

Chief Executive's Report – January 2018

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The LGA business plan for 2017/18 centres on six external priorities:

- Britain's exit from the EU;
- Devolution and funding for local government;
- Inclusive growth, jobs and housing;
- Children, education and schools;
- Adult social care and health; and
- Supporting councils.

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.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the Chief Executive's report for January 2018.

Action

As directed by members.

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Chief Executive's Report – January 2018

Achievements against our external priorities

Priority 1 – Britain's exit from the EU

- 1.1 **Debate on Brexit:** on 5 December we hosted a debated on Brexit and local government attended by Hilary Benn MP, UKIP Leader Henry Bolton and Wera Hobhouse MP and chaired by Cllr Kevin Bentley.
- 1.2 **CLG Select Committee evidence:** on 6 December Cllr Kevin Bentley gave evidence to the the Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry into Brexit and the Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution APPG, particularly highlighting the importance of ESIF successor funding for councils.
- 1.3 **Visit to London Gateway Port:** on 20 November, Cllr Anita Lower and officers visited the London Gateway Port in Essex to learn about the impact of Brexit on the port health functions provided by local authorities.
- 1.4 **Industrial Strategy and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF):** we [welcomed the announcement of a consultation on the UKSPF](#) but expressed disappointment at the lack of any actionable detail.
- 1.5 **Buckinghamshire Brexit Summit:** on 8 December officers attended the Brexit Summit in Buckinghamshire County Council to update members on the LGA's priorities for leaving the EU and learn about the views of local businesses.
- 1.6 **Future of UK Trade Policy Roundtable:** on 16 January Cllr Kevin Bentley attended a roundtable hosted by Antonia Romeo (Permanent Secretary, DTI) Crawford Falconer (Chief Trade Negotiator Adviser) where he highlighted importance of local government for UK trade policy.
- 1.7 **EU Withdrawal Bill:** we produced a briefing for the Committee Stage of the EU Withdrawal Bill, which resulted in discussion of our key messages in the debate.
- 1.8 **Committee of the Regions:** together with the local government associations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, we have been in discussion with the government about how our advisory role within the Committee might be replicated in UK law. Our shared ambition is to replicate the advisory role of local government in the UK post-exit, without creating new bureaucracies. Lord Porter recently tabled a question in Parliament seeking an update from government on the matter.
- 1.9 **Briefings:** we published a briefing covering the issues of importance to local government addressed in the December EU/UK agreement on the progress of the negotiations, briefed Peers ahead of questions on the replacement for the European Structural Investment Funds and ahead of a debate on the industrial strategy, including our lines on EU successor funding.

Priority 2 – Devolution and funding for Local Government

- 2.1 **2018/19 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement:** the [provisional settlement](#) was announced on 19 December 2017. A fuller report on the announcement and the LGA's consultation response is a separate item on the agenda. The consultation closes on 16 January 2018. We provided produced our usual [on the day briefing](#) summarising the details of the announcement and providing an initial LGA response. On 10 January 2018, the Chairman and Group Leaders (or their representative) met with the Secretary of State and new Local Government Minister to discuss the draft Settlement.
- 2.2 **Business Rates Retention:** this is covered in more detail in a separate report on the agenda. On 19 December 2017, the Government announced that it will introduce 75 per cent business rates retention from April 2020. To achieve this a number of specific grants will be phased out and rolled into business rates retention. Following this switch, English councils will collectively keep 75 per cent of any future growth of business rate income. Alongside the introduction of further business rates retention, the Government has committed to working with the sector to improve the way the local government finance system works, such as tackling the impact of business rate appeals on local authorities. The joint

MHCLG / LGA officer steering group held two meetings in the autumn, reviewing how further retention can be taken forward without primary legislation and planning the further work to achieve this.

The Government also announced that 10 areas were successful in applying to pilot 100% business rates retention in 2018/19, alongside the previous pilots which have been extended for another year. The London pilot has also been expanded to include London boroughs as well as the Greater London Authority. This means that in 2018/19 there will be 16 business rates retention pilots in operation. The Government has committed to the pilot process continuing in 2019/20.

