

King's Speech 2023

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

To update the Executive Advisory Board of the Local Government Association (LGA) on the November 2023 King's Speech and to seek approval on the Bills the LGA should prioritise, based on the organisation's business plan and advocacy priorities, for the purpose of its lobbying.

LGA Plan Theme: Strengthening our Voice

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Advisory Board discusses and agrees the recommended prioritisation of the LGA's legislative lobbying for the next parliamentary session.

We will use your feedback to take forward the LGA's legislative lobbying.

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King's Speech 2023

Background

1. The King's Speech announced the Government's agenda for the next Parliamentary session of 2023-2024. The Speech contained some measures that will be of relevance to councils and this paper seeks to summarise the key Government Bills that will come before Parliament and proposes a prioritisation for the LGA's engagement with them.
2. The Speech did not make any other policy announcements. The LGA continues to lobby on many other issues that are important to the sector (this broader set of issues is addressed via the Lobbying Headlines document and set out in our organisation's Business Plan). The LGA will of course also continue to use its parliamentary communications to provide thought leadership and influence parliamentary reports and debates in order to help our efforts to shape decision-making.
3. The [full King's Speech can be found on the Government's website](#).

Issues

4. Following a King's Speech, the LGA uses its business plan to prioritise the legislation and key policy announcements that the organisation will seek to influence. This prioritisation is based on cross-party political direction to ensure that, by focusing our lobbying, the best results are achieved for local government. This also provides councils with an early view of Bills they may wish to work with the LGA on to influence. Following an assessment of the implications of the Government's agenda, we are using the following system of prioritisation:
 - 4.1. **High profile engagement:** For a Bill identified as high profile, the LGA lobbies at each stage of the Bill's passage through Parliament, works with our network of MPs and Peers to table any relevant amendments, uses media, social media and stakeholder engagement to keep our priorities on the national agenda, and proactively engages with the Government department leading the legislation.
 - 4.2. **Medium profile engagement:** For legislation which is important, but does not require as much active lobbying, we will seek to ensure – through constructive engagement with Ministers and officials – that the proposals do not negatively impact on local government. For the Bills managed under the medium profile category, our engagement is usually limited to advising on the detail of the proposals and a general briefing on key issues to Parliament, if it is required. Should the Bill be amended to have a more significant impact on local government, it can be reclassified into the 'high' category.
 - 4.3. **Monitoring:** For legislation that has limited impact on local government, or are not captured by our corporate priorities as set out in the LGA business plan, we will seek to monitor progress. The status of Bills and policy categorised under 'monitoring' will

be reviewed to ensure that any changes do not require more active participation and lobbying by the LGA.

5. We will also be exploring which Private Members Bills (PMBs) will be of interest to us and likely to carry enough support in Parliament to be passed. We will monitor these Bills and make decisions on whether to engage with them on a case by case basis, taking guidance from our policy boards as required.
6. We will also be identifying suitable opportunities to promote our priorities on issues not covered in the legislation set out in the King's Speech by tabling amendments, written and oral questions, and by lobbying for further legislation. This includes remote meetings, publication of councillors' addresses, and buses.
7. We will engage with other relevant and important Green Papers, White Papers and strategies as they are brought forward. We will also look out for any secondary legislation that impact on our work which we need to respond to.
8. As this is a period in the run up to a General Election, the LGA will need to ensure that we are using skills, capacity and resources to support our work around our own White Paper – one of the priorities of our political leadership – and preparing for the next government, including the first King's Speech. We may therefore need to make a decision, in conjunction with political leaders, about re-prioritisation over the next 12 months.
9. Set out below is the proposed prioritisation of legislation and policy announcements in the King's Speech which have been identified as being of interest to councils. The King's Speech briefing, which outlines the overview of these Bills and sets out an initial LGA view, is annexed.

