



LGA in Parliament 2018/19

The national voice of local government in Parliament



“In many ways I feel as if I grew up with local government and certainly one of the favourite parts of my job is the chance to find out more about the work of your great councillors – our great councillors. You live and breathe the issues affecting your areas. You make the places you live in better and improve lives as a consequence of that. That’s why I certainly couldn’t be prouder to be working alongside you.”

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Foreword

Lord Porter of Spalding CBE Chairman
Mark Lloyd Chief Executive

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this year's Local Government Association (LGA) in Parliament report, which provides an update on our activities in the Palace of Westminster. Our work with MPs and Peers is one of the key pillars that ensures the LGA continues to be the national voice of local government. It is a hugely important part of the work we do for our member councils, and the results of our membership survey back this up.

The LGA's reputation in Parliament is strong as demonstrated by our regular polling of parliamentarians, which shows that the work we do is valued by them. This is a testament to the hard work of local government and all those who represent the LGA. We use this influence to good effect to shape legislation and policy through parliamentary processes.

Our approach has seen us improve the various pieces of legislation that make their way through Parliament before becoming law. We've engaged with proposals around mental health, banning excessive letting fees, tackling knife crime and supporting early intervention to deal with domestic abuse. This will help councils in their work supporting their communities.

We also continue to enjoy great success in our engagement with select committees and All-Party Parliamentary Groups on a wide variety of issues on behalf of members. These sessions provide a chance to share ideas and build consensus for local government's policy recommendations. This year we were pleased to hear from the House of Commons that we are the top organisation in the country for providing the highest amount of written evidence to select committees. In the past year, we have submitted evidence to a range of inquiries including on Special Educational Needs, housing, the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy, the operation of the Homelessness Reduction Act, the NHS Long Term Plan, Brexit, future international trade policy and domestic abuse.

Supporting us in all of this are our President, Vice-Presidents and all the MPs and Peers we work with on a daily basis. Their work enables us to achieve so much more for councils all over the country. We would also like to thank those who have contributed to the work of the LGA by appearing at select committee inquiries, by working through our policy boards and submitting ideas we can champion on your behalf. We could not do it without this support.

As we look to the new parliamentary session, we can reassure you that we will continue to lobby proactively on your behalf as we help communicate local priorities in our national Parliament. Our exit from the EU will of course continue to be high on parliamentarians' minds and dominate the political agenda. But for us, funding remains the top priority and with the Spending Review ongoing, we are already making the case for a sustainable funding settlement for local government and the devolution of powers to local areas. It's also an exciting time to be promoting the work of councils and leading the conversation on its role in civic life.

We are continually inspired by the work being done at all levels of local government and the strong and ambitious leadership that drives our economic prosperity and resilience. We will be continuing in our role to ensure the important voice of local government continues to feature in the national conversation.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lord Porter of Spalding".

Lord Porter of Spalding CBE
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Lloyd".

Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive

Introduction

As a politically-led, cross-party organisation, our work in Parliament is integral to our wider campaigning activities. We work on behalf of councils to ensure that local government has a strong, credible voice in Westminster. We work hard to brief our network of parliamentary supporters, including our Vice-Presidents, to influence Government and promote positive change and public service reform. We engage in various activities on behalf of our member-councils such as lobbying on legislation, supporting councillors and officers giving evidence to parliamentary committees, and bringing together councils, MPs and Peers at events. We also proactively seek opportunities to work with a wide range of partner organisations and stakeholders to help influence parliamentary decisions and to inform committee recommendations.

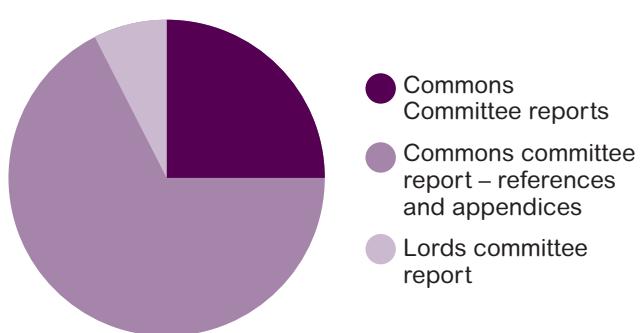
Through our parliamentary engagement we have sought to promote the messages behind our campaigns on the 2019 Spending Review, adult social care, devolution, domestic abuse, improving mental health services, building new homes, changing children's lives, and devolving employment and skills support. These are the things councils have told us are most important to them and their residents. Our regular polling of parliamentarians shows strong support for the campaigns we run on behalf of local government. This is demonstrated by the fact that, from our polling of parliamentarians, there are high levels of support for our campaigns on council finances, housing, social care, children's services and skills devolution.

