

## **Chief Executive's Report – April 2017**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The LGA business plan for 2016/17 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. Attached at **Appendix A** is a summary of the LGA's coverage in the media.

### **Recommendation**

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for April 2017.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

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## **Chief Executive's Monthly Report – March 2017**

### **Achievements against our seven external priorities**

#### **Priority 1 – Exit from the EU**

- 1.1. **Regional seminars** – in collaboration with DCLG the LGA has held four regional seminars on Brexit in Newcastle, Cornwall, London and at the East of England LGA in Chelmsford. There are four more potential events currently being arranged.
- 1.2. **Place-based research** – We have now received 39 submissions from 29 councils for reporting to DCLG on the local impacts of Brexit. This includes content from 2 combined authorities, (2 submissions each), 2 council groupings, 2 LEPS, and 2 university led responses for local areas.
- 1.3. **Brexit White Paper** – In February 2017 we published a response to the Government's White Paper which sets out the impact of recent developments on local government's priority recommendations, particularly regarding devolution.
- 1.4. **Post-Brexit Trade** – Drawing on the extensive experience of local government in international commercial and trade deals, the LGA has begun crafting and setting out an explicit local government offer in this debate.
- 1.5. **EU funding**- The LGA has called on central government to work with local government to develop a domestic successor programme which replaces all of this EU regeneration funding and gives local areas more say over how it is spent after Brexit.
- 1.6. **Local government post-Brexit** – following the meeting with David Jones MP on 20 February, policy development has continued to focus on guiding the LGA's approach to the repatriation of powers and funding in the medium term and longer term strengthening of English local government.

#### **Priority 2 – Funding for Local Government**

- 2.1. **Spring Budget 2017** - Produced an [on-the-day-briefing](#) summarising the main announcements affecting local government in the Chancellor's statement, and the LGA's responses.
- 2.2. **Spring Budget 2017: Additional Adult Social Care Funding** - Following campaigning by the LGA, the Government [announced](#) £2.021 billion of new money for local authorities for adult social care between 2017/18 and 2019/20. Allocations and the distribution methodology for the new money were published on 9 March.
- 2.3. **Spring Budget 2017: Support for Business Rates Revaluation** – The Government announced a £435 million [package of measures](#) to support businesses facing increases in business rates bills in England from April 2017, including a £300 million discretionary fund over four years for councils to support businesses that face the steepest increase in bills.
- 2.4. **Local Government Finance Bill** – The [Bill](#) has completed the Committee stage in the House of Commons and the Report stage is not expected until late May. During Committee stage the LGA [engaged](#) closely with MPs on proposals for amendments to the Bill and the Minister committed to working with the LGA on tackling business rates avoidance.
- 2.5. **Business Rates Retention** – Following the DCLG [consultation](#) on proposals for the design of the reformed system the LGA and DCLG are holding six [regional events](#), throughout March and April, for local authorities on the consultation and progress on the reform. At the time of writing over 200 delegates are booked on the events.

- 2.6. **Fair Funding Review** – At the time of writing the Government had not yet published its further consultation on the Fair Funding Review, which is expected shortly. The fair funding working group, like the other groups, continues to meet regularly.
- 2.7. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – the LGA has continued to lobby the progress of the Bill and to ensure that councils are sufficiently funded to deliver new duties. As part of this work it has also helped make the case for adapting welfare reforms to ensure they support the ambitions of new homelessness legislation.
- 2.8. **Public Health Ring-fenced Grant** – last week the Public Health Minister announced in her speech at the LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference reiterated the Government's commitment to the move of the ring-fenced public health grant to 100% Business Rates Retention. This will come into effect from April 2019.
- 2.9. **Spring Budget 2017:** Ahead of the Budget we delivered our submission to the Treasury outlining our key asks. Following the statement we produced a Budget briefing, which we distributed to parliamentarians, external stakeholders and council officers.
- 2.10. **Local government finance settlement:** MPs debated the final settlement following its publication. We briefed MPs to reiterate our concerns about the lack of new money for social care and the cuts to the New Homes Bonus (NHB), and the LGA's analysis was quoted widely during the debate.
- 2.11. **Local Government Finance Bill** - The Bill completed Committee Stage in the House of Commons. We briefed MPs on the Bill committee, and the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP (Conservative, Nuneaton), is committed to working with the LGA and others to explore how best to tackle business rates avoidance.

