

No.639 September 2019

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first

the magazine for local government

Spending Round

“With financial certainty, councils can be **depended upon to deliver even better outcomes for our residents**”

CLlr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman

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Association



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The LGA at the autumn party conferences



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Building on the success of sector-led improvement



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Youth movement
Young people shaping local democracy



NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2019

BOURNEMOUTH 20-22 NOVEMBER

Vital to councillors, directors, senior officers, directors of public health, policy makers and service managers as well as organisations with responsibilities for children and adults in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, the conference will include a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses as well as plenary sessions by expert representatives from the adult, children and education sectors.

There will also be opportunities to participate in a wide range of workshops and networking sessions. In addition, delegates will be able to visit the exhibition and speak with suppliers and providers of relevant services. **#ncasc19**

Confirmed speakers include

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Caroline Dinenage MP

Minister of State for Care

Amanda Spielman

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Ofsted

Book your place at www.ncasc.info

Investing in councils



The announcement that a one-year Spending Round will take place in September provides some funding certainty for local government, and the LGA is making the case to ministers

for investing in councils (see p9).

We will also be reiterating our call for a new localism settlement, including an English Devolution Bill and Local Government Finance Bill, at the party conferences this autumn (p10). And we have a preview of the Liberal Democrat conference in Bournemouth (p13).

Elsewhere in this month's **first**, we take a look at the LGA's sector-led improvement offer – including our Housing Advisers Programme (p15), Next Generation leadership scheme (p16), communications self-improvement tool (p18), and Productivity Experts Programme (p19).

There are also features on supporting the health of homeless people (p21) and on our councillor licensing handbook (p22).

Our lead comment is on the lessons for the future from 100 years of council house building (p25), and we take a look at our work in Parliament on devolution (p29).

You can view all the stories in this and other recent editions of **first** on our revamped website at www.local.gov.uk/first, where you can also sign up for the **first** e-bulletin. Cllr James Jamieson is LGA Chairman

Editor **Karen Thornton**
Design & print **CPL** www.cpl.co.uk
Advertising dale.lawrence@cpl.co.uk

Write to **first**: Local Government Association
18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Email first@local.gov.uk
Tel **editorial** 020 7664 3294
Tel **advertising** 01223 378 042

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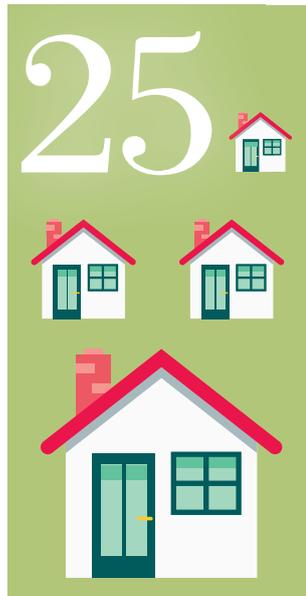
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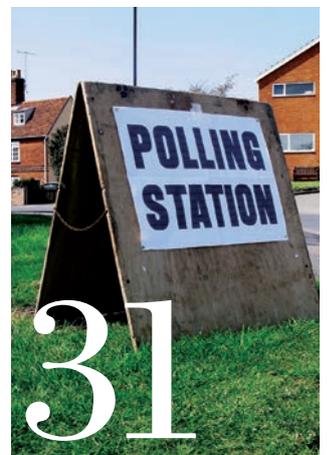


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news

New funding for Brexit preparations



The Government has announced £20 million of funding to help councils prepare for Brexit on 31 October – half of it additional to the £58 million announced in January.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has asked each council to designate a Brexit lead to work with central government and local stakeholders to plan for leaving the EU. Most councils already have one.

The funding is expected to support a range of activity including communications, training and the recruitment of staff. As **first** was going to press, more details were due to be announced about how the funding will be distributed.

The LGA is working closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on Brexit preparations, and Mr Jenrick has hosted a webinar with council leaders and chief executives.

Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Taskforce, wrote to council leaders and chief executives immediately after the £20 million announcement to detail the work going on.

He said: "The Government has listened to our calls recognising the central role councils

play and that more resources are needed for their Brexit preparations. This funding will help councils continue to co-ordinate their efforts.

"With councils already facing a funding gap of more than £3 billion in 2019/20 it is more important now than ever that councils receive the resources they need."

Cllr Bentley added: "Councils are already taking a lead on preparations for Brexit and have been working tirelessly to ensure their communities and businesses are as prepared as they can be given the uncertainty surrounding the process.

"Brexit will affect local areas in different ways, and Brexit preparations must reflect local circumstances. Local leaders are best placed to ensure preparations are directed where there is most need.

"There are information and advice gaps that councils are facing that need to be met by the Government. In the meantime, we will continue to work with councils to identify the issues that need to be addressed at a national level to ensure that councils are as prepared as they can be."

● See www.local.gov.uk/brexit



'Tougher sentences for loan sharks'

Debt enquiries have hit a record high, with 12,652 people a week seeking help for problem debt across the UK – the equivalent of one person every 48 seconds.

The LGA is urging people struggling to make ends meet to avoid loan sharks, and is calling for tougher sentences for illegal money lenders charging exorbitant interest rates on loans.

Despite significant pressures on their budgets, councils are determined to help people with debt worries. Councils have supported several recent prosecutions of loan sharks who target the most vulnerable and typically use intimidation to enforce repayments. These cases include illegal loans with interest rates of 100 per cent, although criminals charging interest rates of 1,000 per cent have also been previously convicted.

Anyone experiencing money problems should contact local debt charities, which work closely with councils to provide free impartial advice and develop better financial support for households with debt and repayment worries.

Small loans from community development financial institutions and the credit union sector also offer safer and more affordable ways to borrow money.

Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chairman of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, said: "We know many people are struggling to make ends meet, but loan sharks should never be used.

"Illegal money lenders are bullies who charge astronomical interest rates and subject their victims to intimidation and violence when they often struggle to repay their loans at rates they simply can't afford.

"There are much better, safer and cheaper ways people can manage their money."

He added: "With councils' budgets under significant pressure, the Government needs to ensure local authorities have the necessary funding to support those in need."

One-year Spending Round announced

The Government has confirmed that a full three-year Spending Review will be delayed until 2020, with a one-year 'fast track' Spending Round to be completed in September.

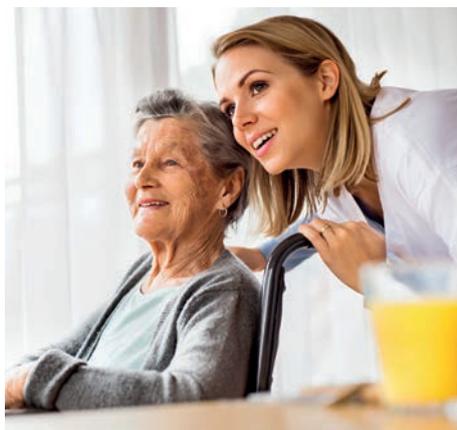
Chancellor Sajid Javid said the move would provide funding certainty for public services in the coming financial year (2020/21) and help "clear the ground ahead of Brexit".

Cllr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman, said the Spending Round will need to make securing the sustainability of local services the top priority, confirm the continuation of funding streams such as the Better Care Fund, and meet growing demand for services.

He said: "Councils urgently need some certainty about how local services will be funded next year as they begin their budget-setting process, so we are pleased that the announced Spending Round will be completed in September.

"Vital local services provided by councils face a funding gap of more than £5 billion next year, rising to £8 billion by 2025.

"Only with the right funding and powers can councils meet their legal duties to provide dignified care for people who are elderly or



disabled, protect children, prevent and reduce homelessness and protect the array of other valued local services which make such a difference to communities and people's lives."

The LGA is working closely with government to illustrate the financial pressures facing local government and to demonstrate the value of councils' activities, as part of its #CouncilsCan campaign (see www.local.gov.uk/councils-can and [first 638](https://twitter.com/first638)).

● Investing in councils, see p9

First ministerial visit



The first official engagement of the new communities secretary was a meeting with the LGA's chairman and chief executive.

Cllr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman, pictured (right) with Robert Jenrick MP at the LGA's office in London, said that he was looking forward to working with him on the key issues and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mr Jenrick, the former Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, said: "I wanted my first meeting as Secretary of State, immediately after Prime Minister Boris Johnson's first Cabinet meeting,

to be coming here to the LGA to meet Cllr Jamieson, Chief Executive Mark Lloyd and their team, to discuss how we can work productively together in the days and weeks to come as we prepare to leave the EU on the 31 October – and what we can do together to ensure that local government delivers great quality public services that matter to all of us."

Mr Jenrick tweeted afterwards about his "respect for and commitment to all who serve in local government across the country".

Cash and devo boost for towns

The Prime Minister has committed more than £1.3 billion of extra funding to support 100 towns across England and help improve transport, broadband and cultural infrastructure.

Boris Johnson pledged "to give greater powers to councils' leaders and to communities" and "to level up the powers offered to mayors so that more people benefit from the kind of local government structures seen in London and Manchester".

He added that more communities would have "a greater say over changes to transport, housing, public services and infrastructure that will benefit their areas and drive local growth".



Cllr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman, said: "We support the measures to boost cities, towns and regions – this is good news for local communities and businesses seeking to improve their prospects.

