



# Your LGA membership 2018

PREPARED FOR

City of York Council



# Welcome to the Local Government Association 2018/19

**Speaking up for councils and supporting our members is essential to what we do as an organisation. We are delighted to have this opportunity to update you on our work, both lobbying for positive change and supporting our members as you deliver services and make a positive difference in your communities.**

Last year saw us celebrate 20 years since councils signed-up to create the LGA. Like all families, over the years we have not always agreed with each other on all the issues before us but on most there is strong consensus and our unified voice has made local government stronger. Speaking with one voice as a sector is more important than ever, particularly as we lobby on your behalf on the big issues you tell us are crucial.

Our single voice for councils secures high levels of media and parliamentary coverage for our campaigns and our policies shape thinking across Whitehall and Westminster. Independent polling of MPs and Peers shows high levels of support across Parliament for our calls that additional money goes to social care budgets and that councils have greater financial freedoms and control over local public services in their areas.

We've worked hard to continue to make the case for additional money into local government. This will of course continue to be a priority as we influence the Fair Funding Review and business rates retention. It has also been an important year for re-stating why adult social care and children's services really matter to our communities and why positive change is needed to make sure these services are sustainable.

Housing remains a big priority for the LGA and we've lobbied for the changes needed to get councils back into the business of building new homes. It is pleasing that our arguments are being heard by the Prime Minister, secretaries of state, ministers, and across Parliament. We still have work to do and we will keep housing high on the political agenda in the coming year.

Brexit brings challenges, but also opportunities to do things differently. It is an opportunity for us to make the case for further devolution to local areas. The seat we secured at the negotiating table, and our lobbying in Parliament on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, has given us a unique opportunity to push for the money and powers being returned from Brussels to be devolved wherever possible to local areas. Making the case for further devolution of powers and funding will of course continue to be a priority for us and our councils in the year ahead.

We take seriously our work supporting you. We've secured reductions in audit fees through the Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA) body, co-ordinated collective legal actions for the sector and continue to offer a wide variety of support through our Peer Reviews, member training and programme of events, including our highly successful Annual Conference.

Due to your hard work, local government remains the most trusted part of the public sector. We hope that the success stories set out in your membership pack highlight the value of councils working together through a single national voice and show what we can achieve together. In the coming year we look forward to continuing to represent and support you on the vital issues councils face.



*Porter of Spalding*

**Lord Porter of Spalding**  
Chairman

@garyporterlga



*Mark Lloyd*

**Mark Lloyd**  
Chief Executive

@MarkLloydLGA

# ..... Your LGA

City of York Council



How the LGA worked for your council in 2017

## Keeping the cost of membership down

We understand how important it is for us to provide value for money – particularly now, when councils must scrutinise every pound they spend. Our aim is always to ensure that the benefits of LGA membership far outweigh the cost of subscription.

Since 2009, we have reduced our total subscription income by 30 per cent and this year we have frozen subscriptions for the 6th year running. Councils paying by 1 June will receive a 2.5 per cent early payment discount. A further 2.5 per cent loyalty discount is available to member councils committed to membership for at least a full year.

**City of York Council's subscription for 2018/19 is £37,037 - a reduction of 32 per cent since 2009.**

## At a glance

As a result of LGA lobbying, **your council** has received:

**A share of almost £10 million in further New Burdens funding relating to Property Searches, in addition to the £137,090 already received.**

**£23,370 savings through the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).**

**£68,638 in New Burdens funding for implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.**

**Leadership training for one councillor.**

**£3,304,161 additional funding for adult social care. This includes £2,846,785 as part of the £2 billion announced in April 2017 and a further £457,375 as a share of the £150 million the Government announced in the Local Government Finance Settlement.**

# Cross-party and politically-led



**Cllr David Simmonds CBE**  
Vice Chairman  
Leader, Conservative Group  
@CllrDSimmonds



**Cllr Nick Forbes**  
Senior Vice Chair  
Leader, Labour Group  
@nick\_forbes



**Cllr Howard Sykes MBE**  
Vice Chair  
Leader, Liberal Democrat Group  
@libdemlocalgov



**Cllr Marianne Overton MBE**  
Vice Chair  
Leader, Independent Group  
@OvertonMarianne

The LGA is cross-party, politically-led, and uniquely, we operate by consensus across all political parties. As Chairman of the Association, Lord Porter of Spalding represents and speaks on behalf of local government as a whole. He also represents the organisation in the House of Lords where he regularly speaks on matters of importance to local government.

Our four political groups – Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent (representing both independent councillors and members of smaller political groups) – each elect a group leader and a group executive, who work closely with, and where appropriate, challenge Government, shadow teams and party administrations. The four group leaders are also the LGA's vice chairs, elected annually by the General Assembly.

Each political group is supported by a group office that provides support and advice to councils, council political groups and individual councillors. Their role includes organising briefings and events around the country, often with senior government and political figures; contributing to a range of leadership and development activities for councillors and attending and running sessions for councillors at the autumn and spring party conferences. The groups also coordinate political support to councils where it is needed, including ensuring that member peers with the right skills and experience are allocated to peer challenges.

