- 1.2 **Communities and Local Government Committee [inquiry](#) into adult social care** – LGA Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup gave oral evidence on the announcement of the council tax precept and the additional funding via the Better Care Fund. The LGA provided [written evidence in August 2016](#), emphasising the need for additional adult social care funding to be made available in 2016 to help, rather than by the end of the Spending Review period.
- 1.3 **Business Rates Retention** – around 250 people attended six joint LGA/DCLG regional events in late August and early September on the business rates retention consultation and call for evidence. Following approval by Leadership Board and Executive, we submitted our response to the consultation.
- 1.4 **Technical Consultation on 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement** – began work on response to DCLG consultation on proposals for the distribution of improved Better Care Fund, council tax referendum principles and the methodology for adjusting for the impact of the 2017 business rates revaluation on councils' incomes.
- 1.5 **Early Years Funding: Changes to Funding for 3 and 4 Year Olds Consultation** – responded to the Department for Education consultation on proposals for a new early years national funding formula from April 2017. The LGA argued against constraints on local flexibility and highlighted concerns about the viability of proposals for the implementation of the additional 15 hours for working parents.
- 1.6 **Temporary Accommodation Management Fee** – following a number of discussions with the Department for Work & Pensions we have been able to secure £1.5 million of new burdens funding for local authorities to help manage the funding shortfalls for temporary accommodation arising from the changes to the housing benefit subsidy payment.

Priority 2 – Devolution

- 2.1 **Combined Authorities** – continued working directly with combined authorities to develop and deliver a tailored package of support. Hosted the inaugural Combined Authorities Chief Executives Network meeting.
- 2.2 **Communities** – received a report commissioned from the New Economics Foundation examining best methods of community engagement in devolution areas; launched our new national devolution conference 'Shaping devolution: the role for communities' to be held on 17 Oct at LGH.
- 2.3 **RSA Inclusive Growth commission** – interim report launched at Core Cities business summit on 22 September. Round table discussions to gather further evidence held at both the Labour and Conservative Party conferences.
- 2.4 **Rural Tourism** – submitted evidence to the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (EFFRA) Committee inquiry into rural tourism, highlighting the importance of councils' role in the visitor economy and the benefits that could be secured through greater devolution.

2.5 **Leading Places project** – Gloucestershire and Newcastle’s joint senior leadership teams have confirmed their themes for the local priority challenge with the remaining four pilot areas expected to confirm their themes by the end of September. A temporary LGA hosted microsite for the project has been launched

Priority 3 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1 **Social Care** – responded to a report by the Kings Fund and Nuffield Trust on cuts to social care, supporting their view about the urgent need for government to properly fund adult social care and supporting calls for a fresh debate on how best to support future social care.
- 3.2 **Hospital discharges** – responded to a report from the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee on unsafe discharge from hospitals and welcomed the Committee’s recommendation that the government should set out how it would adequately fund adult social care, and integrate health and social care plans across the country.
- 3.3 **Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** – undertook a survey to seek views from Directors of Children’s Services on how efforts to transform CAMHS are progressing. Results will inform the planned LGA’s ‘State of the Nation Report’ and identify key recommendations for national partners to support local transformation, and highlight good practice underway in some areas.
- 3.4 **Health Outcomes** – published ‘Commissioning for Better Health Outcomes’, a guide developed with commissioners from councils and partner organisations, building on existing learning and resources and sharing new and innovative practice developed by those working to improve public health.
- 3.5 **Soft Drinks Industry Levy Consultation** – responded to the government’s [Soft Drinks Industry Levy Consultation](#) which ended on 13th October, amongst previous calls for fundamental reforms of sugar levels in soft drinks and sugar labelling, calorie counts on menus in chain restaurants and for powers to ban junk food advertising near schools.
- 3.6 **Public Health** – urged government to make traffic light labelling showing the nutritional content of food and drink a legal requirement.
- 3.7 **Troubled Families Programme Inquiry** – submitted written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry in to the Troubled Families Programme.
- 3.8 **Health statistics** – responded to government figures showing that routine childhood vaccination coverage had fallen slightly for a third consecutive year; responded to dental statistics published by NHS Digital showing that more than a third of children had not been to a dentist in the past 12 months..