"It recognises that democratically elected local councils have a key role to play in delivering better transport links, digital connectivity, housing, and all the important infrastructure like parks and libraries that creates strong communities and economies.

"The Prime Minister has rightly acknowledged the need to bring decision-making closer to local people. It is vital that communities in all parts of the country have access to the benefits of devolution. When councils have the freedom and funding to make local decisions, there is clear and significant evidence that outcomes improve and the country gets better value for money.

"We look forward to working with the Prime Minister on how devolution to those areas outside our major cities can deliver great communities and improve the lives of residents. Councils are at the heart of their communities and are best positioned to deliver."



£1.8bn for NHS highlights social care funding gap

There cannot be a sustainable health service without a sustainable adult social care system, the LGA has said in response to the recent announcement of a £1.8 billion cash injection for the NHS.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said £850 million of the new funding would be shared between 20 hospitals to upgrade outdated facilities and equipment. The additional £1 billion will go on capital spending, to allow existing upgrade programmes to proceed and to speed up the most urgent infrastructure projects.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, said: "While it is important that the NHS is adequately funded, it is clear that there cannot be a sustainable health service without a sustainable adult social care system.

"The Prime Minister has promised to bring forward proposals for a long-term solution to the adult social care funding crisis. It is vital that he plugs the £3.6 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025 to keep services running. This is the best way to reduce pressure on the NHS and keep people out of hospital in the first place.

"Last year, we produced our own social care green paper outlining key recommendations on how this could be achieved. The Government should also take these forward as it produces its own proposals.

"Local government stands ready to work with the Government to make sure we have a social care system that ensures everyone gets the vital care and support they need."

● See p27, and www.local.gov.uk/lives-we-want-lead-lga-green-paper-adult-social-care for the LGA's social care green paper

Councils 'recognising when things go wrong'

Councils accepted and put in place recommendations for improving services and remedying personal injustice in 99.4 per cent of cases where residents complained to the Ombudsman last year.

Michael King, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, said the high acceptance rate showed the sector recognises and is willing to put things right when they go wrong.

The Ombudsman's annual report reveals that it registered 16,889 enquiries and complaints about councils in 2018/19, more than a third of which were about education and children's services or adult social care.

His office carried out 4,232 detailed investigations, upholding 58 per cent of them compared with 57 per cent the year before, and made 3,525 recommendations for how councils could put things right for individual residents.

Cllr Peter Fleming, Chairman of the LGA's

Improvement and Innovation Board, said: "Councils are one of the most trusted parts of the public sector, with this report showing they accepted 99.4 per cent of Ombudsman recommendations to resolve complaints.

"The report also demonstrates councils' openness to Ombudsman recommendations, with an increase of cases where authorities have offered a suitable remedy during the local complaints process.

"However, increased demand on council services and ongoing central government funding cuts are combining to push councils to the limit.

"With councils facing an overall funding gap of £8 billion by 2025, it is vital the Prime Minister uses the forthcoming Spending Round to provide funding for councils to provide care for our elderly and disabled, protect children, build homes and secure the future of local services."

● See www.lgo.org.uk

'Missed opportunity' on public health

The Government's Green Paper on preventing ill-health is a "missed opportunity" to make the most of councils' public health role and expertise, the LGA has said.

Proposals in the Green Paper include ending smoking by 2030, encouraging healthier eating, and stopping under-16s from buying energy drinks.

The policy document also sets out priorities on promoting physical activity, developing guidelines on sleep and targeting those at risk of diabetes, with an ambition for everyone in England to have gained an extra five years of healthy life expectancy, free of disease or disability, by 2035.

It was published in late July, in the week that Theresa May stood down as Prime Minister.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, said: "Everyone agrees that prevention is better than cure, but councils also need adequate funding for their public health services to help achieve the stated aims of this approach.

"The Prime Minister must now prioritise preventative services by reversing the £700 million of public health funding cuts over the last five years.

"Only this, alongside a joined-up prevention approach across government, can help councils tackle persistent problems like obesity, mental illness, substance misuse, sexually transmitted infections and the health impact of loneliness, as well as addressing some of the serious health inequalities that still exist across the country."



Serious youth violence 'a social emergency'

MPs have described the rise in serious youth violence as a social emergency, and say that young people have been failed in the most devastating way, losing their lives as a result.

In a new report, the Home Affairs Committee has said that the Government's Serious Violence Strategy is "a completely inadequate response" to the violence seen in local communities.

Among a range of recommendations, the committee has called for major investment in local youth services and prevention work, including a new 'youth service guarantee' to help prevent young people getting caught up in violence. It also called for urgent action to tackle 'county lines' drug gangs.

Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chairman of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, said: "This report supports our call for

significant extra funding for councils' youth services so that essential cost-effective prevention and early intervention work, including in schools, can help make the necessary step-change to tackle serious violent crime, including county lines activity and knife crime.

"We support a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime, which requires the input of a range of partners, including those in the health and education sectors, as opposed to relying solely on a criminal justice strategy.

"Government needs to reverse funding cuts to local youth services, youth offending teams and councils' public health budgets, and fully fund the services that protect our most vulnerable children, otherwise we will not be able to tackle serious violence in our communities."

Tombstoning youngsters 'risk death'

Councils and fire chiefs have warned that reckless thrill-seekers leaping from structures as high as 65 feet into water risk fatal injuries or serious disability, after a surge in the dangerous activity during the summer holidays.

Young people, some fuelled by drink, are risking their lives 'tombstoning' – jumping or diving from a height into water



unsupervised – into the sea and rivers where they could hit unseen objects or land badly.

Cases this summer include a woman who broke both legs and was airlifted to hospital after leaping into the sea and hitting submerged rocks in Winspit, Dorset; and young boys spotted diving from scaffolding on a sailing club building into the sea in Plymouth.

Alongside the risk of hitting submerged objects, jumping into open water where temperatures can be half that of typical swimming pools can also cause cold water shock. Cold water shock, which can affect breathing and movement, is one of the biggest causes of drowning.

The LGA, which represents not only councils but all 48 fire and rescue authorities in England and Wales, is calling for the dangers of cold water shock to be taught in swimming lessons.

If schools don't arrange swimming lessons for their pupils, they should receive safety advice as part of their personal, social, health and economic (PHSE) lessons.

Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chairman of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, said: "Tombstoning is extremely dangerous and anyone doing it is dicing with death, or risks ending up with life-changing or serious injuries.

"The message is clear – if you don't know that the depth of the water is safe or you cannot see what is below the surface, don't jump or let alcohol, drugs or peer pressure affect your judgement."

Since 2004, the Coastguard has dealt with more than 200 incidents of tombstoning, with 70 injuries and 20 deaths.

news in brief

More older children in care

There has been a surge of older children with more complex needs going into care, according to the Children's Commissioner's annual Stability Index. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, said a national recruitment campaign for foster carers would help ensure councils have a choice of families with which to place children. She said: "Councils are currently supporting record numbers of children through the care system. Last year, 88 children a day entered care, against a backdrop of unprecedented cuts to local authority budgets. As this report highlights, more children are entering the care system with complex needs, and it can be harder for councils to find the best possible placement, which can result in moves despite the best efforts of everyone involved."

Mobile blackouts

Analysis by the consumer company Which? has found that millions of people are at risk of mobile signal blackouts because they live in areas of the UK that suffer from patchy 4G mobile coverage. Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chairman of the LGA's People and Places Board, said: "To prosper in the digital age, residents and businesses need access to fast and reliable digital connectivity at home, at work and while on the move. Any deal that government strikes with mobile network operators needs to hold them to account on their coverage and ensure that our communities and businesses receive the world-class connectivity they deserve."

Poverty affects GCSEs

Poor teenagers are 18 months behind their wealthier peers in their GCSEs, with progress in closing the attainment gap between rich and poor coming to a standstill, according to a report from the Education Policy Institute.

The attainment gaps are larger and growing in parts of northern England. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, highlighted that council-controlled schools deliver better results, and called for more funding to plug the £1.6 billion gap in funding by 2021 for supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). She said there is a growing risk to vital local services if the Prime Minister does not take action to secure the financial sustainability of councils.

Letters

Councillor pensions in Wales

I refer to Cllr Tom Miller's letter (first 636) on member pay and pensions. It may interest your readers to know that what Cllr Miller calls for is already in existence in Wales and has been for around 15 years.

There is a national standard payment for county councillors throughout Wales (£13,868) with additional special responsibility allowances for leaders, cabinet members, scrutiny chairs, civic heads, and so on. It is possible to opt out of all or some of the allowance on an individual basis.

There are also schemes for national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities.

All councillors are also entitled to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, with some terms adjusted for elected members. For example, it is possible to retain membership until age 75.

These arrangements have taken most of the political heat out of the question of member allowances. Guidelines are laid down by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRP), which reports on an annual basis. Further details are available on the IRP website (see www.gov.wales/independent-remuneration-panel-wales).

Cllr Colin Mann (Plaid Cymru), Caerphilly County Borough Council

On-demand bus services

For the Government's devolution plans to truly succeed, residents and businesses need access to the wealth of opportunities that mayors, such as myself, create in their regions.

A high-quality, reliable and integrated transport system is vital. That's why I and the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet have agreed plans for a new 'demand-responsive' bus service, to improve transport links for those in rural communities.