### **Priority 3 – Economic Growth, Jobs and Housing**

- 3.1. **North West taxi licensing event** - The last event in the series was held in Preston and was attended by forty Members and officers and provided support to councils around oversight and scrutiny of licensing and the role of the licensing committee. It outlined best practice when using licensing to prevent child sexual exploitation and support disabled access.
- 3.2. **Regional housing events** – the LGA has held a number of housing improvement events in the West Midlands, London, the South East and the South West on meeting the housing need of local communities.
- 3.3. **Local government innovations in house building** – the LGA and TCPA have worked together to investigate, capture and present local innovations in delivering housebuilding. The final report presents a range of case studies and offers advice to local authorities.
- 3.4. **Temporary Accommodation** – in advance of the Spring Budget the LGA released research on the costs of providing temporary accommodation. The evidence highlights pressures on many local housing markets and reinforces the case for councils to be able to build affordable homes.
- 3.5. **Right to buy** – responded to DCLG consultation on arrangements for determining the amount of money from right to buy receipts that councils have to pass back to the Treasury. We called on government to return all future receipts to councils for investment in building and to support the ambitions expressed in the Housing White Paper.
- 3.6. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** – continued to lobby during the progress of the Bill. The LGA has been quoted widely by parliamentarians in their discussions, including our calls for planning departments to be adequately resourced, our concerns about government intervention in local planning and the unintended consequences of office to residential permitted development rights.

- 3.7. **Department for Transport – DfT** confirmed that they will not be proceeding with proposals which would have imposed a charge for leaving road works unattended at weekends. We will continue to work with DfT to build on existing legislation to more effectively to deal with the challenges of roadworks.
- 3.8. **Public Accounts Committee inquiry into housing:** LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee as part of its 'Housing: State of the Nation'. He called on the Government to remove public borrowing for housing from contributing towards public debt and for planning departments to be better resourced.
- 3.9. **Neighbourhood Planning Bill** - has completed Report Stage in the House of Lords. We worked with peers to press the Government on ensuring greater local scrutiny of plans to convert office space into residential property. The Government has agreed to look into this proposal.
- 3.10. **Digital Economy Bill** - has been debated at House of Lords Report Stage. We worked with peers to table amendments on strengthening the broadband Universal Service Order (USO), as well as to include a social tariff which would offer the poorest households financial support to access a minimum broadband connection.
- 3.11. **Homelessness Reduction Bill** - received its Second Reading in the House of Lords. We are working with peers to ensure that all burdens on councils associated with the Bill are fully-funded, and that the Bill's overall passage is successful.
- 3.12. **Digital Connectivity** - Hosted Sharon White, Chief Executive of Ofcom to discuss the performance of Openreach and councils' experiences. Secured commitment in Spring Budget from government to explore running 5G trials in rural and urban areas. Hosted a national digital connectivity summit attended by councils and providers to discuss the role of local government in expanding high quality digital infrastructure coverage.

#### **Priority 4 – Children, education and schools**

- 4.1. **Report on academies and the LGPS** - received, as secretariat to the LGPS advisory board, a PwC report on the participation of academies in the LGPS, highlighting possible approaches to resolving the main issues faced by academies and LGPS administrators.
- 4.2. **Home Affairs Committee inquiry into child migrants** - Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on child migrants. Cllr Simmonds spoke positively about the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, saying it was a model that should be replicated elsewhere.
- 4.3. **Education Committee inquiry into fostering** - Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the Children and Young People Board, gave evidence to the Education Committee as part of its inquiry into fostering. He highlighted the doubled demand for some children's services over the last ten years and the expected £1.9 billion funding gap in three years' time.
- 4.4. **Children and Social Work Bill** - The Bill concluded in the House of Commons. We worked with MPs and the Government to support amendments to put relationships and sex education, and PSHE education, on a statutory footing.
- 4.5. **Asylum seeking children** - The LGA held an [event](#) for lead members on resettlement and asylum jointly with the Immigration Minister and Home Office on 28 January. Attendees discussed the impact of programmes on local authorities; particularly funding and support for unaccompanied children.