High priority	Medium priority	Monitoring
Tobacco and Vapes Bill	Automated Vehicles Bill	Football Governance Bill
Renters (Reform) Bill – carried over	Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill – carried over	Leasehold and Freehold Bill
Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill	Pedicabs (London) Bill	
	The Criminal Justice Bill	
	Victims and Prisoners Bill – carried over	
	Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill	

Implications for Wales

10. We anticipate that the territorial jurisdiction of the legislation we are set to engage with will be limited to England. We will however update WLGA as required, particularly if it becomes clear that a piece of UK Government legislation is significant for them.

Financial Implications

11. None

Equalities implications

12. None

Next steps

13. We will use your feedback to take forward the LGA's legislative lobbying.

Annex A

Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

- *Legislation will be introduced to strengthen the United Kingdom's energy security and reduce reliance on volatile international energy markets and hostile foreign regimes. This Bill will support the future licensing of new oil and gas fields, helping the country transition to net zero by 2050 without adding undue burdens on households.*
- *The Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill will make the UK more energy independent by increasing investor and industry confidence with regular annual oil and gas licensing. The Bill's emissions tests will ensure that future licensing supports the transition to net zero.*
- *The Bill will enhance the UK's energy security and reduce dependence on higher emission imports from overseas, including from countries like Russia - protecting the domestic oil and gas industry that supports more than 200,000 jobs as we grow the UK economy and realise our net zero target in a pragmatic, proportionate and realistic way.*
- *The UK has cut emissions further and faster than any other major economy and is proud to be a world leader in reducing emissions, but we can and must go further. This is why we have one of the world's most ambitious 2030 emissions targets and why the Government is taking the necessary long-term decisions to put us firmly on track to deliver net zero in 2050.*

LGA view

- Government's specific commitment to continue working to secure record amounts of investment in renewable energy sources is important. Plans to reform grid connections and improve the energy efficiency of homes whilst boosting investments in clean technologies will grow the economy and create jobs.
- Net zero can only be achieved with central government working with local government and with business to establish a deliverable plan for achieving net zero in an affordable and inclusive way. The plan needs to include multi-year place-based funding allocations stimulating the market to respond on skills, workforce, and materials supply chains. [Local Climate Action would achieve net zero by 2050 while saving taxpayers around £140 billion](#) when compared to national approaches and returning an additional £400 billion in wider co-benefits.

Automated Vehicles Bill

- *The Automated Vehicles Bill is intended to be one of the world's most comprehensive legal frameworks for self-driving vehicles. It will set a rigorous safety framework for self-driving vehicles, with safety at its core. It will:*
 - *Set the threshold for self-driving vehicles in law*
 - *Hold companies firmly accountable once vehicles are on roads*
 - *Introduce processes to investigate and learn from incidents*
 - *Require local authorities to send the legal orders they make (for example, to set speed limits, close roads and designate parking bays) to a central publication platform*

- *Create new organisations responsible for self-driving and protect users from being unfairly held accountable.*

LGA view

- [Autonomous Vehicles have potential to dramatically improve people's quality of life](#) especially in areas where bus services struggle to support them. It is important that the law keeps up with new technology and trends in the way we travel.
- Councils will continue to prioritise safety and public health, regardless of mode of travel, alongside plans to keep roads congestion free, buses moving and make walking and cycling the first choice for short journeys to reduce carbon emissions and improve health and wellbeing.
- Councils are already leading the way in digitalising their Traffic Regulation Orders to manage their streets more effectively and efficiently while preparing the ground for autonomous vehicles. It is important that these changes end a long overdue, outdated and expensive requirement for TROs, and other council notices, to be published in local newspapers.
- Government also needs to act to help pedestrians and road users today by regulating the estimated 750,000 private e-scooters already on our roads, the majority of which are used illegally and by banning pavement parking, which would make footpaths accessible to all parts of society.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