Priority 4 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 4.1 **Infrastructure and growth** – attended the British Property Federation and Senior Council Managers’ joint reflective session with civil servants and leaders from the development industry on infrastructure and growth in Milton Keynes. This followed an earlier event held in Southampton. Key messages will be shared widely with local government, the development industry and Government.
- 4.2 **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – continued working with partners to help the Homelessness Reduction Bill best achieve its overall aim. We gathered information and views from member authorities and independent experts to inform discussions ahead of the Bill’s second reading in the House of Commons on 28 October.
- 4.3 **[Come Back to Social Work Campaign](#)** – launched this campaign aimed at addressing the shortage of experienced social workers in partnership with DfE and DH on the 6 September. The programme is the first national campaign of its kind and offers former social workers a free refresher programme

to prepare them for registration with the HCPC and employment within councils.

- 4.4 **[Up to Speed campaign](#)** – launched this campaign, which aims to ensure every resident and business has access to faster broadband. It provides an [online tool](#) to enable councils and residents to test their area's broadband, map local broadband speeds and provides further information on how to make the best broadband accessible.
- 4.5 **Waste and Recycling** – responded to the invitation from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee to submit evidence to the inquiry into the economic, social and environmental impact of food waste in England.
- 4.6 **Brexit** – presented at the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers AGM on the implications of Brexit.
- 4.7 **Commercial Waste Service** – supported Treasury and HMT to successfully defend a judicial review of the VAT exemption for council commercial waste services.
- 4.8 **Fuel poverty** – responded to a DECC consultation on the future of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding for energy efficiency; responded to Ofgem on opening up funding from voluntary redress payments by energy companies to a wider group of stakeholders including councils.

Priority 5 - Sector-led Improvement

- 5.1 **Member Peer Conference** – over 100 councillors from all regions attended the conference on 8 September to network, hear and contribute to the LGA's latest sector-led improvement plans. An action plan for our Board members will take those ideas forward.
- 5.2 **Efficiency Plans** – together with CIPFA, consulted a group of local government colleagues and produced '[top tips](#)' for councils on producing an Efficiency Plan, for those considering the Government's multi-year settlement offer.
- 5.3 **One Public Estate** – launched the next phase of this [programme](#) inviting councils to apply by 28 October 2016 for up to £500,000 to support delivery of ambitious cross-public sector property-based projects that boost local growth, deliver more customer-integrated services, generate capital receipts and reduce running costs.
- 5.4 **Health and Social Care Integration** – following the launch in July of a [tool](#) in July to help local areas assess their readiness to develop and implement integration plans, the LGA is piloting it in a small number of areas and facilitating communication with local councils to share best practice.
- 5.5 **LG Inform Plus** – latest update of the LG Inform [Plus Powers and Duties Tool](#) guides users through the legislative framework that underpins all local authority, fire and rescue services. The tool now supports statutory and discretionary obligations arising in secondary legislation, including [a comprehensive single data sheet](#).
- 5.6 **Publishing elections data** – The LGA is leading on the National Action Plan for open government 2016-2018 core commitment. The [second round consultation](#) concluded on 14 October, building on an earlier first round and refinements and clarity provided by key stakeholders.
- 5.7 **Public Sector Audit Appointments** – PSAA has now been appointed as the dedicated sector-led national procurement body for appointing auditors. We are encouraging local authorities to opt-in and maximise the significant financial benefits that this scheme will offer.
- 5.8 **Be a Councillor** – East Sussex County Council's [Be a Councillor website](#) has now been published. This is the first council to purchase a package from the LGA, and demonstrates the

continued increase in the campaign's profile.

- 5.9 **Joint Practices** – refreshed the Joint Practical Statement of Purpose with Arts Council England, setting out how the two organisations will work together and support councils
- 5.10 **Gambling** – hosted a gambling licensing conference for councillors and officers and submitted evidence to the APPG Fixed Odds Betting Terminals inquiry.
- 5.11 **Prevent** – worked with the Home Office to provide training for Prevent officer peers.
- 5.12 **Domestic Homicide Reviews** – provided feedback on statutory guidance for local authorities on undertaking domestic homicide reviews.

