Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – December 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.

|  |
| --- |
| **Recommendation**  That the Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive’s report for December 2016  **Action**  As directed by members. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contact officer:** | Mark Lloyd |
| **Position:** | Chief Executive |
| **Phone no:** | 020 7664 3237 |
| **Email:** | [mark.lloyd@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.lloyd@local.gov.uk) |

**Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – December 2016**

**Achievements against our five priorities**

|  |
| --- |
| **Priority 1 – Funding for Local Government**   * 1. **Business Rates Retention** – meetings of the officer-level steering group and working groups continued. DCLG is currently analysing feedback on the consultation and a further more detailed, technical consultation is expected to be published by the Government in December or January.   2. **2017 Business Rates Revaluation** – [responded](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/Consultation+on+the+transitional++arrangements+for+the++2017+revaluation+-+LGA+response.pdf/bcf2053c-8a6a-4e61-8493-f725dcab0740) to the DCLG consultation on transitional arrangements for the 2017 business rate revaluation, which outlined proposals to provide a transitional relief scheme to assist ratepayers in managing the impact of the changes from April 2017.   3. **Check Challenge Appeal: Reforming Business Rates Appeals** – [responded](http://local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7783321/CCA+-+consultation+on+statutory++implementation+-+LGA+response.pdf/f445220b-6fff-4766-b655-433ce1ffdeec) to the DCLG consultation on draft regulations for the statutory implementation of a new three-stage approach to business rates appeals: ‘check, challenge, appeal’ from April 2017.   4. **Funding for growth** – following on from the 2014 report, the LGA commissioned further independent research to understand how growth-related funding priorities of the Government has changed. In light of anticipated announcements of £1.8 billion of Round 3 Local Growth Funding, the report strengthens our call for the Government to urgently move towards a genuine single fund that all local areas and partnerships can use to invest in jobs and growth, flexibility in the delivery of vital infrastructure, skills and employment.   5. **Technical Consultation on 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement** – [responded](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/2017-18+LGFS+Technical+Consultation+-+LGA+Response+-++final.pdf/e2900a82-0623-477b-bfc9-34fc0507afdc) to the DCLG technical consultation, which included proposals for the distribution of improved Better Care Fund, referendum principles for council tax and the approach to adjust for the impact of the 2017 business rates revaluation on councils’ incomes |
| **Priority 2 – Devolution**   * 1. **Combined Authorities** – continued working directly with combined authorities to develop and deliver a tailored package of support. Finalising leadership development programme to be rolled out initially in Norfolk/Suffolk. Continued to support work of the West Midlands CA via their devolution strategy group and CA programme board.   2. **Education for All Bill** – we were successful in helping to encourage the Government to drop their plan to bring forward legislation that sought to turn all schools into academies.   3. **Bus Services Bill –** the LGA helped to plan, propose and support amendments which sought to ensure local authorities have the power to enforce moving traffic offences, as part of an advanced quality partnership scheme, making buses a more attractive mode of travel. The House of Lords Peers ageed two amendments that the LGA supported.   4. **Transport Committee Enquiry –** The LGA submitted evidence making the case for universal access to automatic franchising powers, for BSOG funding reforms, moving traffic offences enforcement powers and stating our disagreement on the clause that would prevent the creation of new municipal bus companies.   5. **Leading Places project –** All senior leadership teams have now met to confirm their local priorities and established a local challenge group to take forward delivery. A national peer challenge event will be held on 21 November and will be supported by a range of media activity.   6. **RSA Inclusive Growth commission –** First draft of LGA submission to the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission taken to City Regions Board. Final version to be submitted in December.  Round table discussions to gather further evidence to be held in Barking and Dagenham and Birmingham in December.   7. **Communities** – launched online guide and practical tools (produced by New Economics Foundation)  for best methods of community engagement in devolution at national devolution conference ‘Shaping devolution: the role for communities’.   8. **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. |