- *The Bill will create the first smokefree generation so children born on or after 1 January 2009 (turning 14 this year or younger) will never be able to be legally sold cigarettes. This will mean effectively raising the age of sale by one year each year for this generation, to prevent them and future generations from ever taking up smoking in the first place.*
- *The Government is looking at new regulations to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children – while ensuring that vapes remain available for adult smokers to quit. Proposals include restricting the flavours and descriptions of vapes so they are no longer targeted at children; regulating point of sale displays so that vapes are kept out of sight of children; regulating vape packaging and product presentation, ensuring that neither are targeted to children and closing loopholes in the law which allow children to get free samples and buy non-nicotine vapes.*
- *The Bill will strengthen enforcement activity with new powers to fine - on the spot - rogue retailers who sell tobacco products or vapes to people underage.*
- *The Government is also considering measures to restrict the sale and supply of disposable vapes (including considering prohibiting their sale) and action on the affordability of vapes, including exploring a new duty on vapes.*

LGA view

- Smoking remains one of the leading causes of preventable ill health, disability, and death in England. We believe this is a [progressive piece of legislation that would undoubtedly impact on population level smoking prevalence](#), and ultimately reduce rates of smoking-related disease.
- Raising the legal age for tobacco purchase has been shown to reduce the likelihood

of young people starting to smoke. To make such a policy effective, we support strict enforcement measures and tough penalties for selling tobacco and e-cigarettes to those underaged.

- To help Trading Standards teams in the long term, the LGA continues to call on the Government to boost the future pipeline of qualified trading standards officers through a dedicated apprenticeship fund, investing in regional support networks, and enabling councils to recover more of the costs of running regulatory services. It is also essential that councils receive multi-year public health grant settlements and more long-term certainty around public health funding for all councils.
- With over 260 million disposable vapes thrown away each year, single use vapes blight our streets as litter, are a hazard in our bin lorries, and are expensive and difficult to deal with in our recycling centres. Their colours, flavours and advertising are appealing to children and their long-term health impacts are unknown. Young people who have never smoked should also be discouraged from using vapes.
- We believe a ban on disposable vapes is the next crucial step toward protecting our planet and our children.

Leasehold and Freehold Bill

- *The Bill will improve home ownership for leaseholders in England and Wales, by making it cheaper and easier for more leaseholders to extend their lease, buy their freehold, and take over management of their building.*
- *The Bill will introduce the following measures:*
 - *Make it cheaper and easier for existing leaseholders in houses and flats to extend their lease or buy their freehold - so that leaseholders pay less to gain security over the future of their home.*
 - *Increase the standard lease extension term from 90 years to 990 years for both houses and flats, with ground rent reduced to £0.*
 - *Remove the requirement for a new leaseholder to have owned their house or flat for two years before they can benefit from the above changes.*
 - *Increase the 25 per cent 'non-residential' limit preventing leaseholders in buildings with a mixture of homes and other uses such as shops and offices, from buying their freehold or taking over management of their buildings – to allow leaseholders in buildings with up to 50 per cent non-residential floorspace to buy their freehold or take over its management.*
 - *Make buying or selling a leasehold property quicker and easier by setting a maximum time and fee for the provision of information required to make a sale (such as building insurance or financial records) to a leaseholder by their freeholder.*
 - *A requirement for transparency over leaseholders' service charges – so all leaseholders receive better transparency over the costs they are being charged by their freeholder or managing agent in a standardised comparable format.*
 - *Replace buildings insurance commissions for managing agents, landlords*

and freeholders with transparent administration fees.

- *Extend access to “redress” schemes for leaseholders to challenge poor practice. There will be a requirement for more freeholders to belong to a redress scheme.*
- *The presumption for leaseholders to pay their freeholders’ legal costs when challenging poor practice will be scrapped.*
- *Freehold homeowners on private and mixed tenure estates will be granted the same rights of redress as leaseholders – by extending equivalent rights to transparency over their estate charges, access to support via redress schemes, and to challenge the charges they pay by taking a case to a Tribunal.*
- *Protect leaseholders by extending measures in the Building Safety Act 2022 to ensure freeholders and developers are unable to escape their liabilities to fund building remediation work.*
- *A ban on the creation of new leasehold houses so that - other than in exceptional circumstances - every new house in England and Wales will be freehold from the outset.*

