

Motion: UN Sustainable Development Goals

Proposer: Mayor Marvin Rees, Bristol City Council.

Role Seconders: Cllr Judith Blake, Leader, Leeds City Council.
Mayor Joe Anderson, Liverpool City Council.

Propose that:

The Association values the importance of the [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) that address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation and prosperity. We welcome the work being done ahead of the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July that will consider how the UK's programmes and policies are contributing to achieving these Global Goals. The Association also welcomes the importance placed by HM Government that all levels of government work together and that its partnership with local government is a key component to successful domestic implementation of the SDGs.

Local government has a vital role to play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, work that will be key in delivering the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030. If implemented properly, each of the SDGs has the potential to be transformative in moving our areas toward a more sustainable society with many of the Goals best supported by local co-ordination and delivery through local government and its partners. Our role can also help raise awareness of these challenges by engaging our areas through local partnerships and with our citizens.

Whilst the Association agrees with Government that such partnerships are a vital component and members have supported work on developing models that engage local stakeholders as effectively as possible, this engagement needs sustainable funding and support in order for councils to effectively share research and engagement with our networks, partners and citizens, particularly given our sector's continuing funding pressures.

The benefits of exploring SDG partnership co-ordinators would be to provide a focal point for activity in our areas and demonstrate the need for local perspectives to be embedded in the delivery of the SDGs, as well as improve the capacity for councils to deliver on the Goals. Supporting such positions would also provide a common language and common roles across different areas, would facilitate the sharing of best practice and further enable the delivery of global and local priorities at the same time.

This Association therefore:

- **Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area; and**
- **Encourages councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs.**

LGA Comment

The LGA supports this important motion and is committed to playing its part in enabling local government to develop locally led contributions towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Goals provide a shared blueprint for a more prosperous future for all. We are clear that if the Government is committed to delivering this vision then this agenda must be embraced across all Whitehall departments and, crucially, local government must be empowered to shape the future of more prosperous and inclusive places across the country.

While not every council has an explicit policy related to the Goals at this time, the wide range of services and investment provided by local government means all councils will have an important role to play in the delivery of the Goals and their associated targets.

However, the ability of councils in England to fulfil their place leadership ambitions, and in doing so deliver on this ambitious global agenda, would be greatly increased with further devolution of powers and a fully funded, sustainable funding settlement.

With the right backing, councils can provide the local leadership required to deliver on their place-based ambitions and, through doing so, will enable the UK to show global leadership on this significant international agenda.

The LGA is committed to exploring on a cross-party basis how we can further make the case for national leadership from Westminster and Whitehall to enhance the vital role of a sustainably resourced and empowered local government sector in the successful delivery of the Goals. This activity will seek to build and expand on the work already undertaken by the LGA in relation to the Government's Voluntary National Review of the UK's progress towards the Goals.