- 4.6. **Children and Social Work Bill** - Our response to the amendment to the Children and Social Work Bill which proposed an annual review of the capacity of councils to support unaccompanied children [flagged](#) the support that nearly 90 per cent of authorities already provide to 4,000 children. More information on these issues will continue to be placed on the LGA website.

### **Priority 5 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing**

- 5.1. **Public Accounts Committee inquiry into health and social care integration** - Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on social care (prior to the Spring Budget). She drew attention to the £2.6 billion needed by local government to fund social care and stabilise the care provider market.
- 5.2. **Housing, health and care** - We held a roundtable with councils, developers, health providers, the government and others as part of a on how councils house the disabled and ageing. A final report and good practice guidance will be launched later in the year.
- 5.3. **Public health** - The case studies in this [report](#) show how public health and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) are working together to make a real difference to people's health and wellbeing.
- 5.4. **Transformation four years on** - This year's [compilation of case studies](#) shows how local authorities continue to make progress on improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities since public health was formally transferred from the NHS in April 2013.
- 5.5. **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability** – The LGA submitted to the UN Committee monitoring the UK Government's progress implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with a Disability.

### **Priority 6 – Devolution**

- 6.1. **Bus Services Bill** – Subsequent to its second reading, the LGA is working with MPs to ensure the Bill succeeds, as it includes much-needed improvements to simplify franchising. As we do not want the Bill to fall, we are offering a way forward for all councils on bus franchising which acknowledges the Government's concerns.
- 6.2. **Leading Places** - National conclusion event for pilot phase held on 28 March, launch of second phase due to commence in April 2017.
- 6.3. **Support to Combined Authorities** - Continued to support work of combined authorities and to develop a leadership offer for existing and potential CAs. Identified initial areas of support with two prospective CA areas and refreshed the online DevoHub.
- 6.4. **Support to elected mayors** - Support programmes for Mayoral candidates are underway and a programme of activity for mayors and their Combined Authorities will be discussed at the Combined Authority Chief Executive Network on 20 April.
- 6.5. **Local Growth Academy** - Working with HEFCE, UUK, NHS Confederation and other national partners to develop collaborative leadership programme for higher education, local government and health sector to be launched in May.
- 6.6. **RSA Inclusive Growth Commission** - Supported the launch of the [final RSA inclusive growth commission report](#), a major new publication that proposes further devolution of economic and social policy.