LGA view

- We support the broad intention of the Bill to make leasehold ownership fairer and more affordable for leaseholders, as well as the proposal to ban the creation of new leasehold houses.
- We will work with government and councils to understand and address any unintended consequences of the measures on councils in their role as registered providers of social housing.
- We welcome the proposal to require more freeholders to belong to a redress scheme, so that leaseholders have a clear route for challenging poor or illegal practice. We also support the proposal for freehold homeowners on private and mixed tenure estates to be granted the same rights of redress as leaseholders. It will be vital that the redress scheme has the appropriate set of powers and resources to effectively and efficiently tackle poor-performance and prevent reoccurrence of issues.
- It will be vital that any new requirements on councils to ensure compliance with the legislation is fully funded through new burdens funding.
- The LGA has long argued that [leaseholders should not have to pay the costs of making their homes safe](#) and has supported the provisions in the Building Safety Act 2022 designed to protect leaseholders. Measure to extend the protections for leaseholders are a positive step.

Renters (Reform) Bill – carried over

- *The Renters Reform Bill [published](#) in May 2023 with an accompanying briefing [paper](#) aims to provide greater security and certainty of quality accommodation for renters, while helping landlords get their property back swiftly when needed.*

- *The Bill will introduce the following measures:*
 - *Abolition of Section 21 'no fault evictions'. This will not commence until stronger possession grounds and a new court process is in place.*
 - *Strengthened landlord grounds for possession, adding new mandatory grounds for possession; for example, if landlords wish to sell property or for repeated serious rent arrears, as well as expanding grounds for when close family members wish to move in. If a tenant breaches their tenancy agreement or damages the property, landlords will be able to evict them in as little as two weeks.*
 - *Stronger powers to evict anti-social tenants. The Bill will seek to halve the delay between a landlord serving notice for anti-social behaviour and eviction, with landlords able to make a claim in the court immediately. The criteria for disruptive and harmful activities that can lead to eviction will be broadened.*
 - *Blanket bans on pets will be ended. Tenants will have the right to request a pet, which landlords cannot unreasonably refuse. Landlords' properties will be protected by allowing them to require insurance to cover potential damage from pets.*
 - *Creation of a digital Private Rented Property Portal to bring together key information for landlords, tenants, and councils. Landlords will quickly be able to understand their obligations and demonstrate compliance. Councils will be able to use the Portal to target enforcement where it is needed. Tenants will be able to access helpful information when entering tenancies.*
 - *Support for quicker, cheaper resolution when there are disputes - preventing them escalating to costly court proceedings – with a new Private Rented Sector Ombudsman that will provide fair, impartial and binding resolution, reducing the need to go to court.*
 - *Blanket bans on renting to tenants in receipt of benefits or with children will be made illegal, with landlords retaining the final say on who they rent to.*
 - *Protection of the student rental market in recognition that this market is largely cyclical, and landlords must be able to guarantee possession each year for a new set of tenants. A new ground for possession will be introduced to facilitate this.*
- *Alongside the Bill the Government is also taking forward wider measures to support landlords:*
 - *Speeding up the courts process so landlords can quickly regain possession of their property if a tenant refuses to move out. This work includes an initial commitment of £1.2 million to begin designing a new digital system for possessions.*
 - *Proposals to require landlords to meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C from 2025 in their private rented properties will be scrapped.*

LGA view

- This Bill will help to achieve better standards in the private rented sector through increasing the rights of tenants and enabling them to better hold landlords to account. It will also increase councils' oversight of and ability to enforce against the small

minority of landlords guilty of criminal behaviour.

- The removal of ‘no fault’ evictions is a significant step towards tackling our national homelessness crisis, but the proposed delay to implementation, while the Government addresses court backlogs is very concerning. The Government should urgently publish the evidence base for the delay and bring forward the abolition of ‘no fault’ evictions, also known as Section 21 notices which allow landlords to evict tenants without providing any explicit reason, at pace.
- We also support measures that will enable councils to keep the proceeds of financial penalties to reinvest in enforcement activity. However, this funding won’t cover the costs of the new duties in the Bill or the scale of the proactive work that is needed to improve standards for tenants.
- We will continue to work with government to ensure that councils have the right powers, skills, capacity and resources to undertake effective enforcement activity. This includes removing the requirement for Secretary of State approval for larger selective licensing schemes.
- The LGA issued a [briefing for the committee stage of the Bill](#).