By engaging with Parliament, we've helped achieve some notable successes for local government, including: extra funding to help children with special educational needs and

disabilities; the lifting of the housing borrowing cap that will enable councils to build more new homes each year; and a commitment to working with councils to explore new ways of paying for local infrastructure, services and homes. Set out in this report are just some of the examples where we've influenced Parliament on behalf of councils.

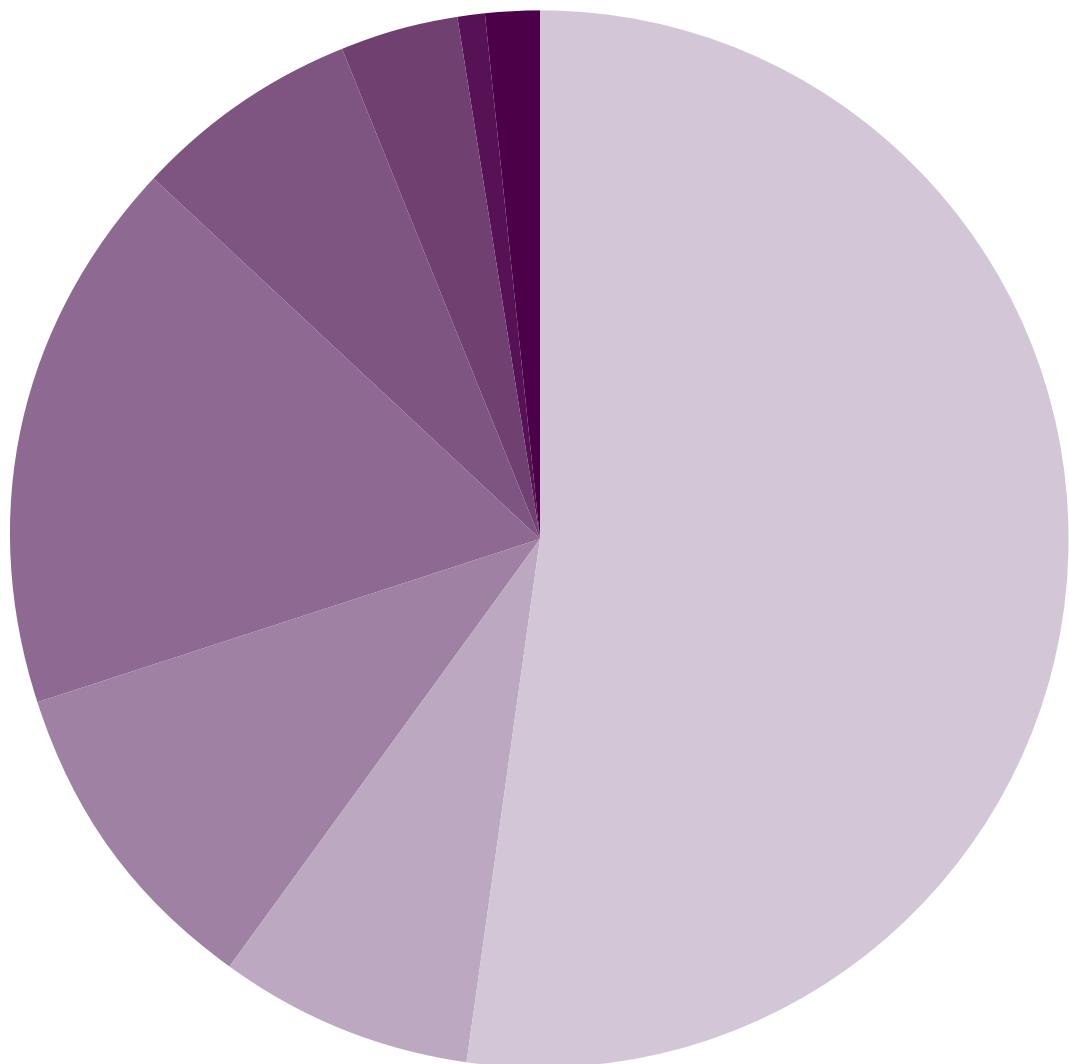


Mentions in committee reports



Analysis of parliamentary activity

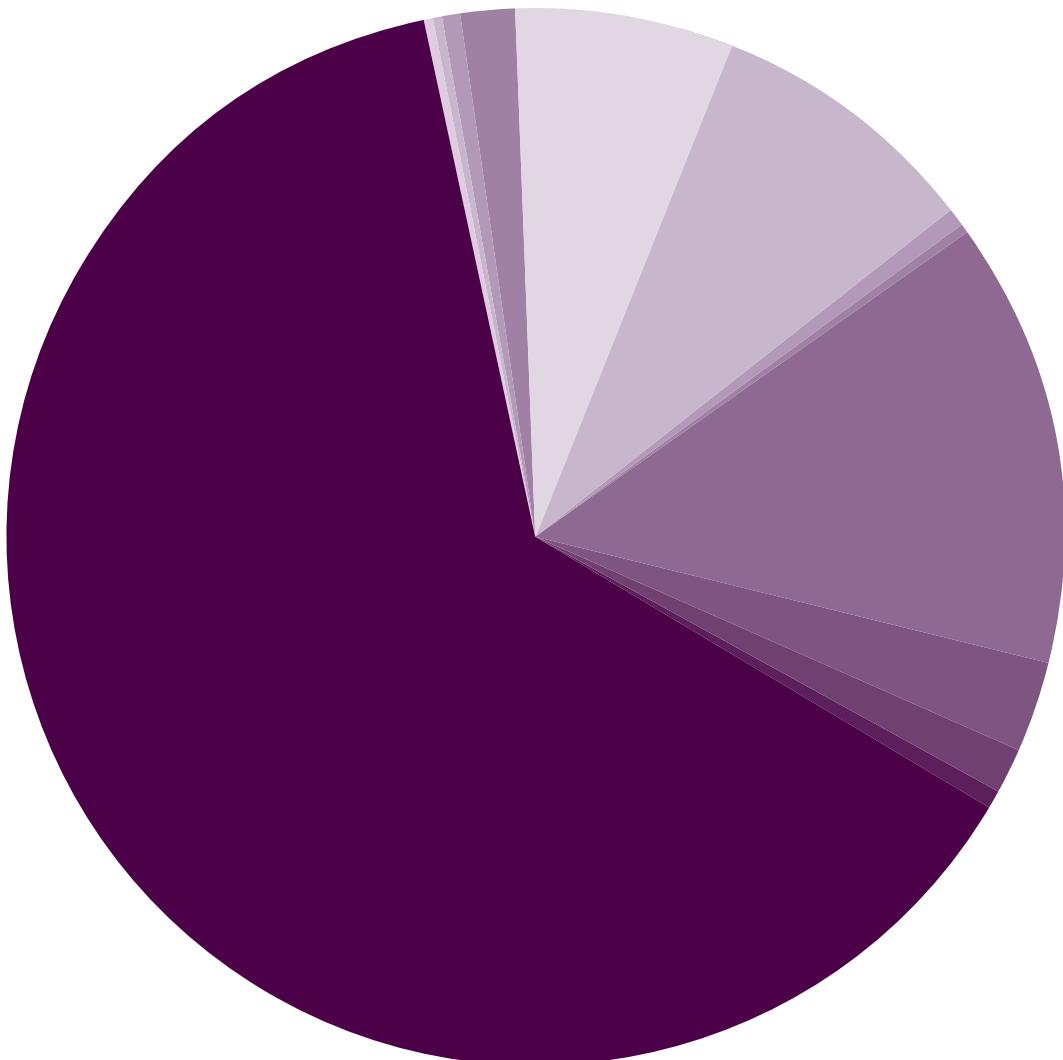
Total Lords mentions 265



- Chamber Debate
- Oral statement/debate
- Oral answer
- Oral question tabled

- Grand Committee Debate
- Written answer
- Written question tabled
- Committee evidence session

Total Commons mentions 692



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- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ● Chamber debate | ● Oral question, tabled |
| ● Westminster Hall debate | ● Committee evidence session |
| ● Oral statement/debate | ● Public bill committee |
| ● Urgent question | ● Written ministerial statement |
| ● Written answer | ● Delegated legislation committee |
| ● Oral answer | ● Joint committee evidence session |
| ● Written question, tabled | |
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Legislation

Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act

The aim of the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act is to create a system for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which is simpler and less bureaucratic. Through our engagement with Parliament, we successfully secured amendments that will reduce conflicts around the role of care home managers. We will be working with Government on the development and implementation of a reformed, fully funded scheme so that councils can ensure that those people who lack mental capacity are at the centre of decisions made about their care.

EU (Withdrawal) Act

The European Union (Withdrawal) Act became law in April this year and converted the entire body of European law into UK law, with the intention of giving businesses and individuals the certainty of knowing the rules have not changed on the day the UK leaves the European Union. We secured a ministerial commitment that local government will be consulted on law-making following repatriation from Europe of rights previously exercised through the European Union Committee of the Regions.



“The Local Government Association has produced figures showing that councils of all political persuasions overspent their children’s services budgets by £800 million last year. The figure for Sheffield was £12 million. That is totally due to the fact that the number of children in care has risen to a 10-year high.”