- 2.3 **Fair Funding Review:** this is covered in a separate report on the agenda. The Government confirmed that it is looking to implement the Fair Funding Review by April 2020. The results of the Review will be used to form the funding baselines as part of the move to 75 per cent business rates retention. Following our calls to inject further pace into the process of the Review to maintain its credibility with our members, the Government also published a [consultation](#) on the design of the relative needs assessment. The Government has accepted the case made by stakeholders, and supported by the LGA, that the new needs assessment should aim to be simpler but without a disproportionate cost to fairness. The Business Rates Task and Finish Group will oversee the production of the draft LGA response, with LGA Leadership Board and Executive providing final clearance.
- 2.4 **Business Rates Reliefs:** we have worked with MHCLG and local authorities to develop a better understanding of the status of implementation of the three business rate relief schemes announced in Spring Budget 2017. The Government now regularly publishes a list of councils that have implemented some or all relief schemes. At the last publication at the end of December, it was reported that there are 23 councils which need to implement one relief and 5 councils which need to implement two reliefs, and all other councils have implemented all three reliefs.
- 2.5 **Prudential Framework – Investment code and MRP guidance:** following discussion with members and finance colleagues in the sector we submitted [a response](#) to the [MHCLG consultation](#) on the Local Authorities investment code and Minimum Revenue Provision guidance. There are concerns that the investment proposals will restrict council borrowing for capital investment and the MRP proposals will increase the ongoing revenue costs of capital investments, all of which will limit councils ability to use investment income as an alternative funding source to protect local services.
- 2.6 **Combined Authority Network:** we convened inaugural meetings of combined authority leads for; finance, housing and planning, and employment and skills as requested by the Combined Authority Chief Executive Network (CA CEX). These were well received by attendees and planning has commenced for subsequent meetings.
- 2.7 **Combined authority financial freedoms:** we have appointed a provider to deliver research into combined authority financial freedoms and fiscal devolution on behalf of the CA CEX Network. The appointed provider will commence the research project with a session with CA finance directors on 18 January and present initial findings at the next meeting of the CA CEX Network in March.
- 2.8 **Leading Places:** the second phase of the Leading Places programme continues to progress in 15 areas. In November, we hosted the first Leading Places national event, an opportunity for project teams from across the country to share learning and consider how progress can be made in their areas. We have also contributed to the development of the Local Growth Academy which is a leadership programme developed in partnership between HEFCE, the LGA, Universities UK and the NHS Confederation.
- 2.9 **Written evidence:** we provided written evidence on business rates to the Communities and Local Government Committee.

Priority 3 – Inclusive Growth, Jobs and Housing

- 3.1 **Industrial Strategy:** we produced a comprehensive [briefing](#) for member councils following publication. The Industrial Strategy announced a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships. The LGA issued a [joint statement](#) with the LEP Network committing to joint working on the LEP review process and further discussions on local industrial strategies is being planned with LEP chairs in the coming weeks. The LGA were also successful in ensuring that local government representation on the LEP Review Advisory Panel included representation from non-metropolitan areas as well as city-regions.
- 3.2 Dame Judith Hackitt [published](#) her interim report on the **future regulatory system**. The report found that building regulations are not fit for purpose and a “cultural change” was needed instead of “doing things cheaply”. The report’s findings reinforce our warnings about the complexity and confusion in the current system of ensuring buildings are safe. In our [response](#) we said that the Government needs to endorse the report’s findings without delay and work with councils and the industry to take the process of reform forward.
- 3.3 Nearly 30 council representatives attended an [LGA seminar on town centres](#), which included presentations from the commercial development sector, experts on town centre management, and academia as well as local authority case studies. Further good practice support, based on feedback from the event, is being developed, including a web-based toolkit and advice for elected members.
- 3.4 We have initiated around 40 projects supporting councils to meet local housing challenges through the **LGA Housing Advisers Programme**, including support to build more homes, to reduce homelessness, and planning to meet the housing needs of an ageing population.
- 3.5 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry into the **Draft Tenant Fees Bill**, noting that while banning letting agent for tenants will bring welcome clarity, government needs to review and modernise the legal and regulatory framework for privately rented housing so that councils can meet the expectation of tenants and landlords.
- 3.6 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry into the **Private Rented Sector**, recommending changes that would allow councils to make better use of tools that can improve the quality of the private rented sector, such as discretionary licensing powers.
- 3.7 We provided evidence to two MHCLG consultations on **the letting and managing agent market**, noting that any additional responsibilities for trading standards must be accompanied by adequate resources.
- 3.8 We submitted oral and written evidence to the **Environmental Audit Committee on Disposable Packaging: Coffee Cups and Plastic Bottles**. Our key messages focussed on highlighting the costs to councils of dealing with plastic packaging, which is often difficult to recycle. We also gave evidence on the low amount of money that UK packaging companies contribute to recycling costs compared to other countries, and called for a revised producer responsibility scheme.
- 3.9 We responded to the **Voluntary and Economic Incentives Working Group consultation on reducing littering of drinks containers and the promotion of recycling**. Our focus was around a revised producer responsibility scheme and how government can provide further direct support for recycling infrastructure.
- 3.10 We submitted evidence to the consultation on amending the **New Towns Act** setting out plans for allowing councils to establish local development corporations and issued a briefing to Peers ahead of a debate in the House of Lords on **Town and Country Planning Fees Regulation**.
- 3.11 Senior Vice President, Cllr Nick Forbes, gave evidence to **the Treasury Select Committee** on housing proposals in the Budget 2017.
- 3.12 Cllr Rachel Eburne gave evidence to the **Communities and Local Government Committee** on the **Homelessness Reduction Act**.