Football Governance Bill

- *“Legislation will be brought forward to safeguard the future of football clubs for the benefit of communities and fans.”*
- *The Bill will extend to England and Wales. It will strengthen the governance and financial resilience of football clubs to protect the national game and clubs’ link with communities and fans. It will do this by;*
 - *Establishing a new independent regulator for English football clubs to address issues of financial sustainability and ensure fans’ voices are listened to.*
 - *Creating a new, strengthened owners’ and directors’ tests to make sure a club’s custodians are suitable.*
 - *Setting a minimum standard of fan engagement, which clubs will need to meet, and requiring the support of a majority of fans for any changes to the club’s badge, name, home shirt colours.*
 - *Requiring clubs to seek the Regulator’s approval for any sale or relocation of the stadium and demonstrate how they have consulted their fans as part of this.*
 - *Preventing clubs from joining breakaway or unlicensed leagues.*
 - *Intervening as a last resort to ensure financial sustainability through the redistribution of broadcast revenue.*
 - *Establishing a compulsory ‘Football Club Corporate Governance Code’.*

LGA view

- It is positive to see a new bill to introduce an independent regulator for professional clubs in the English football pyramid (IREF).
- Local football clubs are community assets that play an important social, civic [and cultural role in local communities](#). Many councils are already working in partnership

with their local football club to protect their heritage and assets and are partnering with them to support more people to be active through football. This is resulting in many clubs being used as community hubs to deliver health and wellbeing classes and services especially since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Long-term sustainable funding for local government, including for sporting facilities is needed](#) to enable councils to help get the nation moving and to expand and build upon its vital work with local sports clubs.
- The Bill is an important opportunity for the Government to improve equality, diversity and inclusion in clubs and parity for women's football. Doing so could help contribute to the Government's specific targets to improve the activity levels of women, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, disabled people and individuals from lower socio-economic groups which are significantly lower following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We call on football authorities and the Government to urgently put measures in place to better protect the welfare of players exiting the game particularly for younger players which for many can result in severe mental health issues or involvement in crime. This would help to improve individuals' life chances as well as reducing the burden on the public purse.

Pedicabs (London) Bill

- *The Bill will enable Transport for London (TfL) to regulate London's pedicabs and protect passengers by conferring powers on TfL to bring forward a licensing regime for pedicabs, in a similar way to local authorities throughout the rest of England and Wales. Enforcement action against those operating without a licence or outside their licence conditions, including civil sanctions and criminal offences, will be enabled.*
- *The Bill will also provide TfL with the ability to introduce fare control to combat overcharging on pedicab services and protect consumers. TfL will be allowed to set standards for operators, drivers and their vehicles to improve the safety of pedicabs, as well as introducing insurance requirements and ensuring vehicles are road worthy.*
- *TfL will be given powers to take steps to improve congestion and tackle issues such as highways obstruction. TfL will be able to restrict the presence of pedicabs in certain areas, at certain times. This will help improve road safety and traffic-related issues in central London.*
- *Pedicab drivers will undergo criminal record and right to work checks before being allowed to carry passengers in the same way that drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs) must do, allowing passengers to use pedicabs with confidence.*

LGA view

- We welcome regulating pedicabs and improving the safety of passengers. A similar Bill has also [previously had the support of many councils in London](#).
- Councils play an important role, alongside police and other partners, in protecting their communities and ensuring that they are safe places to live. We would urge TfL, as the named licensing authority in the Bill, to consult with the relevant London boroughs to ensure that the work already being done by councils to tackle pedicab-related anti-social behaviour and safety concerns is taken into consideration when deciding the regulatory framework.