Areas of Darlington, Hartlepool, and Redcar and Cleveland will be used for the pilot, and passengers will be able to pre-book via phone, smartphone app, or a website. They can request pick-up and drop-off points within the area, and to places such as transport hubs and hospitals outside of the area. It aims to make people better connected to the training and jobs we're driving forward in Tees Valley.

Procurement is now under way, and we hope this will be up and running soon. If this pilot works, we are hoping for more local services and that this will lead the way for other communities across the UK.

Ben Houchen (Con), Tees Valley Mayor

Pioneering water services

Nottingham City Council has started supplying water services to its own buildings, to create savings on the authority's bills and water consumption.

Changes in the water industry allow businesses and organisations to choose how they receive water supply and waste water services, and Nottingham City Council has chosen to become its own supplier. This does not involve creating a new company and will not affect households – only the council's own operational buildings.

Under the new arrangement, the council's Energy Services team, led by Wayne Bexton, has taken over responsibility for the council's water services. In addition, Energy Services is launching a Water Efficiency Loan



sound bites

Cllr Lee Carter (Lab, Telford & Wrekin)

"New businesses, new shop fronts and new spirit starting to make a big difference in Wellington. Dawley, Ironbridge, Oakengates, Madeley and Newport high streets doing well too, despite national crisis in retail. Much work to do tho!"

www.twitter.com/Cllrldcarter

Cllr Humaira Ali (Lib Dem, Southwark)

"In Burgess Park for Southwark Eid when I met 2 of my 3 favourite policemen, PC Lee and PCSO Paul. Always great to see our safer neighbourhood team, especially on bicycles. Not 30 mins later, they were back in lbwb speaking with my colleague Councillor @cathedralsdavid #LiberalLondon."

www.twitter.com/cllrhumaira

Cllr Heather Blurton (Con, Stoke-on-Trent)

"Great to be out in #EatonPark this morning for the installation of an #AED defibrillator. Funded by local businesses, residents, myself and the RA – this will make sure Eaton Park residents have an extra chance of survival if they ever go into #cardiacarrest."

www.twitter.com/heather_blurton

Cllr Sally Hawken (Ind, Cornwall)

"Not an easy one but really valuable to visit the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Exeter today. Huge respect for specialist staff working in forensic medical assessment and the ongoing care following rape & sexual assault."

www.twitter.com/SallyHawken

Cllr Farah Hussain (Lab, Redbridge)

"So, instead of the 1000s me and my @redbridgelabour colleagues want to build, we're building the maximum that we can. That's 600 genuinely affordable homes on site before 2022. A minimum of 600. That's the largest council house building programme in decades."

www.twitter.com/FarahKHussain

Cllr Simon Tagg (Con, Newcastle-Under-Lyme)

"A bit of leafleting between the showers in Westlands and a chance to check on the recent road resurfacing work in the area. Now off to see some of @NewcastleBID cycle racing in the town centre."

www.twitter.com/SimonTagg

Scheme (WELS). This will invest in water efficiency projects across the council's buildings, with an estimated saving of 10 per cent a year on our annual water spend.

Nottingham will be the first council to run its own water services in-house, saving the council an estimated £64,000 a year – with further efficiencies expected through WELS. This will benefit the city, with cheaper running costs for community spaces, such as leisure centres and libraries, which will help to protect the council's frontline services for local people.

Cllr Sally Longford (Lab), Deputy Leader, Nottingham City Council



What do you think? Please submit letters for publication by emailing karen.thornton@local.gov.uk. Letters may be edited and published online



features

Investing in people

Councils can be depended upon to deliver even better outcomes for residents and the public purse, if they are given financial certainty



Councillor James Jamieson
is Chairman of the LGA

The announcement by the Chancellor that the Government will now hold a Spending Round in September for the upcoming financial year is an opportunity to deliver certainty for councils.

While it is good news for councils that the announcement will be earlier this year, it is critical that we make the case for investing in local government.

It was great that the first meeting our new Secretary of State Robert Jenrick had after the very first Cabinet meeting was here at the LGA. I have already had a number of follow-up conversations with Robert, and with Luke Hall, Local Government Minister, and their team; Education Secretary Gavin Williamson, and Rishi Sunak, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. We are seeking further meetings with ministers across Whitehall departments, and I and all my colleagues at the LGA will be working hard over the next few weeks to ensure the views of councils are at the very top of ministers' in-trays.

The main message that we are taking into these meetings, and the message that the LGA will be taking to government as we approach the Spending Round, is councils

need certainty. I know you will all be starting your budget-setting process for the next financial year, and to do this properly you will need to know how much money you will have. We also need to make the case for investing in local government.

We can best achieve that by highlighting all the work councils do in their local areas to improve lives and support businesses, helping contribute to the national economy and helping our communities to thrive.

We have a great story to tell, for instance in education, where council-maintained schools perform better than academies, or in public health, where every pound invested in council-run services relieves pressure on the NHS. These are just two examples of the very many things councils do to make a difference.

And our residents recognise this. Our research shows that three-quarters of council services have improved in the past 10 years. It also shows that people trust their local council and councillors to make the right decisions for them and their families.

At the same time, councils have saved more than £1 billion of taxpayers' money by sharing services. Given the opportunity, councils can do even more to support their communities, delivering improved outcomes

for people while making savings for the public purse.

The challenge for all of us over the next few weeks and months is to make this case to government. We need to ensure ministers know about the homes we are building, the brighter futures we are providing for all our children, our solutions to the adult social care crisis, the opportunities we're creating for new jobs and economic growth and how we support people to live the lives they want.

So that is what I will be telling government in the weeks ahead as we prepare for the Spending Round – that councils are doing amazing and essential work in difficult circumstances and that is why the Government should work with us to empower us to do more.

With financial certainty, councils can be depended upon to deliver even better outcomes for our residents; healthier, more highly educated and safer communities; and to protect our most vulnerable people.

Everyone working in local government is ambitious for their local communities. We are the leaders of place that make a big difference every single day to people's lives. As the central message in our annual conference report highlighted, 'Councils Can' if government invests in us.



Please visit www.local.gov.uk/councils-can or follow us on Twitter at #CouncilsCan to find out more about the **LGA's campaign to secure the financial sustainability of councils**

Conference season

The LGA will be pressing all the political parties for a new localism settlement

At the end of September, all eyes will turn to the party conferences, as the new Prime Minister and his Government, Brexit and a possible General Election continue to dominate the political agenda.

All the political parties will be taking the opportunity to lay out their domestic policy priorities as we get the new political year under way.

In the meantime, councils continue to serve their local communities and help them to thrive. While Westminster focuses on the terms of our departure from the European Union, councils will continue to support their residents.

They will be supporting our most vulnerable people to live the lives they want, creating jobs and school places, building safe and warm homes, and boosting economic growth.

At the party conferences, the LGA will be pressing national politicians on the need for a new localism settlement as outlined in our #CouncilsCan campaign, which you can read about on our website (www.local.gov.uk/councils-can). This will empower councils further so they can continue to provide crucial services to residents across the country.

Councils need the powers and responsibilities to be able to continue to

deliver for their residents. We are calling for an English Devolution Bill that presents options for devolved powers in England that at least match those of the Scottish Government. And we are calling for a Local Government Finance Bill, giving councils control over council tax levels and discounts, 100 per cent business rates retention, and rolling multi-year settlements.

We will be using the opportunity of the party conferences this autumn to continue advocating for local government. Councils need the Government to use the forthcoming Spending Round, Queen's Speech, Budget, next year's Spending Review, and a variety of other central government policy announcements, to empower them to do even more for their local areas.

We will highlight the excellent work councils have done to improve efficiency and continue to deliver great services, and show that – with the right powers, investment and certainty over funding – local government can build even stronger communities.

Our Chairman, Cllr James Jamieson, and Group Leaders Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Cllr Nick Forbes, Cllr Howard Sykes and Cllr Marianne Overton – plus other councillors – will be taking these messages to party conferences. They will be speaking at more



Liberal Democrat Leader Jo Swinson MP



Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn MP



Conservative Leader Boris Johnson MP

than 40 debates, roundtables and receptions, and meeting key politicians.

We will also be hosting our own debate at each conference, in partnership with political and community consultancy Curtin&Co, on the importance of the Queen's Speech for councils.

In Bournemouth, the Liberal Democrats will be aiming to build on recent momentum, focusing their attention on climate change and restating their opposition to the UK's exit from the European Union.

In Brighton, the Labour Party is likely to make a number of domestic policy announcements as it continues to call for a General Election.

Meanwhile, the Conservative Party will be meeting in Manchester, where Prime Minister Boris Johnson will continue to develop his vision for the UK.

“Our message to the political parties is give us the powers, freedoms, flexibilities and funding, and councils will transform the country for the better”

In October (4-6), the Green Party meets in Newport and will continue to build on its local success, championing its members' proposals for environmental and economic change.

Our Independent Group will be at the Plaid Cymru conference (4-5 October in Swansea) and at the UKIP conference (20-21 September, in Caerleon). The group

will be hosting its own annual conference at the LGA's London office on 8 November.

The next few months, including party conferences, will set the political scene for the coming year. We will work with parliamentarians, councillors and our partner organisations to make the positive case for local government.