## **Priority 7 – Sector-led Improvement**

- 7.1. **Culture, Tourism and Sport** - Over 100 delegates attended the annual culture, tourism and sport conference in Bristol. They participated in a range of activities and heard from athlete Dame Kelly Holmes and designer Wayne Hemingway. The conference launched [People, Culture, Place](#) – showing councils use culture to boost employment, reduce homelessness, and promote civic pride and participation.
- 7.2. **Votes for women: From suffrage to citizenship** - An LGA supported campaign to mark the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> March. It will link with our 'Be a Councillor' campaign to encourage more diversity among councillors.
- 7.3. **Government's Apprenticeship Policy** - The LGA is continuing to provide support to councils on the implementation of the government's apprenticeship policy. The LGA has provided 5 national events, online advice and support to over 200 councils in 2016/17. For more information contact [Nigel.carruthers@local.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.carruthers@local.gov.uk)
- 7.4. **Tax arrangements for contractors (IR35)** - The Government's [reforms](#) to IR35 rules for contractors in the public sector will take effect from 6 April 2017 and we are working with HMRC to improve associated [guidance](#).
- 7.5. **Come Back to Social Work** - The candidates have now finished their training and are preparing their learning portfolios and registration forms for the Health and Care Professions Council. Read more [here](#).
- 7.6. **Response to GMP consultation** - Responded to a [Government consultation](#) on the long-term treatment of guaranteed minimum pensions (GMPs) paid by the public sector, noting that costs arising from reform in this area should be met by central government.
- 7.7. **Safer and Stronger Communities** - Delivered the first leadership essentials course on counter-extremism to support elected members to understand extremism and approaches to tackling it, how to assess local risks, and how to challenge extremist ideologies.
- 7.8. **Air Quality** - We have worked collaboratively with Defra, ADPH and PHE to generate an [updated suite of tools](#) to help local authorities improve air quality.
- 7.9. **Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)** - After lobbying the government to amend the Local Audit and Accountability Bill in 2013 the LGA established PSAA which has now launched the national scheme for the appointment of external auditors for 2018/19. At the deadline for councils to opt in, 98% of eligible bodies have agreed to do so.
- 7.10. **Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC)** - The LGA CPC programme has been endorsed by an independent evaluation report by Cardiff University. They concluded that CPC remains a highly effective tool whilst providing value for money and stressed the importance of continuing to develop the CPC programme to provide a range of support to prevent failure and alleviate the costs of intervention.
- 7.11. **Leadership Academy programmes for 2016-17** - Have now completed for the year, with a 100 Members due to graduate in June and receive their accredited certificate from the Institute of Leadership and Management.

- 7.12. **Our annual LGA BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) councillor event** - Cllr Mehboob Khan co-hosted this event in February, which had the largest number of attendees to date and received good social media interest. Attendees emphasised the opportunity to meet new colleagues, take away tools and tips and hear fellow BAME councillors' leadership journeys.
- 7.13. **Commercial skills training for senior officers** - Launched this training in partnership with the Institute of Directors, has proved popular. All 20 places for the first cohort starting in February 2017 have been taken, consequently a second cohort has been released, which is due to start in April 2017 in Yorkshire.
- 7.14. **LGA [Commercial Skills Procurement Solution](#)** - Launched to provide councils with a place to procure commercial skills at a competitive rate to make the delivery of commercial projects easier. Fifty councils have already registered an interest.
- 7.15. **New Conversations: LGA guide to engagement** – further to recent work on [transformation](#), Cllr Judi Billing MBE, launched this [guide](#) at the end of February for councillors and officers to create a stronger dialogue with their residents. The Campaign Company developed the guide to increase skills and capacity for engaging with local communities in the context of significant change and challenge.

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

### **LGA Membership**

1. We have five members who have given notice to leave LGA membership at the end of this membership year on 31 March 2017:-
  - 1.1. Gosport Borough Council
  - 1.2. 4 National Parks
  
2. Although 4 of the National Parks have given notice to leave, 6 of the 10 National Parks Authorities that subscribe to National Parks England have confirmed their intention to remain in Associate membership once NPE's corporate membership ends on 31 March 2017.
  
3. Nine councils are currently on notice to leave on 31 March 2018:-
  - 3.1. Manchester City Council
  - 3.2. West Sussex County Council (rolled over)
  - 3.3. Hart District Council
  - 3.4. East Staffordshire Borough Council (rolled over)
  - 3.5. London Borough of Richmond (rolled over)
  - 3.6. Hartlepool Borough Council (rolled over)
  - 3.7. Surrey County Council
  - 3.8. Leicestershire County Council
  - 3.9. Essex County Council
  
4. Three councils remain out of membership – the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet.
  
5. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

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

<b>Chief Executive's Membership Visits: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
6 March	Kingston-upon-Thames
16 March	East Sussex
23 March	Liverpool City Council
24 March	Society of Metropolitan Chief Executives
29 March	Wolverhampton
29 March	West Midlands
31 March	MJ Future Forum
<b>Forward plan: 6 April – 7 June 2017</b>	
20 April	West Midlands District Council Chief Executives
27 April	Bristol South, Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset
18 May	Kent County Council
23 May	Bassetlaw District Council