Clive Betts MP
Chair, House of Commons Housing,
Communities and Local Government Committee

Tenant Fees Act

Excessive letting agent fees have been a concern for many tenants and councils, hampering access to the housing market. This has in turn placed pressure on the provision of social housing. Under the Tenant Fees Act, councils will have responsibility for enforcing the ban in their areas. In order for them to do so, we argued that the Government must provide sufficient resources and funding. This includes adequate up-front funding to support activity on this issue, and a national information campaign to make tenants and landlords aware of the new rules. The Government listened to these calls and recognised the need for up-front funding of enforcement action as we secured £500,000 funding for councils for the first year of enforcement. In addition, we successfully argued that councils should not be included within the scope of those prohibited from making payments to landlords on behalf of tenants. This means councils will be able to financially support tenants who are at risk of homelessness through termination of a tenancy.

“The LGA has identified a potential £1.6 billion deficit for special needs education, and yet the Government have responded with an inadequate £350 million. Headteachers say that that is too little too late and does not even cover local authority high needs shortfalls, which simply exacerbate the problems with mainstream SEND.”

Caroline Lucas MP
Green Party



Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Act

The Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation and Liability for Housing Standards) Act amended the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 to require that residential rented accommodation is provided and maintained in a state of fitness for human habitation. The LGA supported the Act, highlighting how councils want all of their residents to live in homes that are decent, safe and secure, and councils' housing teams work hard to ensure homes are fit for purpose. We welcomed the powers granted by the Government for councils to impose civil penalties of up to £30,000 for the worst housing offences. Local government already has powers to introduce discretionary licensing schemes for private landlords, and we sought full flexibility to extend these schemes. We also highlighted that the nationally-set system which councils use to assess housing standards is out of date. We are working with the Government to strengthen the assessment system and to clarify the statutory powers of the Housing Ombudsman.

Offensive Weapons Act

We briefed parliamentarians on Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) which were introduced in the Offensive Weapons Act. KCPOs seek to introduce civil orders to help the police manage people who are engaged, or at risk of engaging, in knife crime and help steer them away from crime. We are working to help ensure the new orders effectively tackle knife crime and that any new duties to local government associated with KCPOs are fully funded. Without additional resources, the new responsibilities placed on youth offending teams (YOTs) to monitor compliance with KCPOs will risk the vital work that these organisations do to prevent young people from becoming involved in criminal activity.

Domestic Abuse Bill

The new Domestic Abuse Bill has the potential to help improve the lives of victims of domestic abuse. We welcome measures designed to support early intervention and preventative approaches set out during consultation on the draft bill. We are working with the Government and parliamentarians to make the case that a more co-ordinated, public health style approach is needed to challenge attitudes towards domestic abuse and reduce its prevalence.



“There is no doubt that local authorities are stepping up to the challenges that they face and demonstrating real ambition and creativity to drive efficiencies at the same time as protecting frontline services.”

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary

Debates and questions

Each week that Parliament sits presents the LGA with opportunities to brief parliamentarians on key local government issues. This is often achieved through briefing for Prime Minister's Questions, Opposition Day Debates, Backbench Business, general or Westminster Hall debates in the Commons, debates in the Lords, or the tabling of Parliamentary Questions. Questions to Secretaries of State and Ministers during department questions also provide a chance to highlight our policies and priorities in areas like council finances, adult social care, children's services, housing, leaving the EU, local government powers and economic growth.

We are in regular contact with parliamentarians from all sides of the political spectrum, providing information, evidence and advice so they are able to accurately represent local government priorities in their discussions. Since June 2018 we have produced more than 125 parliamentary briefings highlighting

the priorities in our campaigns and helping to illustrate the effects of national policy changes on local communities. This is equally the case in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, with the LGA quoted in both frequently. Through this work we are able to ensure central government recognises and understands the challenges councils face in delivering for their residents, and that steps are taken to address any issues as a matter of urgency.

Key highlights from the year include:

Devolution and funding for local government

- Our briefing on council finances was quoted extensively in debates in both the House of Commons and House of Lords in the discussions on Budget 2018.



“...I want to mention the Local Government Association’s ‘Bright Futures’ campaign. It highlights to councils across the country the importance of increasing funding, and ensuring that all the promised £1.7 billion for children’s mental health is spent in children’s mental health, not elsewhere. Prevention and early intervention, as we have heard several times today, are absolutely key to saving many lives from being destroyed, including those of friends and families of sufferers.”