A full guide to all of the events we are involved with can be found on our website at www.local.gov.uk/parliament

What's on at the party conferences – LGA events



Liberal Democrats
Bournemouth
14-17 September

- **The LGA evening reception**
Sunday 15 September
7.30-9.30pm
Hardy Suite Hermitage Hotel

Speakers include: Cllr Howard Sykes MBE, Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group; Jo Swinson MP CBE, Leader of the Liberal Democrats; Cllr Vikki Slade, Leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council; and Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of Cotswold District Council

- **LGA debate:**
#CouncilsCan: why is the Queen's Speech important for local government?
Monday 16 September
1.00-2.00pm
Hardy Suite, Hermitage Hotel

Speakers include: Cllr Howard Sykes MBE, Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group (chair); Wera Hobhouse MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Environment and Climate Change; Cllr Emily Smith, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council; Dr Darren Lilleker, Associate Professor, Bournemouth University; and Nick Stanton, MD at Curtin&Co and former Leader of London Borough of Southwark.



Labour
Brighton
21-25 September

- **The Association of Labour Councillors evening reception**
Sunday 22 September
8.00-10.00pm
Skyline Room
Brighton Centre

Speakers include: Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader of the LGA Labour Group

- **LGA debate**
#CouncilsCan: why is the Queen's Speech important for local government?
Sunday 22 September
1.00-2.30pm
Stanmer Room,
Hilton Brighton Metropole

Speakers include: Cllr Anntoinette Bramble, Deputy Leader of the LGA Labour Group (chair); Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader of the LGA Labour Group; Baroness Smith of Basildon; Sachin Shah, Head of Local Government at Curtin&Co and former Leader of London Borough of Harrow; and Gemma Tetlow, Chief Economist, Institute for Government.



Conservatives
Manchester
29 September-2 October

- **The LGA evening reception**
Tuesday 1 October
8.00-9.30pm
Charter 4
Manchester Central

Speakers include: Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the LGA Conservative Group; and Cllr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman

- **LGA debate:**
#CouncilsCan: why is the Queen's Speech important for local government?
Tuesday 1 October
4.00-5.30pm
Exchange 10
Manchester Central

Speakers include: Cllr James Jamieson, LGA Chairman (chair); Luke Hall MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Local Government and Homelessness); Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Leader of the LGA Conservative Group; Martin Curtis, Associate Director at Curtin&Co and former Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council; and Emma Norris, Director of Research, Institute for Government.

The future of education funding

Saturday 21 September

5.45pm – 7.15pm

Hall 7 Avon, Hilton Brighton Metropole

Speakers:

Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretary,
National Education Union

Councillor Jumbo Chan, Brent Council
and NEU Councillors Network Member

Andrew Gwynne MP,

Shadow Secretary of State for
Communities

and Local Government (invited)

Other speakers to be confirmed

**Refreshments
available**



The future of education funding

Sunday 15 September

6.15pm – 7:15pm

Bayview Suite 1

Bournemouth International Centre

Speakers:

Kevin Courtney,
Joint General Secretary,
National Education Union

Councillor Sam Foulder-Hughes,
Kingston Council and

NEU Councillors Network Member

Layla Moran MP, Liberal Democrat
Education Spokesperson (invited)

**Refreshments
available**



The future of education funding

Monday 30 September

12.45pm - 2.15pm

Exchange 10, Manchester Central

Chair

Ann Mroz, Editor, TES

Speakers

Kevin Courtney,

Joint General Secretary,
National Education Union

John Bald,

Chairman, Conservative Education Society

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP,

Secretary of State

for Education (invited)

**Refreshments
available**



**NEU
Councillors
Network**

Conference
Autumn 2019

Registration of Interest **2 November 2019**
Friends Meeting House,
173-177 Euston Rd,
London NW1 2BJ



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Building for the future



Councillor Howard Sykes MBE
is Leader of the LGA's Liberal
Democrat Group

The Liberal Democrats return to Bournemouth in buoyant mood after a successful local council election campaign



Bournemouth will be starting to look very familiar to some this year, as the Liberal Democrats return there on 14 September, just a couple of months after our very successful LGA annual conference.

There will be another similarity; Cllr Vikki Slade will return to open the conference, just as she did for the LGA – but this time as the Liberal Democrat Leader of the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

It has been many years since a Liberal Democrat Conference was opened by its local Liberal Democrat council leader.

Cllr Slade heads up the Unity Alliance on the council, working with others to get things done for the patch. We are proud of the work she and the team have done in leading the new authority, and look forward to hearing more from her.

We meet for the first time as a party since gaining more than 700 council seats in May's local elections, and more than doubling the

“We meet for the first time as a party since gaining more than 700 council seats in May”

number of councils that we either lead or of which we have the deputy leadership.

On the opening day of conference, Wera Hobhouse MP – formerly a Liberal Democrat councillor on Rochdale Council – will speak to the conference about climate change.

We met with Ms Hobhouse recently to discuss how local authorities can

work with national government to meet carbon reduction targets, and to stress the contribution Liberal Democrats in local government are making, whether in control or in opposition. In this spirit, we will be looking to table an amendment to a conference motion on climate change, stressing the role local councils can play.

It will be great to hear from Jane Dodds MP, former councillor and now our new MP for Brecon and Radnorshire; she is the reason why the Government now has a majority of just one in the House of Commons.

Other debates of interest to local government will be on crime, Brexit, health and social care, and tourism.

As well as all this, we will be working with our partners in the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors to deliver numerous training and fringe sessions, including an LGA debate on why the Queen's Speech will be important for local government.

There will also be Liberal Democrat Group sessions on representing rural communities, and celebrating more than 33 years of control at the London Borough of Sutton. This is in addition to the ever popular LGA annual local government reception.

The conference will close with a speech from Jo Swinson MP as our party's new Leader. As you may recall, we were pleased to welcome her to Bournemouth for the LGA's annual conference as our deputy leader just weeks before the election result was announced.

Before that session, we will pay tribute to Lord Paddy Ashdown, the first leader of the Liberal Democrats. During his time at the helm of the party, we elected more Liberal Democrat councillors than ever before. He was – and remains – a real inspiration. We look forward to working with Jo Swinson to build our local government base for the future.



The Liberal Democrat Conference takes place in Bournemouth from 14-17 September. You can find out about LGA party conference events by visiting www.local.gov.uk/parliament

“We wanted to enhance our **telecare** service. PPP Taking Care was the best solution.”

Arun District Council

Robin Wickham
Group Head of Community Wellbeing

WE PARTNER WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SOLVE YOUR TELECARE WORRIES.

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PPP Taking Care

Building on the success of sector-led improvement



Councillor Peter Fleming is Chairman of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board

The LGA's Housing Advisers Programme is helping councils build the homes their areas need

I am super-excited to be writing this article, having been asked to serve as Chairman of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board for the next 12 months. It is, I believe, the most rewarding role within the LGA board structure. I will now have the opportunity to eulogise and champion all of the amazing and innovative work councils are doing to improve the lives of people in the communities we serve.

Sector-led improvement continues to go from strength to strength, year after year. Last year, we delivered 140 peer challenges, 20 per cent more than the year before. We also trained more than 800 councillors, recruited 120 graduates for the sector and helped councils save in excess of £100 million. And we know how much that support is valued; almost 100 per cent of council leaders and chief executives tell us that our sector-led improvement offer has had a positive impact on their authority.

One of our most innovative schemes that has had great success in the sector is our Housing Advisers Programme. This funds the provision of independent expertise for those councils undertaking specific projects to tackle the effects of the housing crisis in their local communities, including advice on housing delivery, planning for homes, and reducing homelessness.

In the previous two years of the programme, the LGA has funded more than 100 councils to help them build the homes their areas need, reduce homelessness, plan for ageing populations, understand the student housing market, increase supply of modular housing, and more.

This year, the LGA will support a smaller number of larger, strategic housing projects. The Housing Advisers Programme will award up to £50,000 to each project for the purpose of securing expert advice in transforming how a service or partnership meets the housing needs of communities.

As the Innovation and Improvement Board considers the needs of the sector over the next year, we will – in the autumn – be making sure you have the opportunity to shape our sector-led improvement offer so it reflects what your council needs in the future. We have already heard that councils want us to look at climate change and sustainability in relation to our improvement offer, and that's

“Sector-led improvement is saving more than £5 for every £1 spent, a fraction of the cost of improvement work in other parts of the public sector, and with better outcomes”

something we'll be taking forward quickly over the coming months.

There is a huge opportunity for us to look at sector-led improvement in the round and set out a bold, local government vision of how this approach to improvement can be enhanced over the next decade. It is vital, with a Spending Round looming, that we continue to set out why the sector-led improvement approach has been so successful in terms of impact, innovation, improvement, and value for money.

Sector-led improvement continues to be an amazing local government success story that we should be rightly proud of. Now, we should look forward to embedding its strengths, bringing fresh ideas and innovation, and securing its funding for the future.



To find out more about the Housing Advisers Programme, visit www.local.gov.uk/housingadvisersprogramme or email housingadvisers@local.gov.uk. We are currently accepting applications for the 2019/20 programme, with a deadline of Thursday 19 September. To find out about our wider SLI offer, visit www.local.gov.uk/our-support

sector-led improvement



Join the Next Generation

The LGA's Next Generation programme equips emerging political leaders with the skills and confidence to be bold champions of local government and progress in their political careers

Each year, we support a select group of talented and ambitious councillors from across the political spectrum through the LGA's Next Generation programme. As a part of the LGA's sector-led improvement offer, the initiative enables councillors to learn from each other and is part of a wider range of political leadership development schemes.

