Chief Executive’s Report – January 2017

**Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

**Summary**

The LGA business plan for 201617 centres on seven external priorities:

* Britain’s exit from the EU
* Funding for local government
* Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
* Children, education and schools
* Promoting health and wellbeing
* Devolution
* Sector-led improvement

Part 1 of the six-weekly Chief Executive’s report sets out the LGA’s main achievements against those priorities. Part two focusses on our internal priority – A single voice for local government - including membership and our media outreach activities.

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| **Recommendation**  That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive’s report for January 2017.  **Action**  As directed by members. |

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**Chief Executive’s Monthly Report – January 2017**

**Achievements against our seven external priorities**

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| **Priority 1 – Exit from the EU**   * 1. **Brexit priorities** – published an [LGA Brexit Briefing](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5533246/December+2016+-+local+government+and+EU+briefing.pdf/ebabb7b4-2386-47c9-81f8-0a0c6fc0ecea), which sets out five headline priorities for local government, and 10 priority areas in any review of the legal framework following Brexit.   2. **EU decisions, regulations and directive** – continued to develop a dataset of those EU Decisions, Regulations and Directives that affect local government in England. It will list laws covering a wide-range of services and set out where change may be needed.   3. **EU ‘regional aid’** – the Resources Board has continued working on the principles that should underpin a UK replacement for “EU regional aid”, which will be based on local rather than Whitehall or Brussels rules.   4. **Community cohesion** – the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are renewing our existing guidance for councils on building cohesive communities, and have commissioned a programme to help councils develop the effectiveness of their consultation and engagement with their communities.   5. **Health and social care** – following [our written submission](http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/health-committee/brexit-and-health-and-social-care/written/42274.html) to the Commons Health Committee inquiry on Brexit and health and social care, we have continued to meet with partners, in particular the NHS and social care providers, to assess the impacts of Brexit on the public sector workforce and develop joint proposals for Government accordingly.   6. **Impacts of exiting the EU** – leading a commission with Government and local authorities to build evidence of the place-based impacts. We have continued to publicise the call for information through LGA Political Group newsletters and Principal Advisors, and feed submitted information to Government.   7. **Local government post-Brexit** – drawing on themes developed in LGA campaigns such as ‘100 days’, ‘Rewiring Public Services’ and ‘Independent Local Government’, the 2007 Concordat between the LGA and DCLG, and the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the City Regions and People & Places Boards have developed initial principles to guide local government’s thinking on the position and autonomy of local government post-Brexit. |
| **Priority 2 – Funding for Local Government**   * 1. **Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement** – published an [on-the-day briefing](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal_content/56/10180/8107371/ARTICLE) highlighting the key announcements and their impact on local government.   2. **Autumn Statement** – provided an [on-the-day briefing](http://local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7991192/2016+Autumn+Statement+LGA+On+the+Day+Briefing.pdf/bcb66b43-944d-465d-8537-45f86b48acc3) setting out the major announcements. The Chancellor confirmed the public spending totals set out in Spending Review 2015.   3. **LGA Annual Finance Conference** – Over 90 delegates reflected on the local government finance settlement announcements and the various aspects of business rates retention reform. Speakers from the LGA, Government and CIPFA, as well as local authority treasurers, shared their insights in various discussions.   4. **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 Government’s consultation on transitional arrangements for the 2017 business rates revaluation. We highlighted the continuing impact of business rates appeals on local authorities and called for currently outstanding appeals to be resolved by April 2018.   5. **Business Rates Retention** – the LGA’s Task and Finish Group has considered initial feedback from the summer consultations, the operation of multiplier flexibilities and indicators of need. Work is also progressing in the officer-level steering group and working groups. Further Government consultations are expected shortly.   6. **Exit payment reform** – worked with colleagues from DCLG and local government trade unions on possible changes to the local government framework on exit payments following a HM Treasury consultation undertaken during 2016.   7. **Markets in Financial Instruments Directive** – met regularly with the Financial Conduct Authority and representatives of the investment industry to discuss the EU’s MIFID II Directive on LGPS pension funds, due to come into force in January 2018 with potentially significant impacts on the investment work of LGPS pension funds. |