<b>Director of Communication's Membership Visits: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
3 March	Sandhurst
17 March	Lincoln Council
23 March	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
<b>Forward Plan: 6 April – 7 June 2017</b>	
7 June	Stevenage
<b>Head of Workforce: 2 March – 5 April 2017</b>	
13 March	Warwick District Council
20 March – 4 April	Watford Borough Council

### **Media and Public Affairs**

6. The LGA was **mentioned 164 times** in Parliament in February-March. We submitted responses to **6 parliamentary inquiries**, including the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into child migrants. We also worked on **6 key pieces of legislation**, including the Bus Services Bill and Children and Social Work Bill.
7. The LGA was also mentioned extensively in the media, especially due to the Spring Budget and the Chancellor's announcement on social care funding. Please see **Appendix A** for further information.

## Appendix A: In the Media

<b>Funding for Local Government</b>
Chairman Lord Porter And Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe were interviewed live on the <b>BBC News channel, Sky News, BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC Radio 4's The World Tonight</b> with the LGA's response to the Spring Budget announcement on social care.
The LGA's Budget submission lines ran on <b>BBC Online, Sky News, ITV News, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 5 Live</b> prior to the announcement and on the <b>Telegraph, Express, Metro BBC Online, BBC Daily Politics, LBC, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 BC Radio 5 Live and BBC Radio 4's World Tonight</b> .
The LGA's warning that council tax rises will not fix the local government funding crisis was reported on <b>BBC Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live ITV Online, Guardian Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online, Times, Telegraph, i paper, Sun and Mail</b> . CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed live on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme, BBC News, Talk Radio, BBC News, Sky News and Sky News Radio</b> . Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes was interview on <b>LBC</b> . Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton talked about the story on 11 <b>BBC</b> regional radio stations and Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober featured on <b>BBC Radio London</b> .
Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured in the <b>Mail, Sun, Mirror, Mirror Online, i paper, Independent Online and ITV Online</b> with the LGA's response to a Communities and Local Government Committee report calling for Chancellor Philip Hammond to bring forward £1.5 billion for social care services. CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane was also interviewed on <b>Sky News</b> and featured on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live</b> news bulletins.
Chairman Lord Porter featured in the <b>i paper, Mirror, Guardian Online, Mirror Online and Sun Online</b> with the LGA's response to the final Local Government Finance Settlement. The LGA's lines were also referenced on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today</b> programme.
Lord Porter was mentioned on the <b>BBC News channel, BBC Daily Politics, BBC Radio 5 Live, Sky News, BBC News channel and LBC</b> during live coverage of Prime Minister's Questions, when Jeremy Corbyn referenced the LGA's warning that extra rises in council tax will not be enough to offset the growing cost of providing adult social care.
The LGA's warning that the social care funding gap will be £2.6 billion by 2020 was referenced by <b>BBC News, Guardian, FT and BBC Radio 5 Live</b> . Cllr Seccombe was interview on this on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4's File of Four and LBC</b> and featured in a <b>Telegraph Online</b> article and <b>BBC Online, BBC Six O'Clock New and Mail Online</b> reporting on an investigation of delayed discharges in NHS hospitals.
LGA Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup's appearance before the Public Accounts Committee was reported on <b>Mirror Online</b> and on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament</b> programme.
The <b>Express</b> and <b>i paper</b> reported the LGA's press release on the results of its survey of MPs and peers carried out by ComsRes, which found that the majority were supportive of more money going to adult social care.
<b>Guardian Online, Mirror Online, Sky News Online, Sun Online, BBC Online, I paper and LBC Online</b> reported the LGA's lines about how the extra income from council tax rises will not be enough to close the social care funding gap, as well as Cllr Kober being interview by the <b>Mirror</b> on the issue.
Resources Board Vice Chairman Cllr John Fuller discussed business rates retention and revaluation on <b>BBC Radio 4's Money Box</b> .
<b>Guardian's</b> front page story ahead of the Budget featured the LGA's calls for greater funding of social care and an article on the <b>Guardian</b> and the <b>i paper</b> referenced our warning that services for learning disabilities are under threat. Our response to the Health Foundation's warning on the issue was also reported in the <b>Sun</b> , the <b>Sunday Mirror</b> reported our warning that statutory duties were at risk.
Resources Board Chair Cllr Claire Kober featured in the <b>Observer</b> with the LGA's response to government plans to raise business rates bills.
Chairman Lord Porter featured in a column in the <b>Times</b> on unprecedented funding reductions.
The LGA was mentioned on <b>Channel 4 News</b> in relation to a story on the setting of business rates.
The <b>Telegraph</b> reported the LGA's response to plans by more than 150 health trusts to mount a major test case against a local authority, having had their applications for charitable relief rejected.