- 3.13 We published a survey of councils on the impact of the Local Housing Allowance freeze on homelessness.
- 3.14 We briefed MPs ahead of a debate in the House of Commons on **social homes for rent**
- 3.15 We submitted to the '**Right homes, right places**' **planning consultation** including proposals for locally assessing housing need
- 3.16 We wrote a joint letter with a number of other organisations to the Secretary of State calling for a requirement for **viability assessments** that accompany planning applications to be made public.
- 3.17 We published analysis of income shortfall caused by delay to implementing increase in **planning fees**.
- 3.18 We wrote to MHCLG Ministers asking for a delay to implementing the **Homelessness Reduction Act**.
- 3.19 We are reviewing Annex 18 of the **Homelessness Code of Guidance** in line with new homelessness duties, and due to consult the sector on changes shortly.

Priority 4 – Children, education and schools

- 4.1 **Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper:** the Government has [published](#) a Green Paper on children and young people's mental health, which is open for consultation until 2 March 2018. It focuses on earlier intervention and prevention and the role of schools and colleges. In our [response](#), we reiterated the need for timely support to be made available to all children and for support to be made available in all schools.
- 4.2 We launched our [Vision for Youth Services](#), outlining our long-term vision for youth provision and our aspirations to support local work in this area, as well as calling on the Government to give young people's policies a higher profile and additional funding.
- 4.3 We published [analysis](#) of official figures that showed that more than 500 child protection investigations were started by councils every single day on average last year, an increase from 200 investigations a day a decade ago.
- 4.4 **Councils' role in school improvement:** we [published](#) research looking at the changing role of councils in school improvement, undertaken on behalf of the LGA by the Isos Partnership. The research sets out how councils, in their efforts to drive up school standards, have taken a variety of different approaches to developing effective school improvement systems, responding differently to the challenges facing the education system.
- 4.5 We wrote to all MPs regarding the **Brighter Futures Campaign**.
- 4.6 We briefed Peers ahead of debates on the **role on education and the number of vulnerable children** in the House of Lords.
- 4.7 We provided a brief to MPs ahead of a debate **on the provision of children's services** in the House of Commons.
- 4.8 The LGA's evidence was quoted in an Education Committee report on **fostering**.
- 4.9 We briefed Peers ahead of questions on support for **child refugees** and briefed MPs ahead of questions on **home schooling**.