| **Priority 3 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing**   * 1. **RSA Inclusive Growth commission** – LGA response to the Commission’s call for evidence was submitted on 22 December. Report author Charlotte Alldritt (RSA) will attend City Regions Board on 30 January. Round table discussion to gather further evidence to be held in Bradford in March.   2. **Digital Economy Bill** – briefed for the House of Lords second reading with peers echoing our calls for a broadband USO social tariff, which Ofcom have now recommended Government implement. Chief Executive, Sharon White, will visit the People and Places Board in January 2017   3. **LGA Housing Commission** – launched on Thursday 22 December. Following extensive engagement with over 100 partners, the final report makes 37 recommendations for local and national government to work together to build more of the right homes in the right places.   4. **Homelessness in London event** – hosted an event attended by local government and private sector representatives, which sought to facilitate innovation in providing temporary accommodation.   5. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** –briefed MPs in advance of debates and Cllr Tony Newman ahead of giving evidence at the Public Bill Committee. We have highlighted the LGA’s view that the reforms are unnecessary and called for locally set planning fees.   6. **Gaming machines and social responsibility** – responded to the Government’s call for evidence in its Review of Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility, outlining the LGA’s call for Fixed Odds Betting Terminal (FOBT) stakes to be reduced to £2 and for councils to have stronger powers to tackle betting shop clustering.   7. **Urban Congestion Inquiry** – submitted written evidence to the Transport Select Committee’s inquiry. We made the case that councils have the power to manage street works, introduce the workplace parking levy and enact full implementation of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.   8. **Policing and Crime Bill** – at Report Stage successfully supported amendments that ensure local residents are consulted where a police and crime commissioner plans to take on governance of the fire and rescue service.   9. **Counter-extremism** – jointly held a roundtable with the Minister for Countering Extremism and the councils receiving funding for counter extremism community coordinators to discuss the challenges they face and how they could be better supported in their work.   10. **Bus Services Bill –** the Bus Services Bill has now passed through the Lords and has had its first reading in the Commons. The LGA is in ongoing discussion with the DfT about the guidance and secondary legislation that will enable the bill.   11. **European Capital of Culture** – Cllrs Ian Stephens and Martin Tett, Chairs of the CTS & EEHT Boards, sent a joint letter to the Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, requesting clarification on the eligibility of UK cities for European Capital of Culture funding. The Secretary of State has since announced the launch of the nationwide competition. |
| **Priority 4 – Children, education and schools**   * 1. **Education Services Grant** – opposed the proposed £600 million cuts announced in the Spending Review last year, including national media and trade press coverage. In November DoE announced an extra £50 million for councils to support school improvement, and £148 million to support failing schools, which should ensure that they retain some capacity to monitor school performance and support improvement.   2. **Apprenticeships** – Cllr Philip Atkins told an Institute of Government conference that national plans to reform apprenticeships could have been more effective had the Government given councils a commissioning role for provision and by allowing them to pool the new Apprenticeship Levy through local hubs, rather than nationally, so they could plug local skills gaps and meet employers' needs. He also called for clarity on whether or not LGA calls for the public sector target to be based on FTE rather than headcount were successful.   3. **Improvement in children’s services** – following the publication of LGA-commissioned action research into [enablers of improvement in local children’s services](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMjIyLjY3OTk2MDAxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTIyMi42Nzk5NjAwMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODgyODc1JmVtYWlsaWQ9am9zZXBoLmxpbmdAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnVzZXJpZD1qb3NlcGgubGluZ0Bsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&105&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/-/journal_content/56/10180/7871004/ARTICLE), the ISOS Partnership delivered four regional workshops to discuss the practical local application of findings - [key points here](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMjIyLjY3OTk2MDAxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTIyMi42Nzk5NjAwMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODgyODc1JmVtYWlsaWQ9am9zZXBoLmxpbmdAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnVzZXJpZD1qb3NlcGgubGluZ0Bsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&106&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/children-and-young-people/-/journal_content/56/10180/7871004/ARTICLE).   4. **Calais camp clearance** – a cross-party delegation of LGA members met with the Immigration Minister as part of ongoing discussions on key issues, including funding and fostering capacity. An LGA maintained resource for councils can be found [here](http://www.local.gov.uk/refugees).   5. **Children and Social Work Bill** – our briefing ahead of the House of Commons [Committee Stage](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMjIyLjY3OTk2MDAxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTIyMi42Nzk5NjAwMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODgyODc1JmVtYWlsaWQ9am9zZXBoLmxpbmdAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnVzZXJpZD1qb3NlcGgubGluZ0Bsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdGFyZ2V0aWQ9JmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&124&&&http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmpublic/ChildrenSocialWork/PBC_Children%201-2nd%20sits%2013.12.16.pdf) welcomed the Bill’s focus on support for children in care and clarification that proposed freedoms to innovate must only be used where proposals are clearly in the best interests of children. We also highlighted that new burdens must be fully funded and reflect existing local government expertise.   6. **National schools and high needs funding consultations** – on 14 December the DfE published their second stage consultations on national school and high needs funding. The LGA is currently soliciting responses from councils to ensure we reflect the views of member councils in our response.   7. **Early Years National Funding Formula** –responded to the Government’s recent announcement on EYNFF, highlighting the possible cost of new burdens unmet by current increases in funding. |