Wera Hobhouse MP
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Environment, Climate Change and Justice

- In February 2019 during a debate on the Local Government Finance Settlement, MPs from across the House referred to our briefing, calling on the Government to use the upcoming Spending Review to address council finances in the long term.
- The Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Corbyn MP, quoted our analysis of the funding gap facing councils in a session of Prime Minister's Questions in March 2019.
- Our funding gap figures were put to the Chancellor, Philip Hammond MP, at a Treasury Select Committee hearing on the 2019 Spending Review. Committee members also took the opportunity to call for him to address the sustainability of council funding.
- In a House of Lords debate on air quality, Crossbench peer the Earl of Listowel said: "As a Vice-President of the Local Government Association, I am also concerned about further burdens on local government and what the Government are doing to help authorities get the funds necessary to be effective in reacting to this problem."

Britain's exit from the EU

- In February 2019 Jim McMahon MP, Shadow Local Government Minister, called on central government to ensure local government played a pivotal role in the UK after leaving the EU. This is something that we have been urging the Government to do through devolution of powers as they return to the UK from Brussels.
- In a debate on essential council services in January 2019, a number of members of the House of Lords raised the prospect of the impact of the UK's departure from the EU on councils. In particular, Lord Scriven called for councils to be more involved in preparations to leave the EU, while the LGA President Lord Kerslake highlighted that devolution had been a policy casualty of the decision to leave the EU.

Inclusive growth, housing and planning

- A debate on rough sleeping was held in the House of Commons in February 2019 in which Neil Coyle MP quoted our data. This showed that councils provide temporary housing for more than 82,000 households, including 123,000 children.
- In January 2019, the LGA Chairman Lord Porter spoke in a debate on social housing in the Lords. He highlighted the £20 billion cost of housing benefit and the role that councils play in providing safe, clean, affordable housing. He also praised the Government for following our recommendation that councils should be able to borrow against the assets they already own.
- We briefed Lord Kennedy on our calls to abolish fees in the planning process and to replace them with locally set fees that reflect local demands and local pressures. He raised this in a debate on affordable housing in the House of Lords in October 2018.
- We briefed Peers on the case for improved recycling and the threat to the environment from plastic ahead of a debate in December 2018. Our briefing highlighted the improvements made by councils to waste and recycling services over recent years, and our calls for businesses and manufacturers to pay the full cost of recycling or disposing of their packaging.
- We briefed MPs ahead of the debate on the role of local residents and developers in the planning system. Focusing on the planning process, we called for developers, councils and local communities to work together. In response, the Government said that further clarity and guidance will be made available to support local authorities in their role.
- We briefed Karen Lee MP on recent trends in the local bus market ahead of Transport Questions in January 2019. Our briefing highlighted the reduction in the number of bus journeys taken in recent years and the pressures facing rural bus routes.

Children, education and schools

- At the weekly Prime Minister's Questions, Caroline Lucas MP used our data that showed a potential £1.6 billion deficit in special educational needs funding. The Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, responded that the Government was making more funds available and providing new school places and better facilities for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Baroness Eaton used a debate in the Lords in November 2018 to highlight the LGA's warnings that schools may no longer be able to provide the extra support that pupils with SEND need, and this in turn will affect other pupils and teachers, who will get less support in the classroom.
- Jim McMahon MP referenced our research which showed that children's services face a £3 billion funding gap by 2024/25, while the number of children in need is rising.

Adult social care and health

- In a House of Lords debate Baroness Eaton welcomed our 'timely green paper' on adult social care. She highlighted the funding pressures facing councils and welcomed additional funding of £240 million for winter pressures. Baroness Eaton also said that the Government should work more closely with councils as it develops its own proposals for adult social care.

"Some local authorities in England have made early intervention to address childhood adversity and trauma a priority. However, the Government in Westminster have not yet seized the opportunity."

Baroness Donaghy
Labour Peer

- In November 2018 we briefed MPs ahead of the debate on the Five-Year Forward View for mental health. We highlighted the need to prevent mental health issues arising, intervening early if problems start surfacing, and helping people manage their lives going forward.
- Thelma Walker MP referenced our survey of council leaders and social care cabinet members which found that 96 per cent believe that there is a major national funding problem in social care in a debate on adult social care.
- In June 2018, we briefed Peers ahead of a debate on the support available to carers and the 'Carers Action Plan 2018-2020' in the House of Lords. We focused on our priority to support and improve the wellbeing and rights of carers.

Supporting councils

- In a debate on council finances the Minister for Local Government, Rishi Sunak MP, highlighted our work developing a tool to help benchmark and analyse performance.
- Speaking in a debate about amendments to the Children Act 1989 in March 2019, Sarah Champion MP asked the Government about the National FGM Centre, a collaboration between Barnardo's and the LGA. She expressed concern at the funding issues that the centre was facing and highlighted its importance as a resource for councils.
- We briefed parliamentarians ahead of a February 2019 debate on the Data Protection (Charges and Information) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. This exempts elected representatives, including councillors, from paying a charge to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).
- In addition, as a sitting member of the House of Lords, the LGA's Chairman Lord Porter has been able to table parliamentary questions to the Minister on a huge variety of issues including housing, council finances, local economic development, health services and fire safety. Each question tabled receives a formal response from the Government and ensures policy is scrutinised.