Other membership activity

LGA Membership

1. Six local authorities and National Parks England remain on notice to leave the LGA on 31st March 2017. Three local authorities remain out of membership.

On notice to leave on 31 March 2017

- East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Gosport Borough Council
- Preston City Council (rolled over)
- West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
- London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
- National Parks England (corporate membership for 10 English National Parks)

Out of membership

- London Borough of Bromley
- London Borough of Wandsworth
- London Borough of Barnet

Membership visits for the Senior Management Team:

Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
16 September	LGC Summit
19 September	Five Year Forward View Board
23 September	Local Partnerships Strategy Board
26 September	West Midlands Combined Authorities Chief Executives Meeting
29 September	DCN Annual Conference
3 October	Sustainability and Transformation Plans Conference Call
4 October	NHS England Chief Executives Meeting on Sustainability and Transformation Plans
6-7 October	Greater Manchester and Wigan Council
12-14 October	SOLACE Summit – Gateshead
Forward plan: 20 October – 8 December 2016	
2-3 November	Leading Edge Programme Event
7 November	CCN Conference
10 November	UK Forum meeting – Edinburgh
11 November	SNCE and ACCE Conference
24 November	Chief Executive Sounding Board
25 November	ADEPT Conference
1-2 December	MJ Northern Forum
7 December	DCN Chief Executives Meeting
Deputy Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
16 September	East of England Chief Executive Forum

19 September	Scrutiny Task Group, Devolution of Business – Brent
21 September	LAMIT Council Meeting
22 September	Voluntary Organisation Disabilities Group Annual Conference
3 October	Business Rates Steering Group Meeting
3 October	Sustainability and Transformation Plans Chief Executive Conference Call
12-14 October	SOLACE Summit – Gateshead
Forward plan: 20 October – 8 December 2016	
2-5 November	NCAS Conference
9 November	Health and Social Care Integration Conference
24 November	Chief Executive Sounding Board
Associate Director's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
16 September	South West Leaders
19 September	Cornwall
26 September	Combined Authority Network
30 September	West Midlands Combined Authority
11 October	West Midlands Combined Authority
14 October	Heart of the South West
Forward plan: 20 October – 8 December 2016	
1 November	West Midlands Combined Authority
18 November	West Midlands Combined Authority
2 December	West Midlands Combined Authority
Head of Workforce's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
22 September	Shared Chief Executive Arrangements Review – Wychavon and Malvern Hills Councils
3 October	Head of HR at Southampton Council Meeting
13 October	Facilitating meeting of HR Business Partners at Bournemouth Council
17 October	Launching Timewise Councils Initiative – Cheltenham Council
Forward Plan: 20 October – 8 December 2016	
8 November	Shared Chief Executive Arrangements Review – Wychavon Council
9 November	Shared Chief Executive Arrangements Review – Wychavon Council
Head of Improvement's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
22 September	London Borough of Haringey
26 September	Southend-on-Sea
9 October	London Councils
Director of Communication's Membership Visits: 15 September – 19 October 2016	
9 September	Slough
21 September	Waltham Forest
5 October	Breckland
10 October	South Holland

Media and Public Affairs

2. During September the LGA was mentioned 42 times in Parliament and we submitted responses to **12 Parliamentary inquiries**. These included submissions to the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into the Homelessness Reduction Bill, outlining our concerns over increased statutory duties on councils, and to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee inquiry into the Government's industrial strategy, emphasising the need for national Government to work with councils within the framework of devolution.
3. We worked on three key pieces of legislation in September:
 - **Digital Economy Bill:** Ahead of the Second Reading, we briefed Parliamentarians on our support for a broadband Universal Service Obligation and easy switching of providers for consumers
 - **Policing and Crime Bill:** At Committee Stage in the Lords we highlighted our demand that fire and rescue governance is transferred to PCCs only where there is local agreement
 - **Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill:** On publication of the Bill, we reiterated our call for greater council flexibility on housing developments.
4. LGA members took part in 64 speaking opportunities at fringe events across the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative Party conferences. With sponsors Huawei, we hosted two debates and a reception at each conference on technology in public services.