| **Priority 5 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing**   * 1. **Public health funding** – responded to the reduction in public health funding for 2017/18 announced in the Local Government Finance Settlement, highlighting that this short term approach could undermine objectives to improve public health and keep pressure off adult social care and the NHS.   2. **Healthy futures** – published the report [‘Healthy Futures: supporting and promoting the health needs of looked after children’](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/8099050/PUBLICATION).   3. **PrEP** – following successful legal action by the LGA and the National AIDs Trust, NHS England will be commissioning a trial and rollout of the HIV treatment PrEP.   4. **Stepping up to the place** – published a [integration self-assessment tool](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7867709/PUBLICATION), designed to support local health and care leaders through health and wellbeing boards to critically assess their ambitions, capabilities and capacities to integrate services to improve the health and wellbeing of local citizens and communities**.**   5. **Transforming social care** – launched the report [‘Transforming social care through the use of information and technology’](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/8023208/PUBLICATION), which highlights the emerging role of technology in transforming social care services and enabling health and care integration.   6. **Clean Air Zones Consultation** – submitted a response to the recent consultation on the implementation of Clean Air Zones in England. We raised concerns over a lack of ambition of proposed measures as well as the lack of resources and concern over their legal basis. |
| **Priority 6 – Devolution**   * 1. **Support to Combined Authorities** – continued to work with combined authorities to develop and deliver a tailored package of support including a Leadership development programme to be delivered early in the New Year in Cambridge and Peterborough.   2. **West Midlands Combined Authority** (CA) **-** continued to support the West Midlands CA via their devolution strategy group and CA programme board.   3. **Support to elected mayors –** The Combined Authorities’ Chief Executives Networkmeeting on 19 December was attended by Tom Walker (DCLG) who led a discussion about capacity in Combined Authorities to support the new Mayors. The LGA is finalising its own mayoral support offer. |
| **Priority 7 – Sector-led Improvement**   * 1. **Public Sector Audit Appointments** **(PSAA)** – continued to work with PSAA to encourage councils to opt in to the national scheme for the appointment of auditors, which will provide a cost-effective and high quality means to meet Councils’ statutory requirement for audit.   2. **Bereavement services** – ran a conference on the latest developments that impact on councils’ registrars, coroners and funerals services with sessions covering the introduction of medical examiners, funeral poverty, commercialisation of burial services and the future of pathology services.   3. **Vision for public libraries** – supported the LGA/DCMS Libraries Taskforce to publish its vision for supporting and transforming local library services, including reprioritising £4 million to develop innovative library service activity to benefit disadvantaged people and places in England.   4. **Taxi/private hire vehicle licensing** – ran four regional workshops in Telford, Gateshead, London and Cambridge to support councillors to strengthen taxi/private hire vehicle licensing.   5. **Culture and sport** – delivered culture and sport leadership essentials courses to equip portfolio holders with the skills to champion sporting and cultural achievements in their localities and transform local services. We have also engaged with academic researchers on measuring the impact of local culture activities and strategies, and responded to a national consultation on archives services.   6. **Design in the Public Sector programme** – in partnership with the Design Council, the LGA has recently updated the [Design in the Public Sector](http://www.local.gov.uk/design-in-public-sector) programme which equips councils with design skills and techniques to apply to their biggest service challenges.   7. **Sector-led improvement update** – published a [report](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMjA5LjY3NDMyODkxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTIwOS42NzQzMjg5MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODc3NzIyJmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&111&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11309/Sector-led+improvement+progress+report+December+2016+FINAL.pdf/776268ca-8e44-4c4b-b55e-0b9edc085e95) on take up so far in 2016/17 and inviting reflections by 18 January 2017 on future support needs to inform discussions with DCLG.   8. **Member development Charter** – with various regional employers’ support, refreshed the [Charter](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/MD+Charter+and+Charter+Plus+Requirements.pdf/8f27184e-8a4d-4915-9c4a-315fd3aeb813), which signifies an authority’s commitment to support and encourage member development. More information is available [here](http://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-development/-/journal_content/56/10180/6175947/ARTICLE).   9. **Design in the Public Sector programme** – launched a [webpage](http://www.local.gov.uk/design-in-public-sector) of case studies from participating councils. The programme teaches strategic design approaches, such as prototyping and visual techniques.   10. **Shared management** – published a [report](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbXNpZD0mYXVpZD0mbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMjIxLjY3OTI4MzMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTIyMS42NzkyODMzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2ODgyMzkzJmVtYWlsaWQ9dmlja2kuZ29kZGFyZEBsb2NhbC5nb3YudWsmdXNlcmlkPXZpY2tpLmdvZGRhcmRAbG9jYWwuZ292LnVrJnRhcmdldGlkPSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&117&&&http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7632544/4.16+Shared+Chief+Executive+report_v04.1.pdf/19627d9d-6f44-4199-8b2c-98c393c56fd1), highlighting how shared chief executives, senior management teams and some services have already delivered savings of over £60 million for around 45 councils.   11. **LG Inform Plus** –upgraded [LG Inform Plus](http://about.esd.org.uk/)’ search pages to allow users to search by theme and categories and create new reports. |