Each year, following the local elections, the LGA calculates the percentage of votes across the country secured by each of the four groups. This is called our political balance and it is reflected in the make-up of our Executive, Leadership Board, policy boards and Fire Services Management Committee. The group offices coordinate appointments to those structures and through them elected members from across England and Wales help shape our priorities, campaigns, policy, media and public affairs work.



[www.lgaconservatives.local.gov.uk](http://www.lgaconservatives.local.gov.uk) 020 7664 3264  
@LGACons



[www.labourgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.labourgroup.lga.gov.uk) 020 7664 3263  
@LGA\_Labour



[www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk) 020 7664 3293  
@libdemlocalgov



[www.lgaindependent.local.gov.uk](http://www.lgaindependent.local.gov.uk) 020 7664 3224  
@LGA\_Independent



# The national voice of local government



In the 20 years since local government came together to create the LGA, we have worked on your behalf to influence the financial and policy decisions which affect your council, pressing for greater powers to be devolved from Whitehall to local government and influencing emerging Government thinking. We present the views of local government at every opportunity, raising issues with ministers, shadow ministers and other parliamentarians and officials.

Our communications activity provides a vehicle for councils to speak with one voice through local, regional and national channels, significantly increasing the number of positive stories that promote the very best of local government and defending its reputation against negative reporting.

We support councils to drive innovation and improvement, sharing best practice across the sector and helping them to improve services and deliver millions of pounds of savings.



Media coverage for the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

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# A new incorporated LGA



In July 2017, the General Assembly agreed to create a new LGA company, which will enable us to be more financially sustainable, invest more in the work we do to support our member councils and keep subscriptions as low as possible.

You will have already received a letter from us with details on the draft articles of association. We would be grateful if you could complete and return the form by 31 March 2018.

**Your 2018/19 subscription gives you membership of both the new LGA and the current unincorporated Association until the General Assembly takes the formal decision to disband it.**



LGA offices, 18 Smith Square

# Review of the year – working for you in 2017/18

**We continue to make and take every opportunity to secure the funding and powers that your council needs to best serve your local communities and improve your residents' lives.**

Our work often takes place behind the scenes with Government, ministers and officials and with a wide range of partner organisations. As well as securing extra money for councils, we have prevented additional burdens, both costs and duties, being placed on councils. Where you have told us that you need new legislation, or that existing legislation needs changing, we have pressed Government on your behalf, or coordinated collective legal action.

The LGA through its work, including lobbying, has secured a number of benefits for councils over the past year. Highlights include:

## APRIL 2017

Councils receive £1.01 billion additional social care funding as year one of the two year £2 billion deal agreed in the 2017.

**City of York Council received £2,846,785.**

The Libraries Taskforce supports our calls for a further half a million pounds investment in libraries and publishes new benchmarking and planning tools to help library services respond to local needs.



LGA publications



Annual Parliamentary Reception with speeches by Meg Hillier MP and Marcus Jones MP



Parliament agrees new rules to allow councils to increase planning fees by 20 per cent.

Arts Council England and Sport England agree continued investment of £120,000 in our Leadership Essentials Courses.

## MAY 2017

Committee of Advertising Practice makes commitment to introduce tougher standards on broadband advertising to ensure greater transparency in broadband speeds for residents and businesses across the country.

## JUNE 2017

LGA confirms that councils who opt into the Public Sector Audit Appointment Scheme (PSAA) will collectively receive £6 million in savings from 2018/19.

Government reconfirms its commitment to a Fair Funding Review to implement a fair and stable approach to allocating funding to councils.

LGA hosts the first meeting of the 'Mayoral Forum' – for the newly elected combined authority mayors – bringing them together with Whitehall permanent secretaries and

representatives of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

## JULY 2017

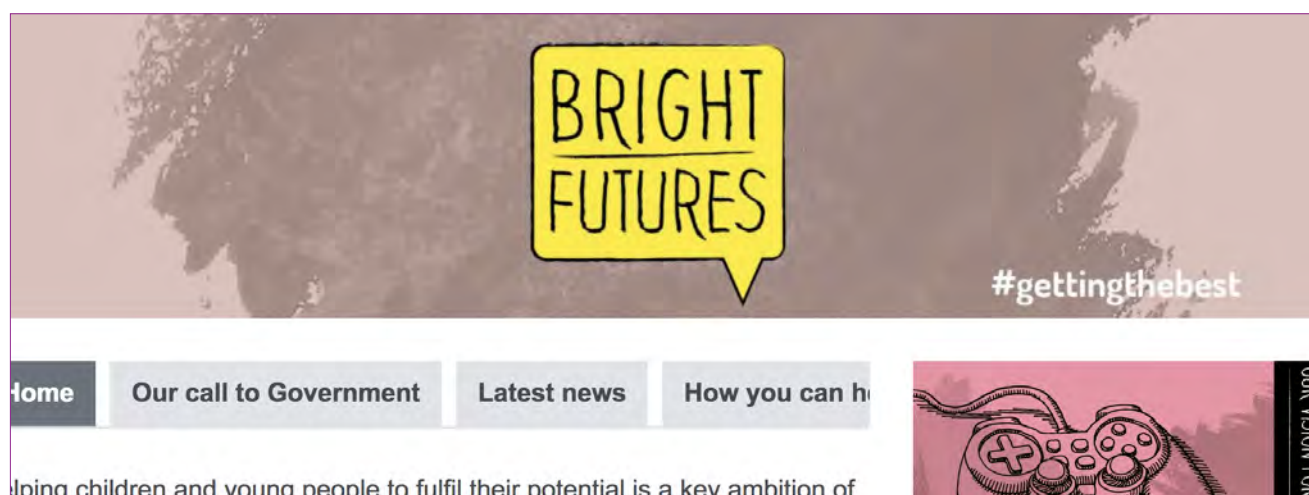
The LGA launches its **Growing Places** campaign at Annual Conference in Birmingham which lays out the resources and shifts in thinking that will be needed to allow local government to support the nation and its residents through a changing world.