| **Priority 3 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing**   * 1. **Policing and Crime Bill** – at Committee Stage, we successfully supported amendments allowing licensing authorities to publish cumulative policies and target late night levies in their local area. We also supported amendments which would restrict the availability of gaming machines in betting shops, and other licensing amendments, which will be re-visited at Report Stage of the Bill.   2. **National Citizens Service Bill** – ahead of the NCS Bill’s introduction to Parliament, Cllr Richard Watts met with representatives of the NCS Trust to discuss the Bill and it’s intended aims and objectives.   3. **HIV treatment PReP** – successfully defended the High Court’s decision that NHS England had the power to commission the HIV treatment PrEP. The Court of Appeal ruled that NHS England’s powers included commissioning for preventative purposes.   4. **NCAS** – co-hosted the annual conference with ADASS between 2-4 November 2016. Speakers included government ministers, opposition spokespeople, the Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, CQC, NHSE and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. The LGA CYP Board led a number of successful sessionson topics including children’s services improvement, life chances and family stability, preventing child abuse and neglect, tackling radicalisation in schools and the mental health of looked after children and young people.   5. **UASC Summit** – the LGA hosted an emergency summit on unaccompanied asylum seeking children wishing to enter the UK from Calais. It was attended by the Minister for Immigration, officials from the DfE and the Home Office, local authority officers and elected members as well as voluntary and campaigning groups.   6. **Clean Air Zone Consultation** – Defra have launched a consultation on the implementation of Clean Air Zones (CAZs) in England. LGA officers met with officials representing the 5 cities and 3 other places that may consider a CAZ on a voluntary basis to help inform the LGA’s response to Defra’s consultation, which will include positions already established by the Board.   7. **Health and social care** – submitted written evidence to two inquiries, including the **Health Committee** inquiry into Brexit and health and social care. In addition, Cllr Gillian Ford gave oral evidence to the **All-Party Children’s Group** inquiry into children’s social care, and Cllr Izzi Seccombe gave evidence to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly inquiry into childhood obesity.   8. **Social care** – the Chief Executive gave oral evidence to the [House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/adult-social-care-16-17/), as part of their inquiry on social care. This session focused primarily on health and social care integration, funding for social care, and Sustainability and Transformation Plans. This was also an opportunity for the LGA to call for national action to adequately fund social care, following its omission from the recent Autumn Statement announcement.. The Committee will report in early 2017.   9. **AAPG for Children inquiry** – Cllr Gillian Ford (Vice Chair of CYP) gave oral evidence to an All Party Parliamentary Group for Children inquiry into children’s social care. She specifically spoke on inspection and accountability.   10. **Winter pressures in A&E** – responded to a Health Select Committee report with statement that social care should be properly funded in order to alleviate pressures on the NHS. A Populus Data Solutions poll for the LGA showed that two thirds of respondents thought that adult social care services should receive a higher proportion of health and care funding.   11. **Social care** – responded to a PwC survey on the health and social care system to say that care experiences could be improved and pressures in the service could be reduced if care and health worked closer together and that social care should have the same profile and priority as the NHS.   12. **Adult social care** – published reports 2016 State of the Nation report, Transforming social care through the use of information and technology, and Helping people look after themselves.   13. **Community care** – called for more patients to be looked after at home, following new research which revealed that up to one in four people admitted to hospital could be looked after elsewhere if better use was made of Council services available to treat people in the community.   14. **STPs** – called for councillors and communities to be involved in the planning process of Sustainability and Transformation Plans rather than being consulted afterwards on pre-determined solutions. In response to a report from the King’s Fund the LGA called for STPs to be underpinned by local political leadership, potentially through local Health and Wellbeing Boards.   15. **New pharmacy modernisation package** – responded to the Government’s announcement to affirm that Councils want all local areas to have a strong community pharmacy network, but called for them to have a bigger role in providing public health services alongside their existing roles.   