Priority 5 – Adult Social Care and health

- 5.1 **Better care Fund:** the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) has provided support to councils through the BCF support programme including seven areas through assurance and escalation processes. We have targeted help around transfers of care developing a new support offer for the most challenged systems and a range of national events on winter preparedness.
- 5.2 We are currently testing our **Prevention at Scale** offer, designed to help areas improve the scale and pace of their prevention initiatives. Support plans are in place with 15 councils, including some districts, covering healthy lifestyle, social isolation, mental health, children with SEND, inequalities, CVD and diabetes.
- 5.3 We are supporting 19 single tier and county councils deliver projects using digital technology to improve social care services as part of our [Local Investment Programme](#) with NHS Digital. Themes include: sharing data, integrating commissioning, enabling multi-disciplinary working.
- 5.4 We continue to support individual lead members through **our Leadership Development Programme** (24 attended events last quarter) and systems leadership remains CHIP's highest requested support activity. A national care and health network for place-based leaders is in development with health partners.
- 5.5 **Air Quality:** we submitted written and oral evidence to the Joint Committee inquiry on Air Quality. Our key message was that providing clean air is the responsibility of central government. However, councils have a role to play in helping the Government to deliver this responsibility. The Government's air quality plans can be successful but they need local leadership, sufficient funding and to be accompanied by robust national action.
- 5.6 Cllr Adelle Morris, Deputy Chair of our Environment, Economy Housing and Transport Board, gave evidence on improving air quality to the **APPG on Air Pollution** and on improving air quality to the **Joint Health, Transport, EAC and EFRA Committee**.
- 5.7 With Public Health England and others we have developed a set of **employer standards for public health staff**. The standards set out how progressive employers can ensure that public health specialists can maximise their personal development and pursue good quality careers across the complex public health landscape. The standards will be launched online.
- 5.8 **Sport and physical activity conference:** on 5 December, Tracey Crouch MP joined our conference and announced the launch of a £130 million investment in 12 local areas by Sport England. The conference also launched our new publication on models for delivering sport and physical activity services – Active people, healthy places.
- 5.9 We submitted written evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee session on **housing for older people**.
- 5.10 We wrote a briefing for MPs setting out our lines on suicide prevention ahead of a debate in the House of Commons on **male suicide**.

Priority 6 – Supporting Councils

- 6.1 **Carillion:** We have been keeping councils informed about the position with Carillion and this work stepped up since the beginning of the new year. We have feedback to government the positive steps councils have been taking to ensure there is no disruption to key services following the liquidation of Carillion. Councils are also working with other public sector partners in their local area to be ready for any wider knock-on effects of Carillion's failure.

- 6.2 **Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA):** PSAA, a company established by the LGA, has successfully put in place national contracts to provide a cost effective and quality audit service for the sector as a whole. Fees for all councils opting in to the national scheme are now proposed to fall by 23% next year, on top of the 55 per cent reduction already achieved since 2011/12. These savings are even greater than originally indicated and are testament to the joint work of LGA and PSAA colleagues, the benefits of which are being passed on to all councils and other bodies opting in to the scheme. By council type, a county will, on average, save £25k, a district £12k, a London borough £38k and a metropolitan district £35k. Details are available on PSAA's website.
- 6.3 In addition **Public Sector Audit Appointments**, in line with its not-for-profit status, has distributed a dividend of £5.6 million to councils and related audited bodies (equivalent to approximately 15 per cent of current fees). On average a county council has received a one off re-imbusement of £16k, a district council has received £8k, a London borough £25k and a metropolitan district £23k.
- 6.4 **National Graduate Development Programme (ngdp):** applications closed last week for the LGA's ngdp. This year has seen more applications than ever before, with over 2700 graduates applying for national management trainee positions in local authorities across the country. ngdp offers local government management trainees who have leadership potential the capacity to work on innovative and strategic projects. There is still time to register as a host authority and realise the benefits of this national programme within your own council.
- 6.5 **Be a Councillor Women's Network:** we have set up a new Be a Councillor Women's Network, which aims to bring councillors and prospective councillors together to discuss issues and barriers to women entering (and staying in) politics, how we can work to address these issues, better support newcomers, provide individual support to women considering standing, share and create activity, resources, ideas and inspiration..
- 6.6 **Behavioural Insights Programme:** we have launched the second phase of the LGA's Behavioural Insights Programme working with [seven organisations](#) on a range of projects to trial innovation and behavioural insights theory. The programme encourages innovation in local public services by giving support to councils to help them deal with their biggest service challenges. The new projects include encouraging uptake of assistive technology and preventing accidental dwelling fires.
- 6.7 **Library Masterclasses:** we held two masterclasses for heads of library services and strategic planning officers to introduce a new strategic planning tool and benchmarking framework that we have developed; ensuring services can measure delivery against corporate priorities and local need.
- 6.8 **Productivity Experts Programme:** the latest case studies emanating from our Productivity Experts programme have just been launched and can be found [here](#). The programme helps councils access skills and expertise to realise efficiency savings and income generation opportunities.
- 6.9 **Cyber Security:** Over the last year, public and private sector organisations have been subject to increasing numbers of cyber-attacks. The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has worked with councils and other public sector organisations to develop a free to use tool [Web Check](#) – a website configuration and vulnerability scanning service that highlights out of date certificates and other potential vulnerabilities. Over 120 councils have already signed up.
- 6.10 We held a briefing for members of the **LGA Communications and Parliamentary Network**
- 6.11 A [pay claim](#) has been received in respect of Chief Executives. The National Employers will consider this claim when they next meet on 6 February 2018. A pay claim in respect of Chief Officers is expected in early February.
- 6.12 The first phase of the [LGA's Return to Social Work](#) Programme launches this month and forms part of Government's aim to help facilitate the journey back to work for those who have taken a career break.