- It is also crucial that this new licensing framework is in line with the Department for Transport's taxi and PHV statutory standards, which seek to ensure that licensing authorities have robust safeguarding processes in place to protect vulnerable passengers. We also believe, when enacted, a pedicab licensing regime should fall within the scope of the National Register of Licence Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions (NR3S) database, as its use is mandated in other areas of taxi/PHV licensing.
- The LGA has consistently called for urgent reform to the outdated legislation that governs taxi and PHV licensing, and the provisions in the Automated Vehicles Bill make the need for reform even more pressing. We continue to urge the Department for Transport to bring forward a comprehensive Taxi and PHV Licensing Reform Bill to replace the current outdated legislation and make the licensing system for taxis and PHVs fit for the 21st century.

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill – carried over

- *The Bill seeks to remove the possibility for public bodies, including councils, to campaign against, boycott, seek divestment from, or sanction a particular territory internationally, unless endorsed by the Government's own foreign policy.*
- *The Bill repeals the long-standing restriction set out in the Local Government Act 1988 which prevents local authorities from taking territory of origin into account in procurement decisions.*
- *Instead, the Bill introduces a new restriction: "The decision-maker must not have regard to a territorial consideration in a way that would cause a reasonable observer of the decision-making process to conclude that the decision was influenced by political or moral disapproval of foreign state conduct."*
- *The Bill bans making statements in support of boycotts and prohibits public bodies from making statements that clearly indicate that they would engage in boycotts if it were legal to do so.*
- *The Bill enables restrictions imposed by the Bill to be enforceable via judicial review and restricts the court to only accept cases where the applicant "has sufficient interest in the subject matter of the proposed application". The Bill goes on to specify that such an applicant is someone "affected by the decision in question."*
- *The Local Government Pension Scheme is the only UK pension scheme affected by the provisions of the Bill.*

LGA View

- Awarding public contracts based on non-commercial considerations, such as the territory of the supplier or supplies has for many years not been [permitted](#) under Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988.
- We are concerned that this Bill could stifle appropriate and proper discussion at pension committee meetings about concerns relating to investments' risk factors. Geopolitical and territorial factors are relevant to the risk of making, or retaining, certain investments.
- If a member of a pensions committee says that they, as an individual, would support

a boycott, then under the new legislation publishing this in minutes could constitute an offence. Where the individual councillor's view is not supported by the committee collectively, then it shouldn't be a breach of the law for them to express their views.

- The LGA will be seeking clarifications and amendments to protect local authorities from uncertainty, and at worst, vexatious legal actions being brought simultaneously with potential enforcement action from the proper regulator.
- Usually, judicial review is a last resort, but as currently drafted it could potentially be the first resort that an individual could use to complain about a decision or statement of a local authority. This could put courts and judges in the difficult position of having to establish whether there has been a potential breach of the law where there may have been no investigation into the facts of the case by the proper regulator.
- A lack of clarity around what constitutes "sufficient interest" for an applicant to make a complaint exacerbates the problem.

The Criminal Justice Bill

- *The Bill will protect the most vulnerable by introducing a mandatory duty on those who work with children to report concerns relating to Child Sexual Abuse, doing more to expose this hidden crime.*
- *The Bill will tackle violence against women and girls by introducing a statutory aggravating factor at sentencing for offenders who murder their partner at the end of their relationship; criminalising the sharing of intimate images and expanding the offence of encouraging or assisting serious self-harm.*
- *The Bill will crack down on the crimes and anti-social behaviour that blight communities by increasing the maximum penalty for sale of dangerous weapons to under 18s.*
- *The Bill will crack down on the crimes and anti-social behaviour that blight communities by tackling persistent, nuisance, and organised begging.*