16. **Public health** – renewed calls for reforms such as the mandatory reduction of sugar in soft drinks, better sugar labelling on food and drink products, calorie counts on menus in chain restaurants and for Councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising near schools following the recent publication of childhood obesity figures by NHS Digital.   17. **MPS Breakfast** – Cllr Gillian attended a breakfast briefing with the Metropolitan Policy Service on the Royal Society of the Art’s Safer Together Report and focused on protecting vulnerable children from sexual exploitation, abuse and radicalisation.   18. **FDAC Roundtable** – Cllr Gillian Ford also attending a roundtable at the Department for Education on the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC), chaired by Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for Children and Families. The attendees discussed the effectiveness of FDAC and how it can better use its findings to support local partners.   19. **Coram** – the Chair of the CYP Board, Cllr Richard Watts, attended a meeting with representatives from the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children to discuss regional adoption agencies, the commissioning of services through Coram and general views on the current state of children’s social services. |
| **Priority 4 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing**   * 1. **Digital Economy Bill** **Committee** – provided written evidence calling for amendments to the Bill that seek to ensure minimum speeds of broadband for all as part of the Universal Service Obligation (USO).   2. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill committee** – Cllr Tony Newman of our EEHT Board gave evidence highlighting our concerns about the proposed reforms to the use of planning conditions and have called for the introduction of locally-set planning fees to enable councils to deliver responsive planning services. We also provided written evidence to the Committee and a range of briefings.   3. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – the Bill received its Second Reading and we secured a commitment from Government to fund the new duties under the New Burdens Doctrine.   4. **Up to Speed Campaign –** continued to promote this campaign, while working with Parliamentarians to amend the digital economy bill and build greater strategic links with mobile network operators.   5. **Chairman’s meetings** – the Chairman of the EEHT Board, Cllr Martin Tett, met with Lord Gardiner (PUSoS for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity), the Rt Hon Gavin Barwell MP (Minister for Housing and Planning) and CEO of the National Joint Utilities Group, Bob Gallienne to promote the LGA’s positions including on rural connectivity, catelising development on sites which have received planning permission, and minimising disruption through streetworks.   6. **Financial Exclusion committee** – Cllr John Fuller gave evidence at this House of Lords for the financial exclusion committee. |
| **Priority 5 – Sector-led Improvement**   * 1. [**PSAA**](http://www.psaa.co.uk/supporting-the-transition/appointing-person/) **national scheme for auditor appointments** – PSAA sent opt-in invites to eligible bodies to the national scheme for auditor appointments. Formal responses to the invitation must be submitted by 9 March 2017 through full council/authority. Further information including a specimen report for seeking the decision from a full council is available [here](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMTExLjY2MjIxMjMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTExMS42NjIyMTIzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODY5MDE1JmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&114&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/external-audit/-/journal_content/56/10180/7534520/ARTICLE).   2. **National Commercial Skills Procurement** [**Solution**](http://www.local.gov.uk/csps) – launched our new skills procurement offer with YPO. This provides councils with a bespoke solution to finding specialist expertise, to make the delivery of commercial projects easier and ensuring councils pay a competitive price.   3. **Shared Service ‘Match Making’ Service** – LGA launched a match making service to provide assistance to support councils who wish to share services and/or management teams with other councils. The offer includes access to funding for a dedicated shared service expert and/or paid for external mediation advice and support.   4. **LGPS Advisory Board** – wrote to the Minister for Local Government to offer DCLG the Board secretariat’s assistance with key policy issues affecting the LGPS. This follows the Department’s loss of key staff on the pensions team over the course of the last year, as well the Department’s continued focus on the pooling agenda.   5. **LGPS investments** – [published a legal opinion](http://www.lgpsboard.org/index.php/board-publications/legal-opinions) on the application of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and whether the content of the Act means LGPS funds are subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority in respect of the investment of their own assets.   