Government confirms £1.7 million renewed funding for National FGM Centre – a joint initiative between the LGA and Barnados.

Transport Secretary announces that councils will have access to a multi-billion pound fund for local road improvement previously ring-fenced to the Highways Agency.

The Financial Conduct Authority confirms major improvements to the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) opt up process, allowing councils to continue to hold complex assets and avoiding sales potentially costing pension funds billions of pounds.

LGA lobbying on the potential funding pressures from sleep-in payments helps secure a suspension of HMRC enforcement action against social care providers. In October Government introduces a voluntary compliance



scheme to help providers deal with the historic liability.

## AUGUST 2017

LGA announces proposals to establish a new insurance mutual for councils with the potential to deliver significant savings to councils.

Government's air quality plan includes £255 million to implement Clean Air strategies in towns and cities and a further £220 million Clean Air Fund to support improvements to air quality.

In response to sustained calls from the LGA, Government agrees to waive financial penalties faced by social care employers who are found to have underpaid their workers for sleep-in shifts preceding 26 July 2017.

Government sets up working group to explore legislation on taxi and private hire vehicles in response to LGA concerns about citizens' safety.

LGA launches a new Culture Hub with Arts Council England to bring councils the latest innovation and best practice in cultural services.

## SEPTEMBER 2017

Government consultation proposes power for councils to charge utility companies by the hour for roadworks which overrun or cause significant disruption.

Government confirms national funding formula for schools, giving councils and schools continued flexibility to agree a local formula for a further two years. With schools' agreement, councils can continue to transfer money from school funding to meet the rising demand for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Government commits to bring forward a green paper on social housing following LGA calls for the provision of more social housing.

£500,000 investment in a Parks Action Group chaired by Marcus Jones MP is confirmed. The LGA will represent local government on the group.

## OCTOBER 2017

The Prime Minister announces that the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) cap will not apply to supported housing or the wider social rented sector. Two consultations – on short-term supported accommodation and extra care and sheltered housing costs – propose a greater



role for councils in commissioning supported housing, something the LGA has long called for.

Government agrees a further £2 billion for the Affordable Homes Programme, taking the total pot to more than £9 billion.

Government launches a consultation on changes to gaming machines, including reducing stakes at fixed odds betting terminals. We continue to call for greater powers for councils to veto new bookmakers in areas already saturated with betting shops.

Minister for Local Government announces additional New Burdens funding for implementation of Homelessness Reduction Act, taking the total from £61 million to £72.7 million. **Your council has received £68,638.**

Department of Health announces a £15 million investment to train one million people in mental health first aid. The three-year campaign, delivered by Public Health England, will launch in 2018.

Councils are granted powers to double maximum litter fines from April 2018 from £75 to £150 and to fine owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown.

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## NOVEMBER 2017

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Government announces an increase of £42 million in the Disabled Facilities Grant. **Your council has received £110,962.**

The Chancellor's budget includes:

- a partial lifting of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap, worth £1 billion from 2019/20
- an additional £2.7 billion for the Housing Infrastructure Fund
- a £1.7 billion Transforming Cities fund
- a further £20 million for the Private Rented Sector access scheme
- a £25 million Planning Development Capacity fund.

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## DECEMBER 2017

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Government confirms its commitment to replicate UK local government's formal role in the EU policy making process following Brexit.

Government launches a green paper setting out measures to transform mental health support for children and young people, including new mental health support teams, a designated





mental health lead in every school, a greater focus on early intervention and an additional £300m for the reforms.

Government commits to continue to move towards further business rate retention by 2020/21 and to implement improvements to the current system, including dealing with business rates appeals. **Your council is one of the 2018/19 pilots for which a no detriment clause has now been applied, confirming that you will be no worse off as a result of pilot status.**

Flexibility to use capital receipts to fund revenue costs of transformation projects is extended to 2022.

Additional flexibility to increase council tax by an additional one per cent without local referendum is announced for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Government confirms no further changes to the New Homes Bonus in 2018/19.

## JANUARY 2018

Sport England announces £130 million to invest in local sport delivery as part of their Towards an Active Nation strategy, opening up a potential £380 million in grant to local government.

£19 million fund for services for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children comes into effect.

## FEBRUARY 2018

In response to calls in the LGA's Housing Commission, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announces £886 million to deliver 200,000 homes across 133 council-led projects as part of the Housing Infrastructure Fund.