The Next Generation programme offers councillors an unparalleled political development opportunity – uniquely developed within party political traditions and with party political experts. In addition to the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat groups, there is a programme for councillors represented by the LGA's Independent Group.

Next Generation has a competitive application process and, while the modules vary between the LGA's political groups,

the focus is on three key areas: personal leadership, political leadership, and communication and media skills. Modules are planned as residential events in various locations and give councillors a fantastic opportunity to meet fellow members from across the country, including those of their own political persuasion or – in the case of the Independent Group – part of a cohort.

The programme encourages councillors to learn from each other and, each year, deep and long-lasting friendships are formed.

Next Generation aspires to offer a rare opportunity to make critical friends who can offer feedback and support. Upon completion of the programme, members become part of a formidable group of alumni, which continues to be a strong network of peers that can offer support and advice beyond the programme.

Each year, the ambition for the programme

is to ensure that our members increase their confidence and effectiveness as community and political leaders, as well as gain increased awareness of the different approaches to political leadership. In doing so, it is expected that the delegates will also learn more about their personal strengths as a leader within the community. A delegate from the 2018/19 programme summed it up by saying: "As a new councillor in a large group, it can be hard to know where you fit in. Next Generation has given me the confidence to know that I have what it takes to be a future leader."

Next Generation is now in its 14th year, and continues a strong tradition of supporting and encouraging councillors to be bold and confident leaders, progressing their political careers and championing local government. The result of the programme is councillors who are enabled to better represent, understand and work with their communities and constituents, while upholding their own values and morals, and those of their party or an independent political spirit, for members of the LGA's Independent Group.



For more information about Next Generation, visit www.local.gov.uk/our-support/highlighting-political-leadership/next-generation

Case studies



Conservative Group
Councillor Lynne Doherty,
Leader of West Berkshire
Council

Becoming a councillor for my local authority was not something I had planned, so when I was first elected in 2015 I welcomed the support given to me by the LGA. I became Lead Member for Children's Services and started my journey by attending the LGA Training for Lead Members. When it was suggested that the Next Generation course should be my next step, I happily signed up. It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and share ideas – a group I am still in contact with and whose opinions I value.

The Media Training/Public Speaking weekend was my favourite part and, although uncomfortable to watch, it is hugely beneficial to have the opportunity to see yourself being interviewed and to be critiqued by others.

Since attending Next Generation, I have become the Leader of my council and am thankful every day for the training that has equipped me to deal with the many scenarios I find myself in. My confidence has grown and although I would never say my nervousness of public speaking has disappeared completely, I do have the techniques to hand to keep this in check!



Labour Group
Councillor Damien Egan,
Mayor of the London
Borough of Lewisham

I always encourage councillors to go on the Next Generation programme because of the experience I gained from being in the 10th cohort. The relationships you will build are the friendships – with future cabinet members and local government leaders – that will remain invaluable throughout your political career. I was elected to Lewisham Council in 2010 and Next Generation was a unique opportunity that helped me develop as a leader.

The diversity of voices that I met on Next Generation were very different from those of the councillors I worked alongside in the town hall. The good practice I learned from other councillors, through sharing ideas, really built up my confidence. It meant that when I became Cabinet Member for Housing in 2014, I had the confidence to deal with the increased responsibility and workload.

As the directly elected Mayor of Lewisham, I rely on those skills day in, day out – especially when handling the competing interests of council officers, developers or leaders in the voluntary sector. My Next Generation colleagues remain good friends, and offer a network of advice and support from outside the council that I still rely on.



Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Sarah
Cheung Johnson, South
Cambridgeshire District
Council

I have enjoyed and valued every part of the Next Generation programme.

It's been fantastic to come together with a group of compassionate, dedicated and smart councillors, get to know each other, and benefit from each other's experience.

The training was invaluable, challenging me to think about what I want to get out of my councillor career, growing my skills, and developing my understanding of how my role in local government plugs into the wider Liberal Democrat network.

I highly recommend that anyone who wants to develop and grow their career as a councillor joins this programme – the trainers were fantastic, knowledgeable, and made it a lot of fun.



Independent Group
Councillor Geraldine
Coggins, Trafford Council

As a newly elected councillor, with no background in local government, I was keen to get as much training as I could. So when I heard about the LGA's Next Generation programme, I dived at the opportunity.

One of the highlights for me was a session on voice training. We think so much about the words we use, but think so little about our voice and how we project those words. Having time to focus on how we can improve our skills in this area was really eye-opening.

The biggest challenge, and the most fun, was the big budget debate at the last session. It allowed us to bring together lots of the skills we had gained along the way.

But the main benefit for me was the chance to step aside and take time to look at the big picture. How can we do our jobs better? What is our role in the community? How can we do it to the best of our abilities? In what situations will you use these tools and skills? How do we juggle our time and balance our lives?

Just talking to a wide range of people from all sorts of councils gave me insights into different approaches. I'd highly recommend it to anyone who would like to increase their skills and understanding of the role.

Communications health check

The LGA has launched a new self-assessment tool for councils to check the effectiveness of their communications



Councillor Peter Fleming is Chairman of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board

“Completing our online self-assessment will give your teams the resources and support they need to strengthen your council’s communications”

Good communication supports everything we do – from informing residents about their bin collections to telling a family their relative has a place in a care home.

The LGA has launched a new self-assessment tool, **#FutureComms Self-Assessment Tool**, to allow you to check how effective your current communications are and what skills your team and wider organisation need to better support the delivery of council priorities.

As leaders in local government, communication is at the heart of what we do, but the way we communicate has changed massively. Traditional local media is in decline and there have been huge changes, with the rise of digital and social media. Many council communications teams have felt the impact of reduced budgets and shrinking teams at a time when the local communication landscape is more fragmented and complex.

But what do modern, effective communications look like? How can strategic, informed communications help us, as political leaders, to meet our priorities and

support our work? Completing our online self-assessment (see comms.esd.org.uk) will help you to understand your strengths and what areas could be improved. It will also give your teams the resources and support they need to strengthen your council’s communications. We look at everything from strategy and evaluation to campaigns and channel use, and how you as a member can best support your teams.

There are 17 questions to answer, after which you’ll be pointed to the resources and tools needed to help improve your council’s communications.

This will allow you to better champion the interests of your local community and engage them in your decision-making going forward.

We really appreciate any feedback or questions you may have. You can send these to David Holdstock, the LGA’s Director of Communications, at directorofcommunications@local.gov.uk



To find out more visit www.local.gov.uk/future-comms

#FutureComms

The self-assessment tool is part of our #FutureComms resource, which includes a range of tools and good practice guidelines to help councils improve their communications function, and explains how modern, strategic communications can help deliver corporate priorities.

It follows the LGA’s sector-led approach to improvement, which is at the heart of everything we do. The resource has been co-created with communication experts from across local government, sharing best practice and lessons learned to inform future decisions.

Communications are more important than ever, in terms of informing people about services or reaching them in a crisis.

We’ll continue to review and grow #FutureComms and our support and improvement offer, so that we are changing to meet this landscape.

Expert advice

An LGA-funded productivity expert has helped one council generate income and make savings on fees and charges

Like many other local authorities, Surrey County Council faces a significant funding deficit and is undertaking a series of projects to either make savings or generate additional income to help balance its budget.

One of these projects has been a review of fees and charges in its Highways, Transport and Environment directorate, for things such as street works permits, search fees, skip licences, traffic orders and planning applications.

The council wanted to determine if its existing charges were proportionate when benchmarked against other local authorities, and to identify opportunities for the introduction of new fees and charges, or the cessation of discretionary services where charging was not feasible.

To help it do this, Surrey applied for funding from the Productivity Experts Programme (see panel), part of the LGA's sector-led improvement offer, to pay for a commercial expert to carry out a review.

The in-depth review analysed existing data on current charging levels at Surrey, and compared these with those of neighbouring local authorities.

Where opportunities to increase charges were identified, the expert arranged one-to-one sessions with the relevant service managers to explore the implications and viability of doing so. The findings were detailed in a bespoke report for decision

“Benchmarking has proven to be an essential tool to help us identify saving and income opportunities”

by senior managers and elected members.

The work identified more than £2 million of potential savings or income from additional

fees and charges, on a budget of £4.1 million. These included approximately £1 million from increases to street works permit fees and a further £0.5 million from increases to other existing fees and charges (such as search fees). The remainder is from advertising and other 'new' opportunities that are to be investigated further and will take longer to realise.

The project has enabled the highways service to generate additional income, which can help to protect funding for locally important initiatives.

The approach from the review has also been used to conduct reviews of fees and charges in other directorates, with the council hopeful that this work could indirectly result in further savings beyond the initial £2 million identified.

Sarah Kershaw, Surrey's Business Alignment Manager, said: "Benchmarking has proven to be an essential tool to help us identify saving and income opportunities. The support we have had from the LGA to do this has been invaluable."

Productivity experts

The LGA's Productivity Experts Programme supports councils to make savings and/or generate income against a backdrop of decreasing funding and increasing demand for services.

The LGA grants £7,000 to a council, which then commissions an expert with a track record of supporting local authorities and delivering results. The expert provides 12 days of direct, bespoke advice and support.