**Internal Priority – A single voice for local government**

**LGA Membership**

1. Six local authorities and National Parks England remain on notice to leave the LGA on 31st March 2017. However six of the 10 National Parks Authorities that subscribe to NPE have confirmed their intention to remain in Associate 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)

1. Three local authorities remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet.

**Membership visits by the Strategic Management Team**:

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| **Chief Executive’s Membership Visits: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 13 December | NHS Providers Chairs and Chief Executives Network |
| 19 December | CA Chief Executives Network - Birmingham |
| 11 January | DCN Member Board Meeting |
| **Forward plan: 18 January - 1 March 2017** | |
| 17 January | Norfolk County Council |
| 20 January | West Sussex Chief Executives meeting – Chichester District Coucil |
| 2-3 February | DCN Annual Conference |
| 6 February | Newcastle City Council |
| 7 February | South Tyneside Council |
| 24 February | South West Chief Executive meeting |
| **Associate Director's Membership Visits: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 19 December | Combined Authority Network |
| 6 January | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| **Forward plan: 18 January - 1 March 2017** | |
| 20 January | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| 26 January | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| 16-17 February | West Midlands Combined Authority |
| **Head of Improvement's Membership Visits: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 13 January | Tower Hamlets |
| 13 January | London Councils |
| 16 January | Northamptonshire |
| **Director of Communication’s Membership Visits: 9 December 2016 – 17 January 2017** | |
| 14 December | Lambeth Council |
| 20 December | Cheshire East Narrative Support meeting |
| 5 January | West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service review |
| 5 January | GCS Council |
| 10 January | West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service review |
| 12 January | East Lindsey District Council |
| **Forward Plan: 18 January - 1 March 2017** | |
| 26 January | Plymouth Council |