6. **Pensions Dashboard** – attended a HM Treasury panel session on the development of a ‘pensions dashboard’ by the pensions industry, which will allow members of the public to find details of all their pensions savings in one place. The session was a key opportunity to feedback to Government on the practical issues that need to be addressed in the design phase of the dashboard.   7. **Understanding the powers and duties bestowed on local government** – updated our [Powers & Duties](http://powersandduties.esd.org.uk/) application, added 600 new powers and duties (taking the total to 2,900), updated existing links to legislation, reviewed pre-existing advice, expanded the content in important topics and identified over 20 new services in areas such as education, public health and child welfare.   8. **Better use of data in local government** – concluded a joint LGA and NESTA project to identify case studies of innovative ways to re-use local data. The final report demonstrates the savings, improved services and innovation possible through better use of local data.   9. **Leadership** – produced and promoted [a new film](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwOTI4LjY0MzIyNDYxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDkyOC42NDMyMjQ2MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODU3NDQ0JmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&102&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/sector-led-improvement), showing our range of political leadership development programmes and resources helping individual councillors become more confident and effective. We have also updated the LGA’s political leadership development offer. The latest programme dates can be found [here](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwNzE5LjYxNzA0NDcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MDcxOS42MTcwNDQ3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODQxMDczJmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&109&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-development), and included recently run Leading Edge and Be A Councillor events.   10. **Leading Edge programme** – ran our first Leading Edge event designed to provide a safe space for Leaders and Chief Executives to work together on developing their leadership roles, exploring new ways of working and new models of service delivery.   11. **Be A Councillor** – launched our free e-Learning [module](http://lga-env002.pfiks.com/beacouncillor/) as part of our Be a Councillor campaign which covers what councillors do and a quick guide to local government, alongside events in Isle of Wight and Lancashire and new [case studies](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMDI3LjY1NTkzMDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTAyNy42NTU5MzA4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODY1MDA4JmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&117&&&http://beacouncillor.co.uk/meet-them/) to celebrate European Local Democracy Week.   12. **Prevent** – commissioned work to develop some scrutiny guidance for councils on local delivery of Prevent and counter-extremism and developed a new leadership essentials course on counter-extremism.   13. **Museums** **and libraries** – surveyed Heads of Culture about challenges and opportunities facing museums services; and responded to the DCMS consultation on the future of museums services. Worked with the LGA/DCMS Libraries Taskforce to finalise our shared Vision for library services, including funding to support diversification and transformation.   14. **A vision for finding the right** [**local services**](http://about.esd.org.uk/news/vision-finding-right-local-services) – LGA working with data standards experts and local public service providers to find a better way to identify and match local services to the needs of citizens and the places they serve. A pilot working group formed of local authorities, voluntary sector, health, community groups and private sector is underway in NW region.   15. **Culture and sport** – delivered culture and sport leadership essentials courses, equipping portfolio holders with the leadership skills to champion sporting and cultural achievements in their localities; and to transform local services.   16. **Community safety** – surveyed all community safety teams in England and Wales to gauge the impact of changes to the sector over recent years, and held two stakeholder workshops in Birmingham and London to examine the findings and explore how councils might best shape community safety services for the future. |

**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**

* 1. East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
  2. Hartlepool Borough Council
  3. Gosport Borough Council
  4. Preston City Council (rolled over)
  5. West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
  6. London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
  7. National Parks England (corporate membership for 10 English National Parks)

**Out of membership**

* 1. London Borough of Bromley
  2. London Borough of Wandsworth
  3. London Borough of Barnet