Media Source	Issue
Funding for Local Government	
BBC Online	Chairman of the CWB Board Cllr Izzi Seccombe presented the LGA's lines on the funding pressures facing social care, after NHS England data showed a doubling in the number of patients delayed in hospital due to shortages of council home help or care home places.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's lines on the social care funding crisis amid reports the funding gap facing social care will rise from £700 million to £2.9 billion a year by 2020, following the introduction of the National Living Wage.
BBC Online	The LGA's estimated £4 billion gap between what councils need and what they will receive as part of an analysis of the Government's plan for reform of the care system for the over-65s in England.
Mail Online, Independent Online	Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober presented the LGA's response to new government data comparing changes in council day-to-day expenditure across the last decade.
BBC Online	Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts presented the LGA's lines on funding for SEN children.
Independent Online	The LGA's statement in response to a report by ratings agency Moody's, about plans by some English local authorities to diversify their revenue through increased borrowing.
Devolution	
Guardian, BBC Online, Mirror Online	The LGA's response to the publication of the Government's National Flood Resilience Review, calling for flood defence funding to be devolved to local areas.
Promoting Health and Wellbeing	
Good Morning Britain, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC local radio, BBC Breakfast, Sun, Mirror, Mail Online,	CWB Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Board member Cllr Jonathan McShane and LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming gave interviews on the LGA's call for GPs to prescribe exercise

Express Online, BBC Online	outdoors to patients to get people doing more physical activity.
Express, Times	The LGA's call for people to undergo free health checks provided by councils, in response to new Public Health England figures revealing that there are now 3.8 million people in England aged 16 or over who have diabetes.
Guardian, BBC Online, Mail Online, Independent Online	The LGA's statement responding to new figures released by the Office for National Statistics about the number of drug-related deaths in 2015.
Mirror, Guardian Online, Telegraph Online, Express Online, Mail Online	The LGA's response to the latest NHS Digital figures on immunisations, calling for parents to ensure children are up-to-date with their vaccinations.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's response to new NHS Digital dental statistics which show that one in three children have not been to the dentist in the last 12 months calling for a national approach to the issue.
BBC Breakfast , BBC Radio 5 Live	Community Wellbeing Board member Cllr Jonathan McShane gave live interviews on the LGA's press release calling on the Government to make its traffic light scheme showing the nutritional content of food and drink mandatory.
BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, Telegraph, Sun, Mail Online, BBC Online, ITV Online	The LGA's lines on making the traffic light scheme showing the nutritional content of food and drink mandatory.
Mail Online	The LGA's response to new statistics from NHS Digital about a rise in Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments, about how government needs to fulfil its promise to overhaul the system as a matter of urgency and provide adequate funding for councils.
Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing	
Times, Telegraph, i paper, Express Online, BBC Online	People and Places Board Chairman Cllr Mark Hawthorne presented the LGA's press release calling for broadband providers to open up their data so people can more easily compare the estimated broadband speed they can receive direct to their home, rather than to their postcode.
BBC Radio 4's Today, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio London, Talk Radio,	Vice Chair Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton gave respective interviews about the LGA's press release calling for the Government to rethink its Pay to Stay policy.
BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, Times, Guardian, Sun, Mirror, i paper, Independent Online, Mail Online, Guardian Online	The LGA's lines on rethinking the Pay to Stay policy.
Metro, BBC Radio 4's Today programme, TalkSport	The LGA's press release calling for councils to be given more powers to help stop huge sums in unpaid business rate debts owed by licensed premises having to be written off.
Mail	Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober presented the LGA's lines on new ONS figures which show public sector employment is at its lowest since 1999.
Guardian Online, Express Online	The LGA's lines on the need for councils to be able to build and invest in more genuine affordable homes to help reduce homelessness and tackle growing council waiting lists.
i paper	The LGA's statement on new government quarterly figures on Right to Buy in England, which showed a 21 per cent rise in the sale of council homes compared to the same period last year.
BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5	The LGA's lines about councils providing suitable accommodation for homeless 16 and 17-year-olds.
Sunday Times	Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board Chair Cllr Martin Tett presented the LGA's lines that planning is not a barrier to housebuilding.
Sunday Times	EEHT Chair Cllr Tett was quoted presenting the LGA's call for