<p>The LGA's response to new analysis by the Royal Society of Medicine linking 30,000 excess deaths in 2015 with cuts to health and social care was reported in the <b>Mirror</b> and the <b>Times</b>.</p>
<p><b>Inclusive growth, jobs and housing</b></p>
<p>The LGA's release warning how councils are spending £2 million a day on temporary accommodation to house homeless families was reported in the <b>i paper</b> and on <b>LBC</b>.</p>
<p>EEHT Board Chairman Cllr Martin Tett was interviewed on <b>BBC Radio 5 Live</b> and <b>BBC Daily Politics</b> on potholes and our lines were covered on <b>Sky News, BBC Radio 1, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, LBC, Talk Radio, Sky News Online, Times, Mirror, Express, Telegraph, Sun, Mail</b> and <b>LBC Online</b>.</p>
<p>Vice Chair of EEHT Cllr Judith Blake, featured in the <b>Telegraph</b> and <b>Mirror Online</b> with the LGA's response to the English Housing Survey showing the number of people owning their own home has fallen to its lowest level in 30 years.</p>
<p>The <b>Observer</b> reported the LGA's official submission to government ahead of the Budget, in a piece on the freeze on housing benefit and the need to build more affordable homes and the <b>Independent Online</b> reported our lines on council efforts to provide this housing despite Right to Buy.</p>
<p>The LGA's lines on the new 'revenge' eviction law was reported on <b>BBC Online</b>.</p>
<p><b>Children, education and schools</b></p>
<p>CYP Chair Cllr Richard Watts featured on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme</b> ahead of the Education Funding Agency's appearance before the Public Accounts Committee.</p>
<p>Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group Chairman Cllr Simmonds was interviewed live on the <b>BBC News channel</b> and featured on <b>BBC Six and Ten O'Clock News, Channel 4 News, BBC Radio 4's World Tonight, BBC Radio 5 Live, LBC, FT, Guardian, BBC Online, ITV Online, Independent Online</b> and <b>BBC London</b> in relation to the LGA's response to the closure of the Dubs scheme.</p>
<p>The LGA's call for sex and relationship education to be made compulsory in secondary academies and free schools was reported by <b>Sky News, BBC Online, Times, Guardian, Telegraph, Mirror, I paper, Mail, Express Online, Sun Online, Mirror Online</b> and <b>BBC Radio 2</b> and <b>4</b> news bulletins. CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane was also interviewed on <b>Sky News</b> and <b>BBC Radio London</b>.</p>
<p><b>BBC Online</b> and <b>Guardian Online</b> reported the LGA's response to a Commons Education Committee report calling for councils to be able to set up Multi-Academy Trusts.</p>
<p>Cllr Richard Watts featured on <b>BBC Online, Guardian Online (twice)</b> and <b>ITV Online</b> with the LGA's response to analysis of government data about the proportion of children given their first choice of secondary school compared with the previous 12 months and how councils have created 300,000 primary places in recent years.</p>
<p>Cllr Watts featured on <b>Guardian Online</b> with the LGA's response to a National Children's Bureau report on disabled children with complex needs.</p>
<p>Cllr David Simmonds featured on <b>BBC News channel's Wednesday in Parliament</b> and <b>BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament</b> programmes with recorded coverage of his appearance before the Home Affairs select committee to talk about the pressures on councils to accommodate child refugees.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to ministers pledging £40 million towards the fight against child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking was reported in the <b>Metro, Independent, ITV Online</b> and <b>BBC Online</b>.</p>
<p><b>BBC Online</b> reported the LGA's release calling for council maintained schools to be given the power to sponsor academy schools.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to an NAO report on capital funding for schools was reported on <b>Guardian Online</b> and <b>Mirror Online</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's lines on unaccompanied asylum-seeking child refugees were referenced by Yvette Cooper MP, in a <b>Guardian Online</b> article about the closure of the Dubs scheme.</p>
<p><b>Promoting health and wellbeing</b></p>
<p>Cllr Simon Blackburn, SSCB Chair, was interviewed on <b>Sky News Radio</b> and <b>LBC</b> about the LGA's call for the drink drive limit to be lowered to be reduced, which was also reported on <b>BBC News, Sky</b></p>