Following our lobbying, the Government announces an extra £150 million grant for adult social care in 2018/19. **Following our lobbying the Government announces an extra £150 million grant for adult social care in 2018/19. Your council has been allocated £457,375.**

Final New Burdens payment in relation to Property Searches of almost £10 million is agreed, bringing the total secured for councils in England and Wales to just under £54 million.



# Collective legal actions

**Bringing action through the courts is complex, time-consuming and often prohibitively costly for individual councils. Through our collective legal actions we coordinate and support groups of member councils to fight actions against them, negotiating fees and securing third party funding where appropriate and securing additional funding for councils where legislation has created new burdens.**

Over the past year we have secured a number of wins on behalf of our membership, and we continue to coordinate a growing number of actions:

## PROPERTY SEARCHES

In 2009, councils were directed under the Environmental Information Regulations to provide property search information free of charge. Following a successful action by private search companies to secure refunds of past charges, the LGA led an action to substantially reduce their total claim. After sustained lobbying, we secured £42 million in New Burdens funding to cover the costs for councils in England and £2 million for Welsh councils. In February 2018 Government agreed a final almost £10 million, bringing the total payment to just under £54 million. **To date your council has received £137,090 in New**

**Burdens funding and will receive a further share of almost £10 million in 2018.**

## BUSINESS RATE RELIEF – CLAIM BY NHS TRUSTS

In 2016, NHS Trusts made applications to councils in England for 80 per cent non-domestic rate relief, backdated six years. If successful, councils will have to repay significant sums and see future income reduced. The LGA is coordinating councils' responses and advising on New Burdens implications if claims are upheld.

## CLAIM AGAINST MASTERCARD AND VISA

In 2016 the courts found that Visa and MasterCard had breached European Competition Law in their interchange charges. The LGA is coordinating a £23 million claim on behalf of 97 member councils, funded by private litigation funders who will bear the costs if the claim is unsuccessful.

## LARGE VEHICLES CARTEL CLAIM

A 2016 EU investigation found that a number of trucks manufacturers had broken EU rules by colluding on prices over a 14 year period. The LGA is coordinating a claim on behalf of councils, fire and rescue authorities and national parks across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which if successful could run to over £70 million. The action is funded by private litigation funders who will bear the risk if the claim is unsuccessful. **City of York Council has signed up to our collective action.**

## STATUTORY INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (IICSA)

We are supporting councils named in the inquiry. Our paper setting out the significant changes to the statutory framework and standard practice in child protection and support for looked after children over the decades will be included in the evidence submitted.

## WATER CHARGES

The LGA has been supporting a number of councils in reviewing their agreements with water suppliers and exploring the possibility of bringing legal action to challenge the principles laid down in a court ruling which found that a council had acted unlawfully in setting its charges.

## LOCAL LAND CHARGED REGISTER TRANSFER TO LAND REGISTRY

In 2016, the Local Land Charges register transferred to Land Registry. We worked with

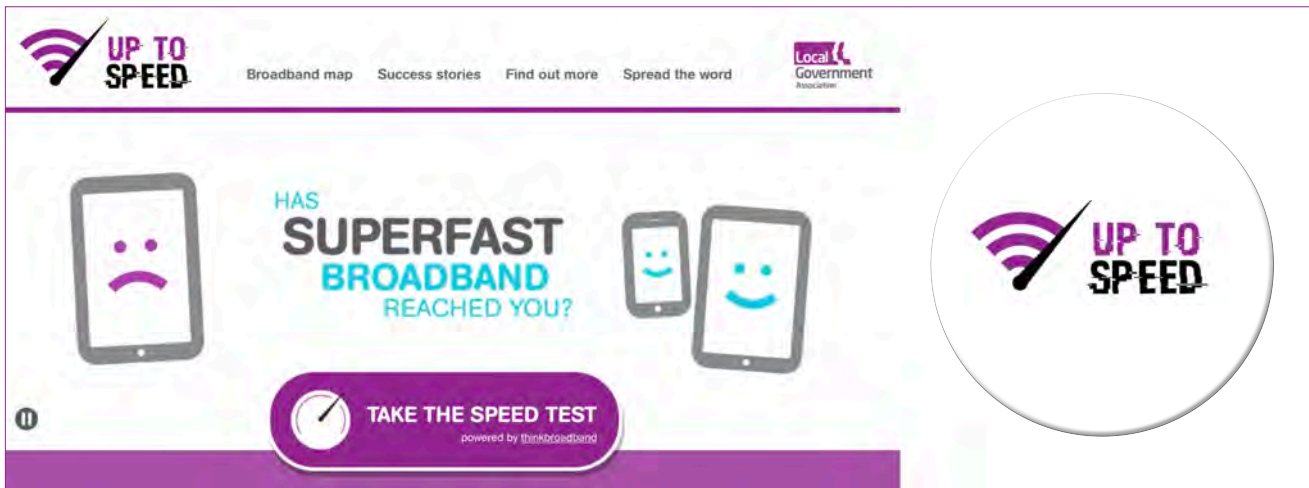
councils to deliver a seamless transfer and secured New Burdens funding to cover their costs. Land Registry has now agreed to fund councils' post transfer work.