	government to raise the cap on planning fees charges, to reduce the amount of applications being subsidised by council taxpayers and help tackle the housing crisis.
Mail Online, Guardian Online	The LGA's statement in response to new figures showing a 10 per cent increase in the number of households classed as homeless in the past 12 months, calling for more powers and funding for councils to resume their role as a major builder of affordable homes.
Sector-led Improvement and Core Services	
BBC Breakfast, BBC News Channel, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC	Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman, Cllr David Simmonds was interviewed on the LGA's response to the Government's announcement that 20,000 local authority places required to resettle Syrian refugees by 2020 had been secured.
Sunday Telegraph, Mail Online, Independent Online, BBC Online, ITV Online	The LGA's response to the Government's announcement that 20,000 local authority places required to resettle Syrian refugees by 2020 had been secured.
Guardian	Cllr David Simmonds featured in a set-piece interview about how councils need more funding if they are to house lone children, following the Government's announcement that homes had been found for 20,000 Syrian refugees.
BBC Online	The LGA's lines that councils are supporting around 4,000 unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and how earlier involvement in assessing children in Calais would make it easier for councils to help them settle if they came to the UK.
Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Mail Online, Express Online	The LGA's response to an NAO report on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme and how councils are and will be helping some of the most vulnerable families fleeing Syria.
BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show, BBC Radio 5 Live	Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Children and Young People Board, was interviewed about the LGA's press release on the rise in children being home-schooled and concerns around illegal schools.
BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Online, Times, Guardian	The LGA's press release on the rise in children being home-schooled and concerns around illegal schools.
Express	The LGA's joint report with the Forces in Mind trust about how all public services can do more to support armed forces personnel and their families.
Telegraph	The LGA's release calling for the Government to ban "golden hellos" used by independent fostering agencies to entice foster carers away from local authorities, which contributes to the increasing cost of fostering services.
Express Online, Guardian Online	The LGA's support of an earlier High Court ruling that NHS England has the power to commission the HIV treatment PrEP following the launch of NHS England's appeal against the judgement.
Efficiency and Effectiveness	
Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast	Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was interviewed live about the LGA's press release calling for a national campaign on cliff safety, after a rise in cliff-related emergency responses and hospital admissions. Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn represented the LGA's lines on this issue.
BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live, Times, Guardian, Express Online, BBC Online	The LGA's press release calling for a national campaign on cliff safety, after a rise in cliff-related emergency responses and hospital admissions.
Guardian Online	The LGA's previous press release about how council maintained schools continue to outperform academies.

Mail	The LGA's lines on fixed odds betting machines and clustering of betting shops, in a story about a wide ranging review of gambling ordered by the Government.
BBC Online	Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board Chair Cllr Martin Tett comments on how councils were working with emergency services to minimise disruption in areas of flash flooding.
BBC Six O'Clock News, BBC Radio 4	Children and Young People Board Chairman Cllr Richard Watts responded to a report from the Children's Society about support for care leavers.
Telegraph Online	The LGA's recent call for people to report suspected scams to help tackle the cost of fraud after a 44 per cent increase in online rental fraud over the last year.
BBC Online	The LGA's estimate that metal thefts costs the country as much as £770 million a year, in a story about police joining forces with heritage experts to crack down on gangs stealing valuable metal
BBC Radio 4's World at One, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live, Mail, People	The LGA's lines on the rising cost of school uniforms, ahead of the start of the new school term.
People, Mirror Online	The LGA's previous warnings about the dangers of incompatible e-cigarette batteries.
ITV Online	The LGA's previous warning about dangerous tumble dryers catching fire and calling on manufacturers to recall faulty appliances.
Observer	The LGA's recommendation that councils must keep verges short to ensure motorists have a good line of sight and allow pedestrians to walk safely alongside busy roads, as well as to prevent the spread of weeds and invasive species into private gardens.
Guardian, Times, Telegraph, Mail, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live	Cllr Richard Watts highlighted concerns over an imminent crisis in family courts caused by a significant increase in the number of children on protection plans since 2007 and current and ongoing funding cuts.