In 2018/19, the programme worked with 42 councils, contributing towards efficiency savings and/or income generation of an estimated £42 million over the next four years.

Councils, fire and rescue services and national parks can all apply for the grant funding. We encourage partnership applications with councils and public sector organisations, and can accept them at any time during the financial year. However, we are only able to give out 20 grants – so the advice is to apply quickly before they run out.

To give your innovative project a £7,000 grant boost, apply now for your own productivity expert. Visit www.local.gov.uk/productivity-experts-programme and click on 'how to apply' for our application criteria and form. Please email productivity@local.gov.uk if you need more information or help.

The Health and Care Political Leadership Offer

Our **free** support offer, funded by Department of Health and Social Care, and part of the LGA's sector led improvement programme is aimed at:

- health and wellbeing board (HWB) chairs/co/vice chairs
- portfolio-holders/lead members with responsibility for adult social care
- anyone with any other leading political role in a health and care system.

Leadership essentials

Warwick Conference Centre, Coventry

These **free** two day residential sessions are an opportunity to reflect on the leadership challenges of these roles.

Feedback from our past delegates include:

"You come away with great ideas to grow and develop a Health and Wellbeing Board."

"Full of ideas and passion."

"A really effective way of learning."

"Gives confidence to lead."

Session dates

If you are a HWB chair/co/vice chair or have a leading political role in a health and care system:

15-16 Oct 2019 or 5-6 Nov 2019

If you are an adult social care portfolio-holder or lead member:

5-6 Nov 2019

Reflecting responsibilities across health and social care, the November sessions will run simultaneously, linked by shared speakers, facilitators and a joint dinner to provide a wider networking opportunity.

Please contact grace.collins@local.gov.uk for more information.

For more information visit www.local.gov.uk/hcplo Places are limited and early booking is recommended.

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Rough sleeping: a health and care approach

The most vulnerable rough sleepers need effective and integrated services tailored to their needs to help them get off the streets

Tackling rough sleeping requires both health and care solutions to help those most in need and reverse the long-term trend of a rising number of people living on the streets.

In a new publication for councils, the LGA says this is the best way to support the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy and achieve its target of halving rough sleeping over the course of this Parliament – and eliminating it by 2027.

Prevention, intervention and recovery are the focus of the strategy, with official statistics showing a 165 per cent increase in reports of rough sleeping over the past 10 years.

While the current number of 4,677 rough sleepers is down 2 per cent in a year, the overall long-term trend is of a vast increase in rough sleeping across the country. Almost half of all councils have reported a rise in rough sleepers in their area.

Heart disease, diabetes and addiction problems are among the long-term physical health problems experienced by an

estimated 41 per cent of people who sleep rough, compared with only 28 per cent of the general population.

In addition, 45 per cent of rough sleepers have been diagnosed with mental health issues, compared with a quarter of the population as a whole. One in three has complex needs, which is defined as having at least two chronic health problems.

In particular, drug taking and alcohol can make it difficult for those who are experiencing rough sleeping to be helped off the streets, as continued abuse can result in them being excluded from accommodation. A 'housing first' approach, for those people with the most complex needs, is helping to solve this through offering stable accommodation without the need to be free of substance misuse problems.

However, long-term progress for the most vulnerable individuals can only happen through effective and integrated health and care solutions tailored around their needs.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a legal duty on councils to prevent homelessness and support all those requesting help who may be at risk of homelessness, irrespective of whether they are in certain groups that, previously, allowed them to be prioritised.

Rising demand and the need to make efficiencies mean that areas are finding new and innovative ways to provide

“Almost half of all councils have reported a rise in rough sleepers in their area”

support through health and care services. For example, Tower Hamlets provides psychological support to those sleeping rough on the streets; Newcastle ensures rough sleepers who end up in hospital are supported so they are not released back onto the streets; and in Bradford, a mobile health unit goes out touring the streets to help those in need of their services.

What these examples demonstrate is that services work best when they are proactive and able to reach out to those who are most vulnerable. It cannot be left to those who are experiencing rough sleeping to book themselves in for appointments as those who are not homeless would do.

Good practices, where introduced, make a difference. Vital treatment and care is being given to people who are sleeping rough, which is helping them transform their lives and get off the streets.

Meeting basic health needs is an essential part of meeting the Government's and councils' shared aim of eradicating rough sleeping.



'Supporting the health needs of those who are experiencing rough sleeping'

is available at www.local.gov.uk/supporting-health-needs-those-who-are-experiencing-rough-sleeping



Lessons in licensing

The LGA has published a handbook for councillors that gives an overview of licensing legislation and examples of best practice

Relaxing over a meal or drink, enjoying leisure time and being entertained are all important parts of our lives. These activities also play a vital part in making our towns and cities places where people want to live, work and socialise.

The vast majority of people who enjoy a drink at the pub or a night at a concert do so safely and sensibly. Likewise, the licensed businesses providing alcohol or other types of regulated entertainment are, for the most part, well managed and operate responsibly.

However, without proper regulation, these activities can create problems and cause harm to individuals and communities. Alcohol and entertainment licensing, therefore, plays a fundamental part in keeping us safe and healthy. It allows us to enjoy ourselves and promotes social responsibility within a framework that enables businesses to prosper.

Since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force in 2005, councils in England and Wales have had a statutory role as licensing authorities. Nearly 15 years later, councils continue to use the legislation to positively influence and shape local areas. The LGA's

recently published 'Licensing Act 2003 – councillor's handbook (England and Wales)' has pulled together some examples of best practice, alongside an overview of the legislation.

Elected members play two key roles in licensing. First, councillors have the power to shape what the licensed economy looks like, by developing a clear vision for the night-time economy, underpinned by a statement of licensing policy. Second, as decision-makers, councillors also play a key role in balancing the interests of those who may be affected by an activity and those who wish to enjoy those activities or rely on them for income and employment.

There are plenty of examples of how councils are carrying out their role effectively, but there is always room for improvement. While to some extent the Act has been successful in driving positive changes in drinking habits, and there has been an overall reduction in alcohol-related crime, some issues persist.

The latest statistics show that in more than half of all violent incidents, the victim believed the perpetrator to be under the influence of alcohol. Rates of hospital

admissions for alcohol also remain high, and some authorities struggle to manage issues such as anti-social behaviour and vulnerability related to licensed premises. Of course, councils cannot address these complex challenges alone, but the handbook explores the tools councils have to manage some of these issues. The LGA has also published a set of case studies focusing on approaches to managing issues in the night-time economy.

A House of Lords select committee undertook post-legislative scrutiny of the Act in 2016, and the handbook picks up on the committee's discussion of licensing committees. Peers felt they had seen and heard about examples of poor practice by licensing committees. They made a number of recommendations relating to this – the most far-reaching being that the functions of licensing committee should be transferred to planning committees.

Although government did not accept this recommendation, it did support recommendations around the training of licensing committee members. While the LGA is clear that councils are best placed to decide on the form and frequency of training, the handbook sets out some guiding principles for those authorities seeking to review or strengthen approaches to decision-making.

i 'Licensing Act 2003 – councillor's handbook (England and Wales)' and case studies of approaches to managing the night-time economy are available on the LGA website: www.local.gov.uk/licensing-act-2003-councillors-handbook-england-and-wales

Youth-focused democracy

An award-winning youth movement is making big strides in shaping decision-making at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



Councillor Bob Cook (Lab) is Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Councillors talk a lot about the importance of listening to young people. But how do we translate that talk into action – and, by action, I mean something that has genuine impact?

I'm a huge believer in this, and in Stockton-on-Tees, I'm proud and delighted to say we're making great strides. That's thanks largely to our award-winning youth-led movement, known as 'Bright Minds, Big Futures' (BMBF).

BMBF was born out of our Youth Assembly, but it's something different. It's a self-managed, self-appointed and diverse group of young people. BMBF has a very clear purpose, which is to influence and shape decision-making, and to work with and challenge the council to make our borough a great place to grow up. It has a very clear structure, with a 'Big Committee' at its core, complete with portfolio holders that mirror our own Cabinet set-up.

The Big Committee is mentored and advised by two 'older' young people, both of whom have great experience in youth-focused democracy. And, best of all, this entire format has been wholly devised, developed and implemented by the young people themselves, all on a voluntary basis.

In March, members of the Big Committee came to Cabinet and presented their 'Big Plan' to us. Compiling the plan was not a duty they took lightly. This was a 47-page document representing the culmination of a two-year programme of engagement with more than 450 young people.

The plan was set out very clearly, covering everything from community safety to environment and green spaces. Each section was broken down further into sub-sections titled 'What we want' and 'What we will do'. In fact, it's very much like our own Council Plan.



Cllr Bob Cook, with Big Committee Chair Kameron Spence and the BMBF mascot, 'Wattson'

“It is hard to find the words to describe how impressive these young people are, but they are a force to be reckoned with”

This means we can measure progress and impact as we go, and there'll be regular reports back to Cabinet.

That regular oversight and reporting is critical because, as we know, plans mean nothing without results. And results are already coming through.

One of BMBF's early 'wins' was the introduction of community food plots in some of the borough's allotments to supply produce for food banks.

It has built and launched its own period poverty campaign and is working with Cleveland Police on a 'stop and search' initiative.

It has also created a 'BMBF Approved' accreditation scheme to recognise local services and businesses that create a safe and welcoming space for young people.