## REGISTERING UNREGISTERED LAND

We are supporting councils through the new requirement to register previously unregistered land and coordinating a bid for financial support to assist councils undertaking this work.

## JUDICIAL REVIEW – VAT EXEMPTION ON COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION

The LGA is involved in a claim by a private waste company that council commercial waste collections should not be VAT exempt. Our argument was upheld during the preliminary hearing. If the claimant's appeal is successful, councils will need to charge VAT, increasing the cost of the service and potentially leading to increases in fly tipping and environmental crime. We continue to work on your behalf to fight the appeal.



## UP TO SPEED

High speed broadband is no longer a luxury – it is an essential and yet many parts of the country are still struggling with low speeds and poor connections.

Our Up to Speed Campaign calls for every resident and business to have access to faster broadband. Our campaign strategy includes building strong relationships with organisations such as Ofcom and the Advertising Standards Agency (ASA). As a result of our lobbying, earlier this year the ASA announced that broadband speed claims used in advertising should be based on the download speed to at least 50 per cent of customers at peak time, ensuring greater transparency in broadband speeds for residents and businesses across the country.

**It's a step in the right direction but the campaign continues...**

# Looking forward – our priority campaigns for 2018/19

**Working alongside our member councils, we have identified six priority campaigns for 2018/19.**

## SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We are calling for:

- Government to plug the £5.8 billion gap in funding that councils are facing by 2020
- a reformed funding base to empower councils to bring together local public services, making them more responsive to local need and fit for the next decade and beyond
- continued joint working with Government to ensure that further business rates retention is introduced in a way that gives councils maximum financial independence whilst recognising the risks.

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE

We are calling on Government to set out in detail its proposals to close the £2 billion funding gap for adult social care by 2020 and to consider the full range of options to share the risks of high care costs effectively.

Working with partners across the sector, we are supporting a cross-organisational movement to raise awareness of the importance of social care with the general public, politicians and stakeholders and to increase its profile.

## HOUSING

Our housing campaign is a national, integrated programme of work calling on the Government to give councils the powers and funding to resume their role as a major builder of affordable homes, lift the housing borrowing cap and to establish local government as the expert and leader in the housing sector.

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING

With a £2 billion funding gap for children's services expected by 2020, we are pressing for urgent action to be taken to reduce the financial pressures and a renewed focus on investing in early intervention.





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## ‘WORK LOCAL’

Our positive vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills service is bringing together information, advice and guidance alongside the delivery of employment, skills, apprenticeships and wider support for individuals and employers.

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## BRITAIN’S EXIT FROM THE EU

We are calling for powers and funding to go from Brussels to local areas, not to Westminster. We will lobby to ensure that decision-makers fully understand the legal and funding implications of their decisions for local government.

For more information see the LGA Business Plan [www.local.gov.uk/business-plan-201718](http://www.local.gov.uk/business-plan-201718)

# Sector-led improvement

**Jointly developed by councils and the LGA, and in most part Government funded, our sector-led approach has helped councils deliver millions of pounds of savings, improve services and enhance the lives of local people.**

Our flexible offer, tailored to individual councils' needs, includes:

one **fully-funded corporate or finance peer challenge** every four to five years, with one free follow up visit and further bespoke support if required

**themed peer challenges** including communications, adults and children's safeguarding, housing and planning.

extended **finance support** including support from a specialist adviser and access to a suite of financial diagnostic tools.

## **bespoke peer support**

up to five days change of control support for new leaders/cabinet members;

- change of leader support;
- peer mentoring support for individual councillors from experienced councillors;
- bespoke member development;
- health and wellbeing, shared services, finance, economic growth, children's

services and adult social care support;

- top team development

**This year your council received top team development.**

**productivity support** – support to increase financial sustainability under three broad themes: Transforming Services, Smarter Sourcing and Generating Income.

**cyber security support** – designed to help senior members and officers understand the risks and importance of cyber security and ensure proper recognition, resources and priority.

## **Advanced Commercialisation Group**

– encourages councils experienced in commercial activities to go further and faster through collaboration and sharing good practice.

**LG Inform** – free online benchmarking service that presents up-to-date performance management data in an easy to read report format to help councillors, officers and the public understand and compare their local area. LG Inform Plus, our premium data and information management service, provides ward reports free of charge to member councils.

Find out more: [lginform.local.gov.uk](http://lginform.local.gov.uk)

LG Inform provides up to date benchmarking data



How the LGA worked for your council in 2017

# Supporting children's and adult services

## CARE AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (CHIP)

Our team of experienced **Care and Health Improvement Advisers** offer support in social care and health, including financial risk, managing transfers of care and adult safeguarding.

CHIP also supports **health and wellbeing boards** and political leadership teams to navigate the complex commissioning and planning processes and to deliver integrated place-based care and health services. The offer includes tailored facilitated sessions, mentoring and access to our Facilitated Integration Tool and Finance Module. **Your local Health and Wellbeing Board council has received bespoke support from the CHIP Programme and received Better Care Funding.**

The **CHIP efficiency project** offers grant funding and direct support to selected councils to develop innovative, efficient and sustainable approaches in care and health services, including managing demand, commissioning, market shaping, collaboration/integration and system efficiencies. **Your council has received funding and/or support from this programme.**

## TRANSFORMING CARE

A national programme with the NHS to improve care and support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism by reducing in-patient bed usage, improving community based support and supporting people to have more control over their lives. Regional advisers and peers deliver support to councils and Transforming Care Partnerships, including on funding and housing.

## PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Includes tools, case studies and bespoke support to help councils maximise the opportunities presented by the transfer of public health.





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## CHILDREN'S SERVICES EFFICIENCY PROJECT

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Helps selected councils to develop innovative, efficient and sustainable approaches in children's services, including commissioning, market shaping, integration and managing demand.

# Other specialist support

## ONE PUBLIC ESTATE

Supporting 319 councils to work with other public bodies on land and property initiatives to deliver capital receipts, reduce running costs, support local growth and offer integrated services. **Your council is a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority partnership and the City of York partnership which has been awarded £600,000 funding in 2017/18.**

taxi/Private Hire Vehicle licence refusals and revocations.

## PLANNING ADVISORY SERVICE (PAS)

Advice, support, training and best-practice sharing on a range of planning issues to keep members and officers up to date in a constantly changing environment.

## HOUSING ADVISERS PROGRAMME

Helping over 20 councils to meet their communities' housing needs, including planning, supply and homelessness policy. The programme will capture and share learning and best practice through events, reports, and toolkits.

## CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY (CFPS)

Expert support and advice to councils seeking to improve their governance arrangements – in particular overview and scrutiny. CfPS engages with councils' unique political and organisational cultures rather than promoting a single approach. CFPS also supports councils developing new governance arrangements as part of their devolution proposals.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAMME

Leadership courses, masterclasses, events and publications to help councils tackle extremism and modern slavery, prevent radicalisation and strengthen community cohesion. We are currently working on a national register of



## DEVOLUTION SUPPORT

Bespoke support packages to help councils secure the benefits of devolution, including:

- leadership support from member and officer peers experienced in setting up new governance arrangements and/or negotiating deals
- technical advice to support the development of business cases and financial modelling
- strategic advice to support negotiations with Government departments including up-to-date assessments of the national picture on devolution
- policy advice to support the development and implementation of deals
- support to develop devolution communications strategies
- support with engaging residents and communities
- governance support from CFPS
- support from Local Partnerships for transformation and service redesign
- access to experience and learning from a network of officers negotiating or implementing deals.

For more information on developing devolution deals or forming a combined authority, including a range of practical tools and resources, visit [www.local.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.local.gov.uk/devolution)

# Leadership programmes for councillors

**We offer a range of free or subsidised programmes, courses and materials to support councillors, groups of councillors in their various leadership roles.**

## LEADING EDGE

A unique opportunity for council leaders to work with chief executives on key leadership challenges.

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Three two-day residential modules delivered in a cross-party setting for councillors in leadership positions to learn more about the latest in political leadership.

## LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Themed programmes and workshops for councillors in leadership positions to share experiences with others who face similar challenges. **One councillor from your council attended the Leadership Essentials programme in 2017/18.**

## NEXT GENERATION

A prestigious leadership development programme for ambitious councillors delivered in a political group setting – free to nominated members.

## CHANGE OF CONTROL

Five days free consultancy support to new political administrations, to enable them to 'hit the ground running' following a change of control.

## LEADERS' PROGRAMME

The Leaders' Programme is a new modular leadership development programme designed around the needs of Leaders.

## FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

Development programmes for councillors with potential or aspirations to move into leadership positions.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Free support for councillors in their community leadership role including in-house training



programmes, workbooks and E-Learning modules.

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## BE A COUNCILLOR

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A modular programme designed to increase the pool of talent from which councillors are elected and which can be tailored to meet local needs and circumstances.

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## THE COUNCILLORS' GUIDE

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A comprehensive guide to support new councillors to be as effective as possible in their new role.

You can find out more about these programmes on our website: [www.local.gov.uk/our-support](http://www.local.gov.uk/our-support)

# Managing today's and developing tomorrow's workforce

**Through our workforce team, we offer support to councils on strategic workforce issues arising from public service transformation and the fundamental changes prompted by austerity.**

We combine a knowledge of current best practice and an understanding of the public sector's diverse needs, with research and the development of future practice on human resources and organisational development. We are always happy to visit councils to discuss your workforce issues.

We also represent councils' interests in regular dialogue with central Government and others on workforce-related legislation and regulations.

From holiday pay to job evaluation; from pay structures to working time, we have up-to-date information and advice on:

- developing career frameworks
- modernising pay and reward systems
- Timewise Council programme for improved flexible working
- dealing with the workforce challenges of service integration
- optimising equalities and inclusion to attract and retain the best talent

- improving the emotional resilience and wellbeing of staff to improve organisational capability
- developing the 21st Century Public Servant.

## NATIONAL GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Recruits high calibre graduates into local government on a two year programme.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE

Aspiring top managers compete for the £10,000 Bruce-Lockhart scholarship in a six-month long competition hosted by councils across the country. Croydon Council's Denise Blair won the 2017 Challenge.

