

The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, will join Councillors' Forum for this item and will discuss issues affecting local government. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions for the Secretary of State.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the presentation and raise issues from a local government perspective.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

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The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

1. The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP was appointed Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 14 July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for Bromsgrove in 2010.
2. Mr Javid served as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills from May 2015 until July 2016. He was Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from April 2014 to May 2015 and previously he was both the Economic and Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He was a member of the Work and Pensions Select Committee from June to November 2010.
3. Since July 2016, the following key announcements affecting local government have been made. In November 2016, the Autumn Statement included plans to invest in building new homes, plans to invest in flood defences, and a commitment to devolving powers to support some local areas, although the gap in funding for adult social care and the Education Services Grant were not addressed.
4. In December 2017, in the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18, the Government recognised the LGA's call for the urgent need to help councils tackle some of the immediate social care pressure by bringing forward council tax raising powers, although the flexibility does not fully address the £2.6 billion funding gap facing social care by the end of the decade. The settlement also includes a new one off grant for social care of £241 million in 2017/2018 that has been funded by reductions to the New Homes Bonus scheme. This change actually reduces total funding for 57 social care authorities as compared to the 2017/2018 figures published in the 2016/2017 settlement.