**Membership visits for the Senior Management Team**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chief Executive’s Membership Visits: 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 |
| 15 November | Visit to RB Greenwich health integration teams |
| 24 November | Chief Executive Sounding Board |
| 25 November | ADEPT Conference |
| 1-2 December | MJ Northern Forum |
| 7 December | DCN Chief Executives Meeting |
| **Forward plan: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 13 December | NHS Providers Chairs and Chief Executives Network |
| 19 December | CA Chief Executives Network - Birmingham |
| 10 January | Kent Chief Executives Meeting |
| 11 January | DCN Member Board Meeting |
| 11 January | Bassetlaw DC visit |
| 12 January | Strategic Transformation Plans Event |
| **Deputy Chief Executive’s Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 24 October | Tower Hamlets |
| 28 October | Association Local Authority Treasurers |
| 2-5 November | NCAS Conference |
| 22 November | Leadership essentials programme |
| 24 November | Chief Executive Sounding Board |
| 25 November | LG Cyber Security Stakeholder Group Meeting |
| 2 December | South Somerset |
| **Associate Director's Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 11 November | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| 18 November | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| **Forward plan: 10 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 9 December | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| 19 December | Combined Authority network |
| 6 January | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| **Head of Workforce's Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 8 November | Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC |
| 15 November | Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC |
| 30 November | Shared CEx Arrangements Review |
| **Head of Improvement's Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 17 November | Slough |
| 23 November | South East Councils |
| 25 November | Lancashire |
| **Director of Policy’s Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 2-4 November | National Children and Adult Services Conference |
| 14 November | Manchester Meeting with Rotherham Council |
| 21 November | Harrow Council |
| **Director of Communication’s Membership Visits: 20 October – 8 December 2016** | |
| 3-4 November | Plymouth Council Interviews |
| 7 November | Camden Council – LGA Parliamentary Review |
| 14-15 November | Breckland and South Holland Comms Review |
| 17 November | Birmingham Council |
| **Forward Plan: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 13 December | Cheshire East Narrative Support |

**Media and Public Affairs**

1. The LGA was **mentioned 146 times** in Parliament in October-November. We submitted responses to **seven parliamentary inquiries**, including on children’s social care and the effects of Brexit on health and social care. We also worked on **six key pieces of legislation**, including the Children and Social Work Bill, the Bus Services Bill and the Homelessness Reduction Bill.
2. Vice-Presidents briefing: Cllr Hodge hosted a briefing in Parliament for our Conservative Vice-Presidents. This was an opportunity to highlight our work influencing the Autumn Statement and to gather feedback on the work of the LGA from our Vice-Presidents.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Media Source** | **Issue** |
| **Funding for Local Government** |  |
| **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, BBC Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 4, 5 Live, TalkSport, BBC Online**, **Mail Online**, **ITV Online**, **Times Online**, **Mirror, i paper** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement call for the concessionary bus fares scheme to be fully funded. |
| **BBC Breakfast** | Deputy Chairman of the LGA Cllr Peter Fleming represented the LGA to discuss moves to allow local government to keep more of its business rates. |
| **Telegraph**, **BBC Radio 4’s Today programme**, **Mail**, **Guardian**, **Express Online**, **Guardian Online**, **BBC Online** | The LGA’s press release warning of a £2.6 billion funding gap in adult social care and that £1.3 billion was needed urgently to prevent the collapse of the sector. |
| **Mirror** | Featured the LGA’s calls for European regional funding to be guaranteed after Brexit, following fears that up to £2.6 billion for major projects could be lost. |
| **ITV News**, **Sky News, TalkSport**, **Telegraph**, **Times**, **Mail**, **i paper**, **Mirror**, **Express**, **Sky News Online**, **ITV Online** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming discussed the LGA’sAutumn Statement press release calling for long-term and consistent investment in local roads. |
| **Channel 5 News**, **Sky News** | Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts gave the LGA’s response to the National Audit Office report on children in need of help or protection. |
| **Good Morning Britain**, **BBC Online**, **Guardian Online,** **Mail Online**. | The LGA’s lines on the National Audit Office report on children in need of help or protection. |