Internal Priority – A single voice for local government

LGA Membership

7. The total number of councils on notice remains at eight. These are:

- West Sussex County Council
- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- London Borough of Richmond
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- Essex County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Southend Borough Council

8. Four councils remain out of membership: the London Boroughs of Bromley, Wandsworth and Barnet and Gosport Borough Council.

Membership engagement by the Strategic Management Team:

Chief Executive	
<i>8 December 2017 – 24 January 2018</i>	
8 December	Chief Executive of Basildon Council
8 December	Interim Chief Executive Northamptonshire County Council
10 January	East Hampshire District & Havant Borough Councils
11 January	District Councils Network Chief Executives
23 January	Chief Executive Sounding Board
<i>Forward plan</i>	
25 January	Association of County Council Chief Executives
29 January	Essex County Council
30 January	Bradford MBC
2 February	South West Chief Executives
8-9 February	DCN National Conference
Director of Communications	
<i>8 December 2017 – 24 January 2018</i>	
21 December	Great Yarmouth Council
8-10 January	Swindon Council
12 January	Reigate and Banstead Council

Media

Devolution and funding for local government
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Lord Porter interviewed on Sky News and BBC Radio 5 Live about LGA's response to provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (Telegraph, Times, Guardian, Mail, Independent, i paper, Mirror, BBC Online, FT Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Sun Online, BBC Radio 4, BBC local news bulletins, BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament, BBC News at Ten, BBC News channel, ITV News, Sky News bulletins)
Call for council tax rise restrictions to be lifted ahead of Local Government Finance Settlement (Times)
LGA call for Local Government Finance Settlement to provide replacement funding to all councils in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to avoid reaching financial breaking point (Times, Mirror)
Cllr John Fuller interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about importance of councils continuing to make prudent commercial property investments (Times)
Councils' use of bailiffs and need for councils to collect business rates while supporting local businesses struggling to pay (Mail Online, Sky News Online, LBC Online)
£5.8 billion funding gap facing local government by the end of the decade (Guardian Online)
Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
Lord Porter on BBC Daily Politics and Sky News about response to interim Hackitt Review into building regulations (FT, BBC Online, Mirror Online)
Call for Hackitt Review to provide clear guidance on cladding replacement, ahead of publication of interim report (Mirror)
Response to Ombudsman report on homelessness now a risk for people in stable jobs (Guardian, i paper, Independent Online, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins)
Cllr Peter Fleming on LBC, Talk Radio and Sky News Radio on 128,000 children in temporary accommodation at Christmas (Independent Online)
Cllr Nick Forbes' appearance before Treasury Select Committee calling for councils to be able to borrow freely to invest in housing (FT, Sun Online)
Call for improvement to Apprenticeship Levy in order for it to reach its full potential (Times)
Latest affordable housing figures response (Mirror Online)
Just one home in every five sold off under Right to Buy has been replaced (Independent Online)
Cost of providing temporary accommodation to families has tripled over the last three years (Channel 4 News Online)
Call for government to fully fund unexpected, exceptional costs incurred by councils in removing and replacing cladding systems (Mirror)
Councils and housing associations should be given back the right to offer lifetime tenancies to vulnerable tenants (BBC Online)
Wildlife Trusts calls for nature-friendly housing developments (BBC Online)
Christmas markets bringing £250 million boost to high streets (Sun on Sunday)
Children, education and schools
Cllr Richard Watts interviewed on Talk Radio, LBC, Sky News Radio, BBC Radio London about more than 500 child protection investigations started every day last year (Sky News, Sun, Mirror, Independent)
Cllr Richard Watts on BBC Breakfast about financial pressures facing children's services
Children's services intervention ahead of new assessment framework (Observer)
Children's services face a £2 billion funding gap by 2020 (Times)
Response to Education Policy Institute report on growing geographical divide in England for access to secondary school where pupils make good progress (Mail Online)
Lone child refugees cost councils nearly £70,000 every year, more government funding