**Media and Public Affairs**

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| **Media Source** | **Issue** |
| **Exit from the EU** |  |
| **FT Online** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement asks, including for £5.3 billion of EU regeneration funding to be guaranteed by government, more devolution, more spending on infrastructure, increased resources for schools and for the “enormous financial pressures” councils face to be alleviated. |
| **Funding for Local Government** |  |
| **Guardian Online** | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe and EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett both featured with the LGA’s Autumn Statement calls ahead of the Chancellor’s announcement. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s World at One, FT, Guardian, Independent Online** | The LGA’s response to the lack of any further funding for adult social care following the Autumn Statement. |
| **BBC News channel, LBC, BBC Online, Sky News Online, Mail (twice), Times, Guardian Online** | Chairman Lord Porter gave the LGA’s response to the Autumn Statement, about the urgent need for extra resources for council-run social care to help look after the country’s ageing population. |
| **Observer**, **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live**, **LBC,** **BBC Online**, **Sky News Online**, **ITV Online**, **LBC Online**, **Independent Online**, **Mail** | The LGA’s joint letter signed by political group leaders on the need for government to address the social care funding crisis following the Autumn Statement. |
| **BBC Online, Guardian, i paper, Sun Online, Mail Online, FT Online, Guardian Online** | The LGA’s response to the Local Government Finance Settlement. |
| **BBC News and BBC Radio 5 Live** | Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes discussed the Financial Settlement. |
| **Radio 4’s Today programme**, **BBC News channel**, **BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC, BBC One O’Clock News**  **Observer, Sunday Express, BBC Online,  ITV Online, Telegraph Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Mirror Online, Sun Online Telegraph, Mail, Mirror, Metro Online, Independent Online,** | The LGA’s warning that increasing the social care precept on council tax will not be enough to fill the adult social care funding gap was widely featured, with interviews by CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe and Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober on research by LGC which found that council tax bills could rise by more than £60 a year to help offset the social care funding gap. |
| **Mail, Guardian Online** | The LGA’s warnings that allowing councils to add a 3% on council tax for 2 years to help the funding crisis in adult social care will create a postcode lottery and put pressure on already struggling taxpayers. |
| **i paper, Mail, Guardian, Express, Sun, BBC Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Channel 4 News Online** | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe calling for an urgent injection of £1.3 billion into the social care system and warning that proposed rises in the council tax social care precept will be not be enough to offset the funding gap. |
| **Times Online** | Chairman Lord Porter gave the LGA’s warnings about the funding gap facing adult social care following the Autumn Statement. |
| **Mirror and Guardian Online** | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe on how adult social care remains in crisis, following the lack of any new funding in the Autumn Statement. |
| **Telegraph, Express, FT Online, Mail Online and Mirror Online** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement analysis that social care for the elderly and disabled faces a funding gap of at least £2.6 billion. |
| **Express, Mail Online, BBC Online and Radio 4’s Today programme**. | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe responding to new analysis by Age UK, calling on the Government to address the social care funding crisis in the Autumn Statement. |
| **Observer** | How councils will have £9.9 billion in unfunded costs by 2019/20, in a feature piece about how parks, museums, libraries and town halls face being lost due to austerity measures. |
| **Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing** |  |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Online, Guardian Online and Metro** | The LGA’s response to a report by Shelter on rising homelessness. |
| **Guardian** | The LGA’s estimated £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020 and how the proposed Homelessness Reduction Bill will struggle to make a difference without extra resources, following new government figures showing numbers living on the streets has doubled in six years. |
| **BBC Online and BBC News** | The LGA’s response to new figures showing councils in Britain spent more than £3.5 billion on temporary accommodation for homeless families in the last five years. |
| **Telegraph Online** | LGA Chairman Lord Porter responded to government plans to use money set aside to incentivise councils to build new homes to pay for social care instead. |
| **BBC Online and Mail Online** | The LGA’s call for councils to be given powers and funding to build affordable homes, following new government data showing affordable homes built in England in 2015/16 fell to its lowest level for 24 years. |
| **BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online, LBC Online, Guardian, Mirror, Sun, Mail, Telegraph, Express, Independent Online, Star, BBC Breakfast, Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC, BBC Radio One Newsbeat,TalkSport, TalkRadio** | The launch of the LGA’s final Housing Commission report and analysis of the drop in the number of young people on the housing ladder. EEHT Chairman Cllr Martin Tett discussed the launch of the report and analysis of the drop in the number of young people on the housing ladder. |
| **Guardian** **and Times** | The LGA’s Autumn Statement release in response to new measures to boost affordable housing, including new spending on housing projects totalling £3.7 billion in England.   Lord Porter said the measures were good news for local government but must be supported by adequate infrastructure. |
| **Times, Guardian, Guardian Online, Mirror Online, BBC Online and BBC Radio 4** | Lord Porter gave the LGA’s response to the Government’s announcement that Pay-to-Stay plans would be voluntary for councils. |
| **BBC Online** | The LGA’s estimates that at least four million people of working age in England would need affordable housing by 2024. |