LGA view

- We support the introduction of a duty on those who work with children to report concerns relating to child sexual abuse (CSA). However, if this is to be effective in protecting children, it is vital that the duty is introduced alongside a significant expansion in specialist support for victims and survivors of CSA, as both the Independent Inquiry into CSA and the Centre of Expertise on CSA have identified a significant shortfall in support and long waiting lists. Training for those working with children is also vital to ensure confidence in identifying and responding to abuse, while consideration must be given to ensure safe spaces for children to disclose abuse.
- Evidence from other jurisdictions suggests that introducing mandatory reporting can lead to a significant increase in both substantiated and unsubstantiated reports. The children's social care system is already under significant strain, and must be appropriately resourced to cope with any increase, to ensure that all children receive the help they need as soon as they need it.
- [Councils work closely with statutory and voluntary sector partners](#) to reduce violence against women and girls. As well as addressing new forms of abuse and harassment

the LGA believes there must be as much focus on prevention and early intervention to reduce the number of potential victims and offenders, and encourages the government to work with schools and academy chains to educate young people about these offences alongside ways of identifying and protecting against predatory behaviour.

- Local authorities are working hard alongside partners such as the police to make their communities safe and tackle anti-social behaviour. Measures to reduce the ability of young people to buy dangerous weapons are welcome. However, these measures will only work if councils have the resources to take robust enforcement action. Consideration urgently needs to be given to the cumulative impact of additional duties on councils' regulatory services as well as measures to ensure regulatory services are appropriately funded for example through measures which allow cost recovery for enforcement action.
- [Begging is often the result of street homelessness which is linked to the shortage of affordable housing across this country](#), leaving those unable to afford a place to live with very few options. Local authorities and other agencies need to work together to identify and provide support to people living on the streets. Some organised beggars are victims of modern slavery needing support, so we would welcome the targeting of the criminal gangs behind this. To eradicate begging and street homelessness, the focus should largely be on the wider context such as support into accommodation, prevention, multi-agency working and housing supply.

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

- *Known as Martyn's Law, the Bill will introduce a new duty to protect public premises from terrorism.*
- *The Bill will require certain venues to take proportionate steps according to capacity to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm.*

LGA view

- We broadly support the introduction of the legislation and further efforts to consider what more can be done to help protect local people and places from attacks. Local authorities take threats from terrorism extremely seriously and work hard alongside wider partners to keep their communities safe.
- We expect that councils will be impacted in a number of ways by the legislation. This will require substantial resourcing, and must consider the significant existing pressures on resources, capacity and expertise that councils already face. A New Burdens assessment to consider the financial impact on local government must be completed as soon as possible.
- We are pleased that the Government has listened to our concerns, shared by the Home Affairs Select Committee, about the potential impact of the legislation on local communities, community groups and small businesses. We therefore welcome the announcement of a further consultation to ensure requirements for standard tier premises (public premises with a capacity of 100–799 people) within scope are proportionate and not unduly burdensome. The legislation must not inhibit our freedoms to enjoy the places that are a critical and much-loved part of local life, nor threaten the viability of community events and sports. An appropriate balance must be sought that enables community facilities, groups and events to remain financially

viable and continue to operate.

- Further clarity is required in a number of areas, including where the enforcement and regulation role will sit, the premises and events within scope and how the duty will operate in practice. This should also include a national programme of support and guidance as the detail is confirmed.
- There must also be sufficient lead in time for the implementation of the new duty, including a national communications campaign to raise awareness, to ensure that those within scope are alert to their responsibilities and which allows a reasonable period to prepare.

Victims and Prisoners Bill – carried over

- *The Bill proposes that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), health bodies and local authorities will be required to work together when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, serious violence and sexual violence, to deliver a more joined-up support offer.*

LGA view

- We support the Government's ambition to improve the service and support that victims receive, and hope that the Victims and Prisoners Bill and related non-legislative measures will help to improve victims' confidence to report crimes and seek justice, as well as to rebuild their lives.
- A [sustainably funded, locally-led approach](#), which provides areas with the flexibility and resources to identify local priorities and take action on them, will be the most effective way to improve collaboration and deliver on the priorities of the Bill. Alongside that, the Government should focus on preventing crimes occurring in the first place by investing in vital early intervention and prevention services, many of which are provided by local authorities.
- Further clarity is needed on how the enhanced role of the PCCs to review compliance with the Victims' Code will operate. We urge both PCCs and the Secretary of State to take a proportionate approach that minimises the burdens on youth offending teams and other local criminal justice bodies.