

LGA Special Interest Group Annual Report to LGA Leadership Board

SIG Name:	SIGOMA
Lead Member:	Sir Stephen Houghton
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Membership:

Metropolitan and Unitary councils (47 in total)

Blackburn with Darwen	Stockport	Barnsley	Nottingham
Blackpool	Tameside	Bradford	Durham County Council
Bolton	Trafford	Calderdale	Gateshead
Bury	Warrington	Doncaster	Newcastle upon Tyne
Halton	Wigan	Kingston upon Hull	North Tyneside
Knowsley	Wirral	Kirklees	South Tyneside
Liverpool	Coventry	Leeds	Stockton-on-Tees
Manchester	Dudley	Rotherham	Sunderland
Oldham	Sandwell	Sheffield	Plymouth
Rochdale	Stoke-on-trent	Wakefield	Portsmouth
Salford	Walsall	Derby	Southampton
St. Helens	Wolverhampton	Leicester	

Aim

To lobby central government in order to help secure sufficient, sustainable and fair funding so that our members can maintain vital services and continue to invest in improving their local areas.

Key Activities / Outcomes of work undertaken

- Representing our member's interests on business rates working and steering groups.
- Responding to a range of consultations and inquiries including the recent Review of Local Authorities' Relative Needs and Resources and consultation on Business rates retention reform.
- Participating in conference calls with government departments and other sector representatives to help facilitate information sharing in preparation for a possible no deal Brexit, raising our members concerns and passing on the latest guidance.
- Organising meetings of our officers and leaders groups to share our research and detail the progress of our campaigns, providing an opportunity for our members to feed in their views and ideas.
- Creating videos and infographics to better communicate our key messages that local government funding must be sufficient, sustainable and fairly allocated.
- Producing PR and Op-ed pieces to communicate our stance in the local, regional and national press.
- Building an active and growing presence on social media in order to ensure our content reaches an even wider audience.
- Delivering creative campaigns across print, online and social media.
- Providing a regular email bulletin service to help SIGOMA finance officers keep abreast of the latest policy developments, legislation changes, funding allocations and technical insights in local government.
- Providing insights, analysis and advice to finance officers regarding the local government finance settlement, spring and autumn statements and other milestones in the local government calendar.
- Issuing official correspondence and FOI requests to ministers and other organisations to ensure our members have a clear understanding of central government policy and to seek to hold power to account.