| **BBC Radio 5 Live, 5 Live and BBC Online, BBC Radio 4’s You and Yours, Mirror** | EEHT Chairman Cllr Martin Tett gave the LGA’s Autumn Statement lines that it would take 14 years and £12 billion to repair the backlog of potholes on local roads before and in response to the Autumn Statement announcement to spend £1.1 billion on improving Britain's local roads and public transport. |
| **Mail** | The LGA’s call for greater openness and honesty in broadband speed advertising. UK broadband companies will be made to change the way they advertise their internet speeds, under regulator plans. |
| **Children, education and schools** |  |
| **Mail Online** | Our Autumn Statement warning that councils face a funding gap of almost £1.9 billion in children's social care services by 2020. |
| **Guardian** | Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of CYP Board responded to the launch of the annual Ofsted report on how the latest statistics showed councils still had a vital role to play in school improvement. |
| **Promoting Health and Wellbeing** |  |
| **Mail on Sunday**, **Star** | CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe on the importance of physical activity in helping tackle the obesity crisis, following reports that some NHS patients on free gym membership schemes are failing to attend. |
| **Sun Online** | Our response to new guidelines banning the advertising of high fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) food or drink products in children’s media. |
| **Guardian and BBC Online** | The LGA’s research, as part of the Advisory Group on Contraception, on the closure/reduced hours of clinics in England offering women contraception due to public health budget reductions. |
| **Mail Online, Independent Online, Metro Online and Star on Sunday** | Cllr Izzi Seccombe, CWB chairman gave the LGA’s response to NHS England agreeing to commission the HIV preventative drug PrEP, as part of an initial clinical trial. |
| **BBC Online** **twice** | Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe gave the LGA’s response to updated NICE guidance, which said HIV testing should take place in GP surgeries and hospitals. |
| **Good Morning Britain** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on the impact of isolation on health and social care means that it must be recognised as a major public health issue. |
| **Good Morning Britain Mail Online, Express Online, ITV Online** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on new data from charity Mind, about councils’ spend on public mental health. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today in Parliament and** **BBC Radio 2** | Chief Executive Mark Lloyd’s evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee’s inquiry into social care. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today, BBC News, Telegraph** | EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett gave the LGA’s response to a new NICE report on air pollution. |
| **Mirror, Independent Online** | Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, featured calling for the need for e-cigarette packaging to display prominent safety warnings. |
| **Devolution** |  |
| **Guardian** | The LGA’s call for money for flood defences to be devolved to councils, to ensure it is directed where it is needed, following flash flooding and travel chaos across parts of England and Wales. |
| **Telegraph** | The LGA’s joint press release with the WLGA, CoSLA and NILGA on the need for greater devolution across the UK after Brexit. A joint statement signed by the leaders of the LGA, COSLA, NILGA and WLGA called for constitutional talks with the Government. |
| **Sector-led Improvement and Core Services** |  |
| **Sky News, ITV Online, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 and LBC BBC Online, Express Online** | LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming and Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair Cllr Simon Blackburn on LGA calls for a loophole in taxi licensing laws, allowing minibus drivers to operate without criminal record checks, to be closed. |
| **Mail and Sun Online** | Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on the need for extra support and information for schools, ahead of the arrival of child refugees from the Calais “jungle”. |
| **LBC, Sunday Times, Times, Mail, Express and Mirror** | Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group Chairman Cllr David Simmonds on how traffickers pursue vulnerable refugees for the money they had previously agreed to pay to get to the UK. |
| **BBC Online** | Chair of the LGA’s Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Cllr Ian Stephens on the LGA’s response to the Culture, Media and Sport select committee’s report on regional arts funding. |
| **Efficiency and Effectiveness** |  |
| **Sky News, BBC Breakfast, ITV News and** **BBC Radio One** | Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on councils launching a pre-Christmas zero tolerance nationwide crackdown on fly-tippers. |
| **BBC Online, ITV News Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Mail Online and** **People** | EEHT Chairman Cllr Martin Tett on councils launching a pre-Christmas zero tolerance nationwide crackdown on fly-tippers. |
| **Express, Times, Mail, Sun, i paper, Guardian Online, Mirror Online and Sky News Online** | The LGA’s press release highlighting how councils are fully prepared for Storm Barbara. |
| **LBC** | LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on council preparations for any severe weather this Christmas. |
| **BBC Radio 4’s Today programme, Good Morning Britain, ITV News, LBC, TalkSport** | LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming on the LGA’s response to an RAC Foundation report on council parking income. |
| **BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Online, ITV Online, Telegraph, Times, Mail, Mirror, Sun Online, Metro Online** | The LGA’s response to an RAC Foundation report on council parking income. |
| **BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online, LBC Online, Telegraph Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Express Online, Metro Online, Sun Online, Mirror Online** | The LGA’s press release highlighting how councils are fully prepared for the cold weather with gritting lorries on standby. |
| **Times, Metro, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Mail Online** | EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett on how council gritters will treat thousands of miles of roads whenever overnight temperatures drop below zero. |
| **Mail Online and Mirror Online** | Cllr Claire Kober, Chair of the Resources Board, responding to the Public Accounts Committee report on councils’ commercial ventures. |
| **Mail on Sunday** | The LGA’s lines on how the maximum bet at Fixed Odds Betting Terminals could be cut from £100 to £10. The article highlighted how rising opposition including from the LGA, means the Government is likely to take action. |