<p><b>News, Talk Radio, talkSport, Telegraph, Guardian, Times, Sun, Mail, Mail Online, Independent Online, BBC Online, Mirror Online, Express Online, Sky News Online, LBC, LBC Online.</b></p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by Relate warning that one in eight adults experience loneliness was reported on <b>Express Online</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's setting up of the National FGM Centre with Barnardo's was referenced by Education Secretary Justine Greening in a comment piece for <b>Times Online</b>.</p>
<p>Cllr Seccombe appeared on <b>Channel 5 News</b> to discuss the LGA's response to Age UK's report on the health and care of older people, which was reported on <b>BBC Online</b>.</p>
<p>LGA lines on the challenges faced by councils in supporting young carers were reported on <b>BBC Six O'Clock News, BBC News 24, BBC News at Ten, BBC Radio 5 Live, and BBC Radio 4</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by the CLG Select Committee which on the neglect of public parks was reported in the <b>Mirror</b> and on <b>LBC, Sky News</b> and <b>ITV Online</b>. Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming discussed the issue on <b>BBC Radio 4's Today programme</b>.</p>
<p><b>Sector-led improvement</b></p>
<p>An opinion piece on library funding by CTS Chair Cllr Ian Stephens was published on <b>Guardian Online</b> and was timed to coincide with the LGA's annual CTS Conference taking place in Bristol.</p>
<p>The <b>Times, Guardian, i paper, Express Online, BBC Online, Sky News Online, ITV Online</b> and <b>LBC Online</b> reported the LGA's response to appliance manufacturer Whirlpool issuing new guidance telling people not to use their branded tumble dryers until they are repaired, after the company previously insisting they were safe.</p>
<p>Cllr Fleming appeared on the <b>BBC's One Show</b> programme to discuss the new powers councils have to issue on-the-spot fines to and seizing the vehicles of fly-tippers.</p>
<p>Conservative MP Heidi Allen mentioned in a live interview on the <b>BBC Daily Politics</b> programme the Government's use of LGA's contacts to consult councils on the Syrian refugees resettlement scheme.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to new government fly-tipping figures was reported on <b>Guardian Online, Express Online, BBC Online</b> and <b>ITV Online</b>.</p>
<p>The LGA's previous lines on proposals to impose fines on councils and utility companies for leaving roadworks unattended at weekends, which have now been dropped, were reported in the <b>Times</b> and <b>Mail Online</b>.</p>
<p>The <b>Sunday Times</b> featured Cllr Tett with our call for changes to help tackle littering and fly-tipping.</p>
<p><b>BBC Radio 5 Live Investigates</b> reported our lines on the need for a central database of taxi drivers in England and Wales, to help protect passengers.</p>
<p>The LGA's response to a report by Big Brother Watch, about the use by council staff of body-worn cameras, was covered in the <b>Telegraph</b> and also reported on <b>LBC</b> news bulletins.</p>
<p>The LGA's work with local authorities to find the best way to improve recycling rates was referenced by Keep Britain Tidy's chief executive in an interview on <b>ITV News</b>.</p>
<p>The <b>Times</b> reported the LGA's lines about how councils are likely to experience a further cost burden ahead of the introduction of the new 12-sided £1 coin.</p>
<p>The LGA's earlier release calling for lorry drivers to be compelled to use commercial satnav models rather than personal ones was reported in the <b>Star</b>.</p>