## RETURN TO SOCIAL WORK

In October 2017 we launched our Return to Social Work campaign, which seeks to attract 100 qualified social workers back into the profession. We are already almost halfway towards this goal, with further recruitment already underway.

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# Your national voice

**We are committed to continuously improving the services we provide to you. In our latest survey three quarters of our members said they are satisfied with the work we do on their behalf.**

Our Chairman and Chief Executive send a weekly email bulletin to council leaders and chief executives to share information from the LGA, local government more widely and updating on the work we are doing on your behalf. Alongside a programme of events around the country, last year, our Chairman, Chief Executive and other members of our senior team made nearly 1,000 visits to councils in England and Wales.

In addition to these weekly updates, you can subscribe to a number of ebulletins designed to give you relevant, timely information about the topics that matter to you. If you haven't already, you can sign up to receive our emails on our website: [www.local.gov.uk/ebulletins](http://www.local.gov.uk/ebulletins)

In April last year we launched a new improved LGA website which is easier to navigate, mobile friendly and features more than 750 case studies from councils across the country. [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

## FIRST MAGAZINE

The LGA's first magazine is exclusive to members and is delivered free of charge to 18,000 councillors and 400 chief executives monthly. Each issue provides an update on the work of the LGA, latest news, policy updates and political comment.

## COUNCILS IN THE MEDIA

Over the past year, working on behalf of councils, the LGA has been quoted **55,374** times in national, trade, regional, broadcast and online media. That equates to **1,064** times a week or **151** times a day. On average, we have secured five national media hits a day and our spokespeople have appeared nearly twice a week on the BBC's Today Programme.

On behalf of councils, we secured front page stories on several national newspapers and **194** mentions on UK national TV, including interviews on BBC Breakfast, The Daily Politics Show, Newsnight, Sky News and Good Morning Britain. A further 374 mentions across the national radio network included interviews on BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, World at One, You and Yours, BBC Radio 5 Live Drive, LBC and on commercial stations such as Heart and Capital.

LGA spokespeople in the media and first – your monthly membership magazine



We recently extended our free daily news headlines service to seven days a week, saving councils thousands of pounds. You can sign up to receive this daily briefing on our website: [www.local.gov.uk/ebulletins](http://www.local.gov.uk/ebulletins)

This year social media posts from councils across the country reached 31 million people, helping residents understand the vital work councils do each and every day.

## SUPPORTING COUNCILS' COMMUNICATIONS

**CommsNet** – our weekly email to council communications teams – is widely read and shares best practice and other resources across the country. Our package of support includes one-day communication 'health checks', in-depth three-day communications reviews, strategic communications assistance, crisis communications support and help with resident satisfaction research. Councils can access the LGA's communications hub, which includes a comprehensive photo library, best practice case studies and online resources. More than 50 councils received support from our communications team last year.

## #OURDAY – 21 NOVEMBER

Each year, **#OurDay** – the 24 hour social media marathon where local authorities share a day in the life of their council – reaches more and more people.

# Influencing Parliament

**You tell us that influencing Parliament and national politics is a top priority and we continue to provide a credible and influential voice speaking on your behalf. 2017/18 was an eventful year, with the continuing negotiations to leave the EU, the local, mayoral and general elections, major changes in Parliament and the first Queen's Speech and Budget of the new Government.**

As the Government brought forward the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, we worked with MPs and Peers to argue that local Government must be consulted on any new laws affecting councils. We called for urgent clarity over how the UK Government will replace the current European Union Structural Funds and we worked with individual MPs on their proposals for new laws, using this to make the case for changes on issues including taxi licensing, education and housing.

We use parliamentary debates and committees to build cross-party support for our recommendations and to influence central Government policies. In his questions and contributions to parliamentary debates, LGA Chairman, Lord Porter of Spalding raised key issues on local government finance, social care, children's services and housing. Our members gave evidence to a range of important inquiries, including housing, waste management, children's services and Brexit. A particular

highlight in this parliamentary session has been the influential Treasury Select Committee backing our call for councils to be given the freedom to borrow to build new homes.

Independent polling of parliamentarians shows significant support for our campaigns with 82 per cent of MPs and 92 per cent of Peers supporting our call for councils to have greater control over local public services. Eighty-four per cent of MPs polled supported our calls for additional funding for social care.

We will continue to lobby on your behalf to shape the legislative and policy changes being debated and agreed in Parliament and to work with parliamentarians to ensure the views of local government are represented in national political debate.



# LGA at party conferences

**The LGA held a number of debates and briefings at the autumn party conferences, hosting debates on the impact of Brexit on local government, the future of education and the priorities for the new Government.**

Our Chairman, group leaders and councillors spoke at over 60 events across the conferences, working with 40 different stakeholders, including think tanks, charities and business, to ensure the sector's concerns and ideas were heard at these high-profile political events.

Through our Independent Group, we attended the UKIP Green Party and Plaid Cymru conferences, and hosted a conference for Independent and smaller party councillors at our Smith Square conference centre.

