

## Welcome to the LGA Independent Group

The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national voice for local government, working with councils across England and Wales to support, promote and improve local government.

Four political groups lie at the heart of everything the LGA does, one of which is the Independent Group.

### About the LGA Independent Group

#### Who we are

The [Independent Group](#) represents and supports councillors in England and Wales who are Independent, Green or from smaller parties. We are a broad group with over 2,700 members.

Our Group Leader is Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Ind, Lincolnshire CC & North Kesteven DC), our Deputy Leader is Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Ind, Epsom and Ewell) and our Treasurer is Cllr Paul Woodhead (Green, Cannock Chase).

Further information about our Leadership Team and Independent Group representatives is available [on our website](#).

The Group is supported by a [small team](#) based in Westminster led by Sarah Woodhouse, Head of the LGA Independent Group Office.

#### What we do

We provide our members with a voice at the national level and work within the cross-party LGA to ensure that the values and interests of our members are represented.

The range of support and resources we provide to our members includes:

- Access to first class development programmes – including our Group’s [Next Generation programme](#) for aspiring leaders, masterclasses, the LGA’s flagship Leader’s Programme and specific programmes designed for portfolio holders.

[Policy think tanks](#) – the group has established email groups which shadow the LGA’s Boards and enable members to feed into the wider policy work of the organisation, share best practice and raise local challenges

- [Member peers](#) – free access to experienced members who are able to offer advice and answer questions about your role as a councillor

- A [weekly bulletin](#) from our Group Leader which alerts members to all key dates and events, as well as policy news and updates on the Group's activities
- [Resources](#) including factsheets, toolkits, templates and guides in a range of areas such as social media, budgeting and time management, as well as our [Campaign Corner](#) resources for members planning to stand as Independent Councillors
- Regular [Information and Development seminars](#) – free for members to attend in person or via webinar
- [Regional group meetings](#) and [Be a Councillor](#) events and activity
- An Annual Group Conference – bringing our members together from across the country.

### **Be a Councillor**

We offer a range of resources and support for those who are considering running as either a councillor for a smaller party or as an Independent, through our Be a Councillor programme.

Our dedicated [website](#) and [publication](#) are full of information, advice and resources, as well as perspectives from other councillors about their experiences. We also help to support councils and other interested organisations to run their own Be a Councillor events and campaigns. Follow the discussion on Twitter: @beacouncillor

### **Contact us**

Write or visit us at 18 Smith Square, Westminster, London, SW1P 3HZ

Email: [independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk](mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 7664 3224

Follow us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/LGA\\_Independent](http://www.twitter.com/LGA_Independent)