

LGA White Paper

EAB Update

March 2024

www.local.gov.uk

Process so far

- White Paper conversations in all but 2 regions
- Sessions with political group via group offices
- Consulted via LGA Boards
- Meetings with key partners, think tanks
- Written submissions and survey
- Buy in from UK Forum

Currently drafting content and seeking member steer on some key unresolved issues

Our Top 5 Asks

1. Guarantee essential services for the public by delivering funding reform
2. Help councils to plan for the future of their communities through multiyear and timely settlements
3. Be on the side of local people – a new partnership between local government and central government
4. Make money spent on local public services go further – give councils the power to convene national public services in place
5. Give all communities a chance – invest in prevention

Key choices

- Sorting the key themes:
 - Purpose (Intro)
 - Potential (Economic growth and productivity, financial reform and prevention)
 - Partnership (Convening, place shaping, place leadership)
 - Promise (Reform: renewing total place, new constitutional settlement)
 - Priorities (Top 5 asks)
- Authorship: we / councils / local government
- Narrative and voice: how demanding do we want to be?
- “A New Local Purpose” – is this the right focus?

Key questions

- Statutory services – can we continue with current list?
- Do some additional services need to be means tested (i.e. home to school transport)?
- What is our vision for devolution – do we continue to argue for “subsidiarity”
- What do we want to have local responsibility for?
 - Raising local taxes
 - Economic growth plans
 - Convening power over partners
- What is our offer on assurance and accountability?
- Public service reform – do we know what we don’t want?

Recommendation: Officers to take forward steer provided by members on tone, shape and focus of white paper