| **Channel 5 News, Sky News** | Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts gave the LGA’s response to the National Audit Office report on children in need of help or protection. |
| **Good Morning Britain**, **BBC Online**, **Guardian Online**, **Mail Online** | The LGA’s lines on the National Audit Office report on children in need of help or protection. |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live, Mail Online**, **Guardian Online**, **Express Online** | Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes gave interview about the LGA’s press release warning that social care services that support elderly and disabled people are facing “an existential crisis” despite being as important to national wellbeing as the NHS. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s You and Yours, BBC Radio 5 Live Breakfast** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement call for government to properly fund adult social care. |
| **Guardian** | Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Chairman of the LGA’s Community Wellbeing Board, was quoted in a social care supplement article about a Care Quality Commission suggestion that the adult care sector in England is approaching the point at which it will “fall over” without more funding. |
| **Devolution** |  |
| **LBC**, **BBC News**, **BBC Radio 4’s Today** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming discussed the LGA’s press release highlighting how councils are helping residents and businesses to prepare for the possibility of more major flooding and calling for control of flood defence funds to be devolved**.** |
| **BBC Online**, **ITV Online**, **Independent Online**, **Mail Online**, **Express Online**, **Guardian Online** **Star Online** | LGA lines calling for control of flood defence funds to be devolved**.** |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **BBC Online** | The LGA’s release calling for government to introduce mandatory requirements for developers to flood-proof homes and businesses and for flood defence funding to be devolved to councils. |
| **Mail Online** | The LGA’s response to a report by the Environment and Rural Affairs Committee on the future of flood protection, calling for flood defence funding to be devolved to councils. |
| **Promoting Health and Wellbeing** |  |
| **Sky News Radio** | Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe presented the LGA’s press release, warning that millions of GP visits are unnecessary and are for minor ailments where patients could instead be helped to treat themselves. |
| **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC Radio 5 Live** | CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane presented the LGA’s press release, warning that millions of GP visits are unnecessary and are for minor ailments where patients could instead be helped to treat themselves. |
| **BBC News**, **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC** **Radio 4’s Today programme**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **LBC**, **TalkSport,** **Sky News**, **ITV News, BBC Online**, **Mail Online**, **Times Online**, **Independent Online**, **Guardian**, **Sun**, **Sunday Telegraph** | The LGA’s press release, warning that millions of GP visits are unnecessary and are for minor ailments where patients could instead be helped to treat themselves. |
| **BBC News** **channel**, **BBC One O’Clock News** | Cllr Seccombe presented the LGA’s responseto a report by the UK Home Care Association which says councils are not paying the costs of care set by providers, due to budget pressures. |
| **Express**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **BBC Online**, **Mail Online**, **Times Online**, **i paper online**, **Mirror Online** | The LGA’s responseto a report by the UK Home Care Association which says councils are not paying the costs of care set by providers, due to budget pressures. |
| **Express,** **Mirror**, **Sun** | The LGA’s release about its commissioned research by Newton Europe, which found that one in four people in hospital did not need to be there and savings could be spent on council care in the community. |
| **Sunday Express**, **Mail** | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe presented the LGA’s call for pharmacies to play a bigger role in providing public health services. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s You and Yours** | Community Wellbeing Board member Cllr Jonathan McShane presented the LGA’s lines on councils’ commissioning of HIV testing. |
| **BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show**, **BBC Online** | The LGA’s lines on councils’ commissioning of HIV testing. |
| **Guardian,** **Mail Online** | The LGA’s warnings about how budget reductions have led to pressures on social care just as demand is increasing, following warnings by the Care Quality Commission that the system was at “tipping point”. |
| **Times Online** | The LGA’s statement in response to hospitals doing their own social care such as either starting their own care homes, renting beds in nursing homes or employing their own social care workers to try and get people out of acute beds. |