Parliamentary inquiries

A vital part of our activity is to provide evidence to the various parliamentary select committees, All-Party Parliamentary Groups and other bodies that hold inquiries into areas of relevance to councils. These present a valuable opportunity to put forward councils' concerns and interests to MPs. Over the past year we have contributed to more than 40 parliamentary inquiries on a wide variety of topics including business rates retention, land value capture, building regulations and fire safety, the Spending Review and regenerating seaside towns.

Our evidence to inquiries often forms part of the recommendations to Government contained in the final report. Key highlights this year include:

- The LGA Chairman, Lord Porter of Spalding, appeared before the HCLG Committee, which was looking into modern methods of construction (MMC). He made the point that the planning system is not a barrier to adopting MMC. He went on to say that the removal of the HRA cap by the Government, a key LGA priority, could help alleviate this as councils begin building more homes themselves. Lord Porter has also given evidence to the Public Accounts Committee

on local authority governance, where he said there was no need for an expensive, over-arching auditing body and council funding should be restored to the level it was at prior to 2010 in order to make sure local government can continue to improve.

- The Chairman of our Brexit Taskforce, Councillor Kevin Bentley, appeared before the International Trade Committee as part of its UK trade policy and transparency inquiry. Following his evidence, the Committee's report recommended that a representative from the LGA should be included on the Strategic Trade Advisory Group (STAG), to allow the Government to consult with them in detail throughout the trade deal negotiation process. The Committee also called on the Government to lay out how it plans to ensure local government has a voice in trade negotiations in its response to the inquiry report, while also considering the specific point about whether it would be appropriate to include a local government representative on STAG.
- Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, gave evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee as part of its inquiry on sexual and reproductive health. He said local

"I pay tribute to the many local authorities that have done a fantastic job over the past few years to continue delivering high-quality services, from improving adult social care to maintaining our roads, public spaces and parks in what has been, for some, a difficult financial climate."

Rishi Sunak
Parliamentary Under Secretary
for Local Government





"I have seen some really good work and really good practice in local authorities, who have employed support staff to reduce the administrative tasks. It frees up the social worker to do social work, and the feedback is that this has really enabled the workforce to focus on what they need to do, supporting children and their families."

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
for Children and Families



government had stepped up to the mark since taking on responsibilities for public health in 2013, with a number of innovative approaches to deliver services. He highlighted that this had taken place against £531 million worth of reductions to public health budgets and that it was important that adequate funding was put in place.

- LGA Children and Young People Board Chair, Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, gave evidence to the Education Committee for their inquiry on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Councillor Bramble highlighted the current £472 million shortfall this year and the rising number of children on Educational Health and Care Plans. Following the session Committee Chair, Robert Halfon MP (Conservative), asked the Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, a question about the rising number of children who are excluded from schools and the impact on SEND budgets. In response the Prime Minister said that there was extra support and money going into SEND, and that councils should work with schools to help excluded children.
- The Vice-Chairman of our Children and Young People Board, Councillor Roy Perry, gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee. Councillor Perry highlighted the unpredictable pressures facing children's services and stated that councils are having to spend more on children's services. The panel of witnesses agreed with the

LGA's analysis of a £3.1 billion funding shortfall facing services. In their report, the Committee echoed our position and called on the Government to use the upcoming Spending Review to increase core funding by a minimum of £3.1 billion to reflect the challenges facing local authorities.

- Councillor Adele Morris, Deputy Chair of the LGA's Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, gave evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee as part of its inquiry into the first year of the Homelessness Reduction Act. During the session, MPs were keen to hear about how the Act was functioning and how councils were coping with the new burdens it places on them. Councillor Morris responded that the Act has seen instances of good practice developed but that resources and finances were still an issue for councils.
- Our Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, gave evidence to the Liaison Committee on the value of parliamentary select committees and their impact on public policy. In his evidence Mr Lloyd drew upon our experiences as the number one provider of written evidence to parliamentary committees and from supporting many councillors to give evidence to Parliament.
- Our Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, gave evidence to the Health and Social Care Committee on the legislative proposals being considered by the NHS. Ms Pickup welcomed the proposals and the intention

to introduce greater collaboration within the NHS. However, she highlighted the inherent risks in creating a two tier system if local government was not adequately considered in decision making. Ms Pickup also gave evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee's ongoing inquiry into social care funding. She highlighted the findings from our green paper consultation response and outlined the funding options for social care, particularly in the context of wider funding reductions to local government.