By taking our campaign priorities to the party conferences, we help influence MPs, peers and ministers ahead of key national decisions that will affect every local area. Positive commitments secured from the main parties, included:

**Conservative Party Conference** – the Prime Minister announced £2 billion for social housing.

**Labour Party Conference** – Jeremy Corbyn MP focused on inequality, living standards and the economy, setting out plans for a regional

investment bank to support an industrial strategy.

**Liberal Democrat Party Conference** – Sir Vince Cable MP reiterated the party's commitment to a one per cent increase in income tax to help fund the NHS and social care, calling for a doubling of annual housing supply to buy and rent and declaring his to be the party of devolution.

## A packed programme of events

In the last year we held over 80 events for councillors and officers, from small seminars to large residential conferences. Our 2017 flagship LGA Annual Conference in Birmingham was attended by over 2200 delegates.

Seventy nine per cent of our events were held outside London and many were free for member councils. From our commercial programme, member councils receive a **42 per cent discount** on one-day events and a **21 per cent discount** on residential events.

From 2018, many of our one-day events will take place in the newly refurbished Smith Square Conference Centre on the ground floor of our headquarters in Westminster. We will return to Birmingham for the 2018 Annual Conference. **Three members and 17 officers from City of York Council attended events in 2017.**

For an up to date programme of events, visit [www.local.gov.uk/events](http://www.local.gov.uk/events)

Innovation Zone, Annual Conference



LGA Vice President Lord Adebowale at Annual Conference 2017

# Grenfell Tower

**Since the tragedy at Grenfell Tower in June 2017, the LGA has been heavily involved in the national building safety programme, initially working with Kensington and Chelsea to clarify which council tower blocks had similar cladding and representing local government in the national media.**

As it became clear that use was widespread in both the public and private sectors, we called for an urgent review of building regulations. Dame Judith Hackitt's interim report published at the end of 2017 reflected the LGA's position – that the regulatory system as a whole is not fit for purpose, rather than any particular part of it, such as building control, being at fault. We will continue to be closely involved in the second phase of the report and its final recommendations.

We continue to work on issues related to large panel system blocks and the installation of external wall insulation, and are supporting councils with large numbers of private high-rise buildings to identify those with cladding like that on Grenfell Tower.

# Getting involved

**The LGA General Assembly acts as the Parliament for local government. It meets every summer at the start of Annual Conference to elect office holders, hear from our Chairman and to debate matters of importance to local government. Every member council is allocated a number of voting places.**

You can also get involved in the work of the LGA through:

- taking part in discussions that help shape national policy affecting local government at the six-weekly Councillors' Forum or at one of our programme of Smith Square Debates
- Contributing to the work of the policy boards, committees or task groups, which together cover every area of local government
- joining one of our many special interest groups that cover a wide range of topics – from coastal authorities and small rural authorities to councils with ALMOs or markets; they include the County Councils' Network (CCN), District Councils' Network (DCN), the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)
- talking to your political group office about support, specialist training, peer reviews and peer support available to you and to your council.

For further information please contact your Political Group Office or our Member Services Team at [memberserxxxxx@xxxxx.xxv.uk](mailto:memberserxxxxx@xxxxx.xxv.uk)

Alternatively, you can contact your local Principal Adviser, Mark Edgell on [mark.edgell@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.edgell@local.gov.uk) and 07747 636 910.

# Investing in our future

**In October 2018 we returned to our refurbished headquarters at 18 Smith Square, Westminster. Like councils, we are making the space work much harder, with three floors released for commercial letting to generate income to support our work for members.**

A refurbished ground floor conference centre, along with a suite of meeting rooms on the seventh and eighth floors, will accommodate the LGA's own programme of events and meetings and are also available for commercial hire.

Member councils can book a meeting room at 18 Smith Square twice a year, free of charge – so if you're looking to hold an away day for your cabinet or your senior management team, contact our venue team for further information at [venxx@xxxxx.xxv.uk](mailto:venxx@xxxxx.xxv.uk)

For small informal meetings, or to pass the time between appointments, our new seventh floor Open Council coffee lounge and terrace is open to all members and officers of LGA member councils.

We have now embarked on the redevelopment of our other building – Layden House in Farringdon – which, once complete in 2019, will be fully let to commercial tenants. These investments will help us to continue to keep subscriptions down and ensure that your LGA is financially stable now and in the years to come.



© Hawkins\Brown Architects

Artist's impression of Layden House



# Our service delivery partnerships

## Local Partnerships

A joint venture between the LGA and HM Treasury, Local Partnerships' purpose is to help the public sector deliver local services and infrastructure. It offers expert support on

- strategic business cases, business plans and options appraisals
- service transformation and change
- modelling and legal frameworks for alternative service delivery models
- forming effective partnerships
- sourcing and commissioning, contract negotiation and management
- economic development and planning

For more information:

[www.localpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.localpartnerships.org.uk)



## GeoPlace

Formed in 2010 to deliver a single, definitive database of addresses, GeoPlace is a joint venture between the LGA and Ordnance Survey. As the "Home of Addressing and Streets", GeoPlace works collaboratively with councils to produce street and address data of the highest quality. The data is made available free of charge to public sector organisations and to commercial companies through Ordnance Survey's sales team.

For more information:

[www.geoplace.co.uk](http://www.geoplace.co.uk)







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