| **Express Online** | The LGA’s joint briefing with Public Health England and the Town and Country Planning Association to support local authorities to help tackle obesity through planning and development. |
| **Mirror Online** | The LGA’s previous press release calling for calorie counts on alcoholic drinks. |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live** | Chair of the LGA’s Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Ian Stephens, appeared on a phone-in discussion about investment in grassroots football and the role councils could play. |
| **BBC Radio 2** | The LGA perspective on investment in grassroots football and the role councils could play. |
| **Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing** |  |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today programme**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show** | Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board member Cllr Ed Turner gave the LGA’s warning that placing new legal duties on councils will not be a silver bullet to solve homelessness, ahead of the Second Reading of the Homelessness Reduction Bill. |
| **BBC Online, Guardian Online** | LGA Chairman Lord Porter’s previous comments about the need for new duties to be fully funded in reference to new duties under the Homelessness Reduction Bill. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today**, **BBC Online**, **Times**, **Metro** | Chairman Lord Porter presented the LGA’s Autumn Statement call for councils to be given more powers and to be freed from restrictions on the ability to borrow, in order to rapidly build new homes and replace every council home that is sold off on government plans to boost housebuilding. |
| **Guardian, Independent Online** | The LGA’s recent survey revealing that four-fifths of councils in England believe that current housing policies and reforms would lead to a rise in homelessness, increased demand for temporary accommodation and longer social housing waiting lists by 2020. |
| **Times**, **Sun**, **i paper, BBC Online** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement call for government to include a social tariff in its Universal Service Obligation for broadband. |
| **Sunday Times**, **ITV Online** | The LGA’s findings that there are more than 475,000 homes in England which have been granted planning permission but have yet to be built. |
| **Mail** | Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett on how councils are fixing more potholes than ever, estimated at one every 15 seconds. |
| **BBC Online**, **Guardian Online** | LGA Chairman Lord Porter featured as MPs backed LGA calls for any new duties on councils to prevent homelessness to be fully funded. |
| **Sunday Times** | The LGA’s recently published position paper highlighting the need for energy-efficient homes, particularly for the country’s growing elderly population, in a feature advising people how better insulation of their homes can help cut energy bills. |
| **Guardian Online**. | Previous research for the LGA which suggested that 70,255 households in England and Wales will be affected by the Government’s Pay-to-Stay policy and face average rent increases of £1,065 a year. |
| **Channel 4’s Dispatches** | Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board member Cllr Ed Turner reinforcing the LGA’s call for developers to be compelled to build more homes, more quickly. |
| **Sector-led Improvement and Core Services** |  |
| **Times**, **Mirror**, **Mail**, **Sun**, **i paper**, **Express Online**, **Mirror Online**, **ITV Online**, **BBC Online**, **Sky News Online**, **Guardian Online**, **Independent Online**, **LBC Online**, **Sunday Telegraph**, **Observer**, **Mail**, **Mail Online**, **Telegraph** | Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds featured extensively across the media about how councils are looking after child migrants and the need for long-term funding arrangements to provide for them. |
| **BBC News, ITV News, Sky News, BBC Radio 4’s Sunday Papers, Westminster Hour, BBC Radio 4, BBC Online** | The LGA’s lines on the need for long-term funding arrangements for child migrants looked after by councils. |
| **Sky News**, **BBC News Channel**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **BBC Six O’Clock News** | Cllr Simmonds was interviewed live about how councils are helping unaccompanied asylum-seeking refugee children arriving from Calais. |
| **BBC World Service**, **BBC Newsnight**, **BBC Radio 4’s PM programme**, **LBC Radio** | Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds was interviewed about the first unaccompanied asylum-seeking children which arrived from Calais under a fast-track Home Office registration scheme. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today programme**,**Telegraph**, **Times**, **Mail**, **Mirror**, **BBC Online**, **Sky News Online**, **Guardian Online**, **Sun Online**, **Independent Online** | Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts gave an interview on the LGA’s response to the Government dropping its Education for All Bill. |