- Following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee undertook an inquiry into building regulations and in July 2018 made a number of recommendations based on LGA input. The Committee called on the Government to work with fire safety experts and the industry to agree a new testing regime that is more widely trusted than the current regime. They also highlighted the problematic nature of purely relying on desktop studies to ensure the safety of cladding materials, recommending that they should always be based on primary test evidence.
- In October 2018 the Home Affairs Committee supported our calls for the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill to explicitly recognise the devastating impact of domestic abuse on children and called on the Government to develop a clear strategy to ensure children experiencing domestic abuse are protected and supported. It also called for further measures to prevent domestic abuse, to improve the identification and response to domestic abuse by organisations and to educate young people about healthy relationships, following our submission to the inquiry.
- Following evidence from Councillor Martin Tett, Chairman of our Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, on land value capture, the Communities and Local Government Committee reported in September 2018 that the Government should work with the LGA to provide additional resources, training and advice to local planning authorities. It also called for the Compulsory Purchase Order process to be simplified to make it faster and less expensive for councils. Overall, the Committee found that there is scope for central and local government to claim greater proportions of land value increases. In its response, the Government said it agreed with the LGA and the Committee that more needs to be done to ensure increases in land value benefit the community through improved infrastructure, essential services and housing.
- The House of Lords Regenerating Seasides Committee published its report, The Future of Seaside Towns, in April 2019. According to the Committee, many seaside towns and coastal communities are in desperate need of improvements to transport, housing and broadband. Better access to further and higher education for young people in seaside towns is needed too. The LGA supplied a number of case studies that went into the report, focussing on culture-led regeneration as a method of reviving these towns. The Committee also recommended, based on our evidence, that funding for the receiving coastal local authorities should reflect the financial impact of providing adequate services to support the needs of vulnerable people.
- Ahead of the Spending Review, which will take place in the second half of 2019, the Public Accounts Committee quoted our figures of a £3.2 billion funding gap in 2019/20. The Committee requested that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government write to it by May 2019 and set out how its estimates of local authority funding needs compare to our forecast.

“Local councils provide vital services to our constituents, whether on fly-tipping, homelessness, adult social care or children’s services.”

Faisal Rashid MP
MP for Warrington South

Events

We host a number of events each year, as part of our engagement with the Government, Parliament and the political parties, to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing councils.

Parliamentary reception

In June 2018 we hosted our popular annual parliamentary reception, which puts representatives from local government in the same room as Ministers, MPs and Peers from all parties. Our former Chairman and Vice-President, Lady Eaton, was joined by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire MP, and the Labour leader in the House of Lords, Baroness Smith of Basildon. The reception is a chance to celebrate the best in local government and to discuss the challenges we need to address in order to ensure that councils continue to deliver high quality public services.

Party conferences

As with previous years, the LGA ran a busy, well-attended and highly informative programme at the party conferences. These provide a hugely valuable opportunity to showcase the positive work and campaigns the LGA undertakes on behalf of its membership. Our programme of events focussed heavily on council finances, adult social care, housing and children's services. More broadly, the conferences also provide us with an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, including businesses, charities and think tanks.

Parliamentary roundtables

During the last year we have hosted a series of roundtable briefings on issues such as adult social care; the funding gap facing children's services; fixing the housing market; and the impact of Brexit on local government. These discussions provide us with the opportunity to update parliamentarians on the LGA's work, and to receive feedback from MPs and Peers on our role and activities. These events are a key forum that allows for discussion over shared priorities on a wide range of topics.

Smith Square debate

In May 2019 we hosted the latest in our series of Smith Square debates, focussing on the upcoming Spending Review. The questions included what financial pressures councils are facing, what solutions might help deal with the increasing demands on local government and how councils can seek to influence the final outcome. The audience heard from Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss MP; Shadow Treasury Minister Anneliese Dodds MP; Liberal Democrat peer Lady Pinnock; and Crossbench peer Lord Adebowale.

“The work that local government does covers a broad range of important areas, and affects our constituents’ lives in so many ways.”

Thelma Walker MP
Colne Valley



Anneliese Dodds MP, Shadow Treasury Minister, Baroness Pinnock, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson, Communities and Local Government, LGA Vice-President Lord Adebowale, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss MP and broadcaster Samira Ahmed at the Smith Square Debate 2019



Baroness Eaton, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government; James Brokenshire MP; Nick Forbes and Baroness Smith at the LGA Parliamentary Reception 2018



THE NATIONAL VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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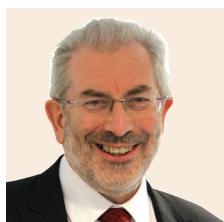
LGA President Lord Kerslake

I am proud to have once again undertaken the role as President of the Local Government Association, helping the organisation be the national voice for local government. I and the other Vice-Presidents are deeply indebted to the work of the LGA, while all of us who work in Parliament know and appreciate the hard work councillors and their officials put in every day to deliver vital public services. The LGA excellently represents the views of its members on a collective, cross-party basis and ensures councils' voices are listened to by Parliament and Government alike.