needed (Mail)
Specialist support for deaf children and call for additional and ongoing government funding to support high-needs children and their families (Mirror Online, BBC Online)
Adult social care and health
Lord Porter live on BBC News channel, also on BBC Radio 4 Today programme and BBC local radio news bulletins about significance of expanding Department of Health title to include Social Care and need to ensure adult social care is properly funded
Cllr Izzi Seccombe live on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and on BBC Radio 5 Live about response to Competition and Markets Authority's review of the care home sector (BBC Online)
Councils commissioning more cost-effective services to ensure drug users receive right support (Guardian)
Call for urgent action in response to Which? investigation into care home market (i paper, Sun, Mail, Mirror)
£1.3 billion funding gap between what social care providers need and what councils are able to pay (Independent Online)
Root and branch reform of children's mental health services needed (BBC Online)
£2.3 billion funding gap in social care funding, response to Alzheimer's Society research on dementia patients 'stranded' in hospital (Independent, Express Online)
Sexual health services at tipping point, greater funding needed to be invested in local services (BBC Radio 5 Live)
Cllr Izzi Seccombe interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's Today programme about NHS winter pressures
New Year's Eve revellers warned to avoid cheap alcohol which could be potentially deadly (Sun, Mirror, Star)
Supporting councils
Communities Minister Marcus Jones referenced the LGA's peer reviews during appearance before Transport Select Committee (BBC Radio 4's Today in Parliament)
Cllr Peter Fleming on BBC Radio 4's Today programme and BBC Radio 5 Live news bulletins on how country needs a more intelligent waste strategy following the Chinese import ban on plastic waste (BBC Online, Telegraph, Mail, BBC Radio 4 news bulletins)
Councils prepared for the winter weather with 1.5 million tonnes of salt (Times Online, Guardian Online, Mail Online, Star)
Fly-tipping prosecutions by councils over the past year, call for faster and more effective legal system to tackle fly-tippers (Times, Guardian, People, Mirror, Mirror Online, Mail Online, BBC Breakfast, Channel 5 News)
Supermarkets and manufacturers should switch to packaging which is easier to recycle (Mail)
Cllr Simon Blackburn on Sky News Radio, TalkRadio, LBC about last minute-warning to Christmas shoppers to look out for fake and potentially dangerous products (Independent, Guardian Online, ITV Online, Good Morning Britain news bulletins)
LGA guidance to councils to be vigilant during the festive season (Sun Online)
Cllr Martin Tett interviewed live on BBC Radio 4's The World at One and LBC to discuss response to alleged government plans to introduce common standards for recycling (Mail, Telegraph, Guardian Online, Express Online, BBC Online, BBC Radio 4's Today programme)
Response to Environmental Audit Committee calls to introduce 25p 'latte levy' (BBC Online, Guardian)

Bath and North East Somerset Council plans for Bath to become first UK city to introduce tourist tax, to fund community projects (Times, Telegraph, Mail Online, Sun Online)

Tighter restrictions needed to avoid children being exposed to gambling advertising (Mail, Sun Online)