| **BBC Online, Guardian**, **i paper online** | Children and Young People Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts presented LGA’s call for councils to be given back powers to open new maintained schools or compel academies to expand. |
| **Guardian Online** | The LGA lines about how deploying successful councils’ wisdom and expertise can help other authorities, in a comment piece warning the Government against moving statutory children’s social work and child protection outside of local authorities. |
| **i paper** | The LGA’s lines calling for planning fees to rise to allow councils to recover the actual cost of applications and save taxpayers’ money. |
| **Times**’ **Money section** | The LGA’s earlier release warning about misleading advertising from broadband companies about their “up to” download speeds. |
| **BBC Online** | The findings of the LGA’s new report highlighting the scale of the challenge faced by civil servants responsible for academies, along with better performance of council-maintained schools compared to academies in all areas of the country. |
| **Guardian** | The LGA’s Come Back to Social Work programme, which was jointly launched in September with the Department for Education and the Department of Health, was referenced ahead of the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCASC). |
| **FT** | The LGA’s support along with 56 councils of the UK Municipal Bonds Agency was reference ahead of it issuing its initial bond of £100 million to help support transport, housing and other investments. |
| **Efficiency and Effectiveness** |  |
| **Mail, BBC Online, Sky News Online, Mail Online, i paper online, Express Online, Sun Online, Metro Online, BBC Radio 5 Live** | The LGA’s response to the Court of Appeal ruling that NHS England has the power to commission PrEP. |
| **Express**, **Star**, **Mail Online**, **Mirror Online** | Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett reported how councils have stockpiled grit for the forthcoming winter. |
| **BBC’s Daily Politics**, **Times**, **Mail Online**, **BBC Online** | LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming presented the LGA’s call for councils to be given tougher powers to tackle lorry drivers who ignore weight restrictions and blight rural communities. |
| **BBC Online** | The LGA’s release warning about rogue traders selling illegal fire-risk mattresses from the ‘back of a van’ after some councils reported a ten-fold rise in consumer complaints attracted more than one million hits on. |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was also interviewed on rogue traders selling illegal fire-risk mattresses from the ‘back of a van’. |
| **Sun**, **Mirror**, **i paper**, **Mail Online**, **Telegraph Online**, **Express Online**, **Sun Online**, **Metro Online**, **TalkSport** | The LGA’s lines on on rogue traders selling illegal fire-risk mattresses from the ‘back of a van’. |
| **Sky News** | Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn presented the LGA’s warnings about the dangers of exploding e-cigarettes, after a rise in the number of people being burned by suspected cheap and faulty products. |
| **BBC Online**, **Sky News Online**, **LBC Online**, **Mirror Online** | The LGA’s lines were also reported on the dangers of exploding e-cigarettes. |
| **Guardian**, **Mail Online**, **BBC Online**. | The LGA’s response to the Government ruling on fracking. |
| **Guardian**, **Guardian Online**, **BBC Online** | The LGA’s previous call for appliance manufacturers to recall faulty tumble dryers and how three fires a day are caused by dryers in England and Wales. |
| **Mail Online, Sun** | The LGA report on other highways authorities considering rolling out community road warden schemes similar to the one adopted by Devon County Council. |
| **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC News** | The LGA’s lines that councils are having to dig deep to subsidise rail costs and school transport, following an increase of 70 per cent in train fares for 16 year olds at peak times. |
| **BBC Online, Guardian** | The LGA’s statement following the Department for Culture, Media and Sport’s Review of Gaming Machines and Social Responsibilities Measures. |
| **Telegraph,** **Mirror Online,** **Independent Online** | The LGA’s statement about the introduction of the new £1 coin next year and its cost implications for councils. |
| **Sun** | The LGA’s estimates that £5 million was lost to ticket fraud in 2015, up 55 per cent on 2014. |
| **ITV News** | LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton was interviewed about the dangers of using unlicensed tattooists, calls for tougher sentences and more warnings on DIY tattoo kits which can be bought legally online. |
| **ITV Online** | LGA lines on the dangers of using unlicensed tattooists, calls for tougher sentences and more warnings on DIY tattoo kits which can be bought legally online |
| **BBC Online** | Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn presented the LGA’s previous release warning about the dangers of  “tombstoning” after a 39-year-old man died off cliffs on the Plymouth coast. |