In addition, it helps us spread the word about our year-round programme of events, by acting as 'event correspondents' and posting regular updates on social media. And we're about to involve BMBF in the design of a new 'pocket park' just off Stockton high street.

We also give BMBF a regular feature in our

residents' magazine, Stockton-on-Tees News, which goes out to every household in the borough. It's a great way to highlight BMBF's achievements and encourage new members to join the movement.

It is hard to find words to describe how impressive these young people are, but they are a force to be reckoned with.

Inevitably, awards have started coming their way. In January, BMBF scooped the regional best 'Youth-Led Project' award at the British Youth Council's Youth Voice Star Awards. But that wasn't the high point, because in March the group travelled to London, where it lifted the national award.

Indeed, I can say with great confidence that this is just the start. BMBF's work continues to grow and expand, with several new, exciting and innovative projects and initiatives already under way. Watch this space.



To find out more about BMBF please visit www.stockton.gov.uk/bmbf

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Council housing now: lessons from the past



Mark Swenarton is Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Liverpool University and author of *Homes Fit for Heroes*

The end of July marked the centenary of the Housing Act of 1919. The ‘Addison Act’, as it is better known, was a turning point in the history of housing and the effective beginning of local authorities as a major part of the UK’s housing system.

In the quarter-century before 1914, local authorities accounted for about two per cent of new dwellings. But, for the years 1919-23, the figure was 60 per cent, and for the inter-war period as a whole 30 per cent – a figure that increased in the post-war period until the tap of council house building was turned off by Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

The Addison Act followed from the promise made by Prime Minister David Lloyd George, in the turbulent period after the armistice of November 1918, to deliver half a million homes “fit for the heroes who have won the war”. Under the Act, local authorities were required to meet the housing needs of their area and, to enable them to do so, an open-ended

“Surely this is what our private housebuilders need today – a kick up the backside from a new generation of high-quality council homes that will compel them to raise their standards to match”

(yes really!) Treasury grant was introduced.

Looking back from 2019, perhaps three major lessons stand out. The first is that, faced with a massive numerical shortage of housing, the only way to deal with it was through local authorities. At the end of World War I, Lloyd George and Christopher Addison realised that if the housing shortage was really going to be tackled, it was no good looking to private builders or housing associations: only the local authorities had the heft to do it. The same surely applies today.

The second is to do with quality. To meet the aspirations of the returning ‘heroes’, the new houses had to be much better than the

terraced housing (‘tunnel-backs’) of the past. Internally, they were to be of a much higher standard, well-lit and well-ventilated, with generous space standards and features such as inside bathrooms and toilets; and they were to be laid out not as long terraces but on ‘garden suburb’ lines, with gardens front and rear and ample green space for leisure and recreation.

The new approach was set out in the Tudor Walters Report of 1918 and implemented by local authorities, resulting in the construction of municipal garden suburbs across the land in the 1920s.

Faced with this new competition, speculative builders rapidly decided they could not continue with an outdated format and so they too adopted the Tudor Walters model. Surely this is what our private housebuilders need today – a similar kick up the backside from a new generation of high-quality council homes that will compel them to raise their standards to match?

The third lesson is to do with party politics. Lloyd George and Addison were both Liberals, but the Government in 1919 was a coalition in which the Conservatives were the majority partner. The Chancellor of the Exchequer who, in 1919, authorised expenditure on the housing programme (“We ought to push on with it immediately, at whatever cost to the State”) was not a Liberal or Labour MP but a Conservative, Austen Chamberlain. In other words, in 1919 the recognition that a large-scale programme of council house building was needed to tackle the housing shortage extended to all political parties. Let us hope this is something that our new Prime Minister bears in mind.

group leaders' comments

Tackling climate change

“I am proud the Conservative Party, both locally and nationally, is committed to addressing climate change”



Councillor Izzi Seccombe
OBE is Leader of the LGA's Conservative Group

I was delighted to hear Boris Johnson, our new Prime Minister, affirm that action to address climate change is at the 'absolute core' of the Government's priorities.

I am proud the Conservative Party, both locally and nationally, is committed to addressing climate change. It has a solid record of achievement already, including helping to secure the Paris Agreement, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, cutting plastic bag usage and investing in renewable energy.

Additionally, the Government has set a legally binding target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, making the UK the first major developed economy to legislate to end its contribution to global warming.

With the LGA's General Assembly recently

passing a motion in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is clear that local government is on the frontline of fighting climate change across a range of issues, including transport, planning, waste and housing. The LGA will continue to play a leading role in supporting councils to meet the expectations of their communities in relation to this key issue.

Following the Government reshuffle, I would like to congratulate Robert Jenrick, our new Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on his appointment, and to thank his predecessor, James Brokenshire, for all that he did for local government.

I also congratulate the other new

members of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) ministerial team: Esther McVey, the new Minister for Housing; Luke Hall, the new Local Government Minister; and Viscount Younger, the new Minister in the House of Lords. I look forward to meeting with them and Robert shortly.

Finally, although we are sad to see them leave MHCLG, congratulations are due to Rishi Sunak on his appointment to the Cabinet as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and to Heather Wheeler on her appointment as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office. I thank them for their service at MHCLG and wish them all the best for the future.

Chairman's comment

Brexit, devolution and funding: the challenges ahead



Councillor James Jamieson
is Chairman of the LGA

With his premiership now well under way, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has some huge challenges ahead of him, not least Brexit.

He faces a very busy domestic agenda, from tackling the social care crisis to building the affordable high-quality homes the country desperately needs.

Central to this will be using the forthcoming Spending Round to give councils the certainty they need about how local services will be funded next year, as they begin their budget-setting process, and to plug the £8 billion funding gap councils face by 2025.

Over the coming weeks and months, the LGA will be working extremely hard to make sure the voice of local government is heard and that the Government knows the role councils can play.

A major part of this will be our 'Councils Can' campaign (see www.local.gov.uk/councils-can). This sets out our key asks and calls on the Prime Minister and his government to give councils the powers, funding and tools they need to deliver the very best for our local communities

This is why we will be pressing for the next Queen's Speech to include a new localism settlement, underpinned by a Devolution Bill that reignites devolution and gives councils the powers they need to lead local areas, improve residents' lives, tackle climate change, reduce

demand for public services and save money for the taxpayer.

On Brexit, councils are already taking the lead on preparations to leave the EU. The funding recently announced by government will help us coordinate our efforts, but with the huge financial constraints we face, it is vital councils get the resources they need.

Brexit will affect local areas in different ways, which is why preparations must reflect local circumstances, and it is local leaders who are best placed to direct preparations where there is most need.

By working with councils and devolving funding and powers, Boris Johnson has an opportunity to deliver a post-Brexit vision that transforms this country for the better.

“Councils are already taking the lead on preparations to leave the EU... it is vital they get the resources they need”

group leaders' comments



Councillor Nick Forbes CBE
is Leader of the
LGA's Labour Group

Climate emergency: it's time to act

“To ensure that residents are able to adapt to the forces of climate change, we must act now”

The need to act on climate change is urgent and real. I'm pleased to see that Labour councils are leading the way in responding to the climate emergency.

At the LGA's annual conference in July, we declared a climate emergency and asked the LGA to commit to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong, unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.

With the majority of Labour councils committing to ambitious targets of carbon neutrality by 2030, it is vital that their efforts are facilitated by central government policies. To respond to renewed pressure from climate groups, and to ensure that residents are able to adapt to the forces of climate change – affecting housing, transport, energy supplies and the food market – we must act now.

Labour in local government continues to champion this important agenda and Labour councils are taking action up and down the country.

The LGA's Labour Group is going to be producing a website and a number of resources to support Labour's local government work in this area. This will ensure that Labour-run councils and Labour groups have access to case studies, best practice, how-to guides, campaign materials and much more. Look out for it next month.



Councillor Howard Sykes MBE
is Leader of the
LGA's Liberal Democrat Group

More investment needed in health and care

“The underfunding of social care has reached crisis point”

We will wait to see if the one-off £1.8 billion funding pledge for NHS hospital equipment and upgrades is worth the paper it's written on.

Some of the cash announced will reportedly be coming from hospital reserves or previous commitments – hospitals had asked permission to spend this cash on frontline services and, until now, government had refused.

The Government cannot keep ignoring the fact that we need to plug the £3.6 billion funding gap facing adult social care by 2025.

It is vital that it uses the recently announced one-year Spending Round to address this and plans for the longer term in the 2020 Spending Review.

The underfunding of social care has reached crisis point, and critical staffing shortages have not been addressed. Adult social care has the second-largest percentage of job vacancies across the public sector after the NHS.

Meanwhile, children's mental health services are almost non-existent.

The NHS and social care are too important to people's lives to be neglected.

The Liberal Democrats are committed to transformational frontline funding by stopping Brexit and investing a penny on income tax into the health and care sectors.

And let us be honest – these measures will only start to solve the problem; they are not the final answer.



Councillor Marianne Overton MBE
is Leader of the
LGA's Independent Group

Vital local services need more support

“Councils are amazingly effective at improving lives, and remarkably cost-effective”

This is a big year for us. It will bring a changed UK-EU relationship and possible Parliamentary elections, while we continue to help our communities to thrive in an ever-challenging funding environment.

We have started work with the new Government to get the funding we need. Vital local services provided by councils continue to face a funding gap of more than £5 billion next year, rising to £8 billion by 2025. Councils are amazingly effective at improving lives, and remarkably cost-effective.