The regularity with which the LGA is quoted in Parliament is a testament to the quality and effectiveness of the work the organisation does to brief MPs and Peers. When those of us in the Lords or the Commons who care passionately about local government rise to speak, we know we can rely on the timely and accurate material the LGA produces.

This past year has seen the LGA undertake some fantastic work, in particular its excellent green paper on social care. This set out very clearly the arguments about what is already being done well, what we need to change and the cross-party consensus needed to consider the options properly. Indeed, it is hard to think how the Government's own green paper will be any better.

I do hope everyone at the LGA and in local government knows how much their support means to parliamentarians and for my part I would like to say thank you to you all. I look forward to continuing to work with Vice-Presidents and parliamentarians from across both Houses as we look forward to a Spending Review and a new parliamentary session.



LGA Vice-Presidents

Lord Adebowale

Independent (Crossbench)

Mike Amesbury MP

Weaver Vale, Labour

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Manville

Liberal Democrat

Lord Bassam of Brighton

Labour

Catherine Bearder MEP

South East England, Liberal Democrat

Lord Beecham

Labour

Lord Best

Independent (Crossbench)

Lord Bichard

Independent (Crossbench)

Lord Bishop of St Albans

Independent (Crossbench)

Clive Betts MP

Sheffield South East, Labour

Bob Blackman MP

Harrow East, Conservative

Maria Caulfield MP

Lewes, Conservative

Baroness Couttie

Conservative

Baroness Eaton

Conservative

Tim Farron MP

Westmorland and Lonsdale,
Liberal Democrat

Baroness Greengross

Independent (Crossbench)

Baroness Grey-Thompson

Independent (Crossbench)

Helen Hayes MP

Dulwich and West Norwood, Labour

Simon Hoare MP

North Dorset, Conservative

Wera Hobhouse MP

Bath, Liberal Democrat

Baroness Howarth of Beckland

Independent (Crossbench)

Baroness Janke

Liberal Democrat

Diana Johnson MP

Kingston upon Hull North, Labour

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

Independent (Green Party)

Marcus Jones MP

Nuneaton, Conservative

Preet Kaur Gill MP

Birmingham, Edgbaston, Labour

Gillian Keegan MP

Chichester, Conservative

Lord Kennedy of Southwark

Labour

Norman Lamb MP

North Norfolk, Liberal Democrat

Jeremy Lefroy MP

Stafford, Conservative

Andrew Lewer MP Northampton South, Conservative	Lord Scriven Liberal Democrat
Earl of Listowel Independent (Crossbench)	Lord Shipley Liberal Democrat
Julia Lopez MP Hornchurch and Upminster, Conservative	Baroness Smith of Basildon Labour
Tim Loughton MP East Worthing and Shoreham, Conservative	Lord Smith of Leigh Labour
Earl of Lytton Independent (Crossbench)	Lord Storey Liberal Democrat
Baroness Maddock Liberal Democrat	Wes Streeting MP Ilford North, Labour
Rupert Matthews MEP East Midlands, Conservative	Keith Taylor MEP South East England, Independent (Green)
Catherine McKinnell MP Newcastle-upon-Tyne North, Labour	Baroness Thornhill MBE Liberal Democrat
Jim McMahon MP Oldham West and Royton, Labour	Lord Tope Liberal Democrat
Layla Moran MP Oxford West and Abingdon, Liberal Democrat	Lord True Conservative
Neil O'Brien MP Harborough, Conservative	Anna Turley MP Redcar, Labour
Patrick O'Flynn MEP East of England, Independent (SDP)	Derek Vaughan MEP Wales, Labour
Rory Palmer MEP East Midlands, Labour	Charles Walker MP Broxbourne, Conservative
Mark Pawsey MP Rugby, Conservative	Catherine West MP Hornsey and Wood Green, Labour
Baroness Pinnock Liberal Democrat	Lord Whitby Conservative
Jo Platt MP Leigh, Labour	Lord Whitty Labour
Steve Reed MP Croydon North, Labour	Lord Wigley Independent (Plaid Cymru)
Baroness Scott of Bybrook Conservative	
Baroness Scott of Needham Market Liberal Democrat	



"The Local Government Association has published its Green Paper on social care. It is worth the Government considering some of the responses that the consultation received."

Andrew Gwynne MP
Shadow Communities Secretary

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