What happens locally in our streets and villages affects us most and changes the way people see their lives. Local councils and Independent councillors are at the heart of our communities, holding them together and seizing opportunities. Our 'Councils Can' campaign will be highlighting that, so please add your voice using **#CouncilsCan** or visit **www.local.gov.uk/councils-can**.

Disappointingly, the Government has pushed the Spending Review back to 2020, with only a one-year announcement due, meaning continued uncertainty on future funding.

Preparations for a no-deal Brexit are vital. We have made our case to the minister that councils need support to help economic growth and to provide essential services to make our places clean, green and safe, with access to education, employment and care when we need it. Is that too much to ask?



For more information about the LGA's political groups,
see www.local.gov.uk



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parliament

Shaping the devolution debate

As a politically-led, cross-party organisation, the LGA's work in Parliament is integral to ensuring that local government has a strong, credible voice in Westminster.

Over the past year, we have continued to enjoy great success in our engagement with select committees and all-party parliamentary groups (APPGs) on a wide variety of issues that matter to councils. These sessions are a vital part of the work we do on your behalf; they help shape policy development and build consensus for local government's policy recommendations.

Most recently, there has been a renewed focus on devolution amid encouraging signs that it's back on the political agenda, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson committing more than £1.3 billion of extra funding to 100 towns across England. This is a positive step, and we will continue to work with the new government on a devolution settlement that delivers for you.

LGA Chairman Cllr James Jamieson set out the case for devolution at our annual conference in Bournemouth in July. He said: "We provide places where people can be safe and warm. We help equip them with the skills they need. We create vibrant economies. And we have continued to do all this during one of the most challenging times for councils."

Building strong relationships with legislators is a key priority for the LGA and, through our high level discussions on devolution, we have already engaged with stakeholders including councils, business leaders, academics, MPs and Peers.

At the same time, we have continued to work with parliamentarians, including members of the Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution APPG, to reignite the broader devolution debate. This has formed part of our #CouncilsCan campaign, which calls for more powers and funding for local communities (see www.local.gov.uk/councils-can).

A recent roundtable discussion held by



the APPG, chaired by our Vice-President, Andrew Lewer MP, heard from a variety of speakers including Cllr Sue Baxter, Chair of the National Association of Local Councils; Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee; former LGA Chairman Lady Eaton; and Lord Tyler, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Constitutional and Political Reform.

The roundtable took a detailed look at our Post-Brexit England Commission's final report, 'The future of non-metropolitan England: the freedom to lead local places' (see **first** 638). This detailed evidence from 130 councils about the opportunities and benefits to local areas of devolution, including kick-starting inclusive growth, tackling the skills gap, building more affordable homes and investing in transport and infrastructure.

Speaking in Parliament, Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Chairman of the LGA's People and Places Board, outlined the importance of a devolution settlement for all of England, commenting: "We have had devolution for our

big cities, now is the time for devolution for the rest of the country."

The importance of devolution was also debated in the Lords, with Baroness Eaton supporting our calls for a devolution settlement and "the powers, freedoms, flexibilities and funding to deliver great communities". Lord Tyler described our commission's final report as a "timely antidote" to the overconcentration of powers in our major cities and towns.

The APPG will continue its inquiries in the autumn, meeting after the party conferences to discuss the case for devolving skills and training provision. We will be taking forward your calls for a new devolution settlement and making sure that the policy recommendations of local government continue to be heard.



For more information about the LGA's work in Parliament, please visit www.local.gov.uk/parliament

councillor

Joint scrutiny of health services



Councillor Ketan Sheth is Chair of Brent Council's Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Many members of health overview and scrutiny committees will feel that their role is a complex task. In my experience, this area of scrutiny becomes even more demanding when there is a joint committee, involving a number of local authorities, to scrutinise health services across a large area.

I sit on the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), alongside seven other local authority representatives. It was set up in 2013 to review Shaping a Healthier Future – the NHS transformation programme for north-west London.

A major change is afoot, but this time it's more on the commissioning side of health services. On the back of the new NHS Long Term Plan, there's now active consideration of a proposal to merge all eight of the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) covering north-west London into one body. This would create a body commissioning health services for about 2.2 million people across eight boroughs. What interests me is reflecting on the challenges facing members sitting on a joint committee such as this who have to review such a large-scale project.

The first obvious point is that this is an enormous topic, and the implications are profound. To my mind, as a scrutiny member, the only way that you can start to understand the proposal and prepare for the all-important committee meeting is by breaking down the topic into smaller chunks. One way to do this is to look at the published NHS papers and ask some obvious questions based on how, when and why.

The 'how' is key. According to NHS England guidelines for merging CCGs, a

"merger should not unduly distract the existing CCGs from business as usual, including delivering core performance standards and achieving financial balance". So, straight away, there's one interesting line of enquiry here – how will the CCGs manage this process, if it goes ahead, and how will they be able to run existing services effectively?

The 'when' is also interesting. The NHS Long Term Plan describes an intention that, by April 2021, all of England will be covered by an Integrated Care System, involving a CCG or CCGs working together with partners. But, in London, things are moving quite a bit faster, and the intention at the moment is to have a single CCG for north-west London by April 2020. Again, this raises an

interesting question: what are the risks of this pace of change?

Let's look at the 'why'. It would be unfair to say there was a single reason. But the NHS Long Term Plan says "by 2020/21, individual CCG running cost allowances will be 20 per cent lower in real terms than in 2017/18 and CCGs may therefore wish to explore the efficiency opportunities of merging with neighbouring CCGs". This brings up more lines of enquiry, such as will the cost savings be achieved and what happens if they are not?

It will still be a big, demanding topic to look at in committee. But, as scrutineers, I think we can feel more on top of it, and better prepared, by working through it layer by layer.



elections

Liberal Democrat gains in local contests

While Prime Minister Boris Johnson is determinedly seizing the political agenda, it is the Liberal Democrats who are making the electoral weather.

Their victory in the parliamentary by-election in Brecon and Radnorshire on 1 August was preceded by three council seat gains in Daventry and Gloucester, followed up by another win in Worcester the week after.

Indeed, the Claines ward in Worcester can be seen as encapsulating the ups and downs of new Leader Jo Swinson's party ever since local government reorganisation 45 years ago.

Safely Conservative under rather different boundaries for more than a decade after 1973 (and with Labour never a serious contender), it occasionally flirted with the Liberal Democrats and its predecessor parties throughout the 1980s and 1990s, with sitting councillors of both colours usually retaining their seats.

It was the Liberal Democrats, though, who



Professors Colin Rallings (right) and Michael Thrasher are Associate Members, Nuffield College, Oxford



dominated the first elections for the currently configured ward in 2004, and from then until 2012 hung on quite handily until they were punished across the country for their role in the Cameron coalition government. Success in Claines mirrored their increased share of the vote at both the 2005 and 2010 general elections.

This time they bounced back again, turning a deficit of nearly 100 votes in May into a majority of 56 in a ward that appears to have narrowly voted 'Remain' in June 2016. Their win coincides with opinion polls showing them breaking the 20 per cent barrier for the first time since 2010 and often challenging Labour for second place.

A footnote to the Gloucester results is the first appearance at a local election of the Brexit Party. It finished fourth in the Podsmead ward and a very distant third in Barnwood but, as in Brecon, the votes it attracted may have had some material impact on the outcome.

Both Labour and the Conservatives have been warned about the potential ability of both the Liberal Democrats and the Brexit Party to rain on their parade.

And the news gets even worse for Labour. The party has lost ground in no fewer than 24 of the 27 council seats it has contested since the May local elections. Hardly a sound basis on which to fight a General Election campaign, should one be forthcoming this autumn.



For more details of these and previous local by-election results, please visit www.local.gov.uk/first

local by-elections

Ashford, Downs North

CON HELD

6.1% over Green

Turnout 31.5%

Cambridge, Newnham

LIB DEM HELD

41.4% over Lab

Turnout 26.7%

Cardiff, Cyncoed

LIB DEM HELD

31.3% over Con

Turnout 42%

Ceredigion, Llanbadarn Fawr Sulien

PLAID CYMRU HELD

31.6% over Lib Dem

Turnout 37.1%

Daventry, Brixworth

LIB DEM GAIN FROM CON

12.2% over Con

Turnout 30%

East Northamptonshire, Irthlingborough Waterloo

CON HELD

6.3% over Lab

Turnout 36.1%

Gloucester, Barnwood

LIB DEM GAIN FROM CON

12.4% over Con

Turnout 29%

Gloucester, Podsmead

LIB DEM GAIN FROM LAB

0.4% over Con

Turnout 33%

Hartlepool, Hart

LAB HELD

0.7% over Ind Union

Turnout 17.6%

Huntingdonshire, Godmanchester and Hemingford Abbots

LIB DEM HELD

13.6% over Con

Turnout 27.9%

Richmond Upon Thames, East Sheen

LIB DEM HELD

23.4% over Con

Turnout 40.7%

Stockport, Hazel Grove

LIB DEM HELD

6.8% over Con

Turnout 28.3%

Wiltshire, Westbury North

LIB DEM HELD

27.6% over Ind

Turnout 24.4%

Worcester, Claines

LIB DEM GAIN FROM CON

2% over Con

Turnout 42.7%

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