

Your LGA membership



Welcome to the LGA

There's no doubt that 2023 was a difficult year for councils in many ways. But throughout those 12 months, as you worked hard for your people and places, the LGA stood up for the sector in Westminster, Whitehall and across the media.

We focused on your priorities: long-term and sustainable funding; adult social care; children's services; asylum and refugee resettlement; housing and planning; the climate emergency; and representing local government in the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Through our policy development, lobbying and influencing, and our work directly supporting councils and council leaders, we have helped secure positive changes for local government.

Thank you to our previous Chairman, Cllr James Jamieson, and to all Group Leaders and Board members who served the LGA in 2023. Thanks to all of our members, whose support has been central to our success.

In 2024, we will continue to work hard on your behalf as we seek to build the strongest possible case for a long-term, sustainable funding solution and reset the central and local government relationship.

We hope that this membership pack demonstrates the value of councils working together through the LGA as your national voice.



Councillor Shaun Davies
Chair, LGA



Sarah Pickup
Acting Chief Executive, LGA

LGA Group Leaders



**Councillor
Kevin Bentley**

LGA Conservative
Group Leader and
Senior Vice Chair
of the LGA



**Councillor
Nesil Caliskan**

LGA Labour
Group Leader and
Vice Chair
of the LGA



**Councillor
Joe Harris**

LGA Liberal
Democrat
Group Leader and
Vice Chair
of the LGA

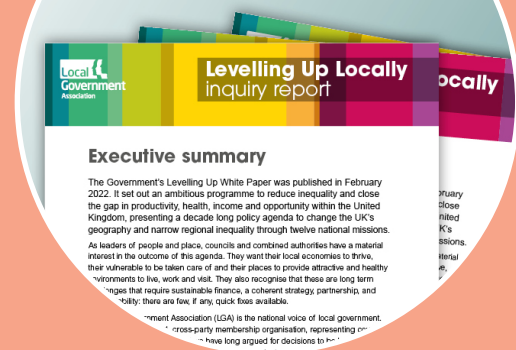


**Councillor
Marianne Overton MBE**

LGA Independent
Group Leader and
Vice Chair
of the LGA



2023 LGA highlights



In 2023, we continued to take every opportunity to support, promote, and improve local government. Here is a selection of highlights.

JANUARY

The Government announced the extension of the **energy support scheme** for businesses, with councils now eligible for support.

FEBRUARY

We highlighted the need for a step change in devolution with our **Levelling up locally inquiry report**, and our lobbying efforts helped secure an extension of the

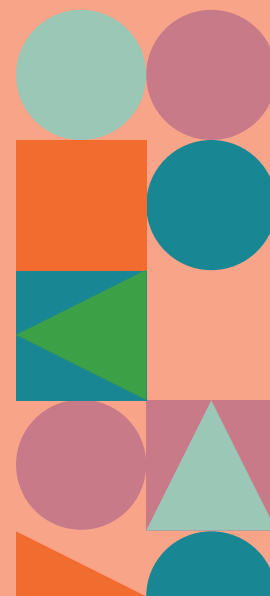
Bus Recovery Grant and **£2 bus fares**, as well as £842 million of additional funding through the **Household Support Fund**, for councils to support people in their local area to pay for energy bills or groceries.

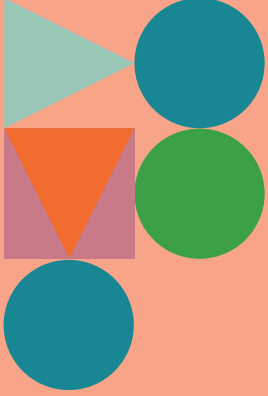
MARCH

We launched our **Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Mentoring Scheme pilot** to support the next generation of CFOs to excel in the role, and provided advice to councils in the run up to the first elections under new Voter ID rules.

APRIL

Following successful LGA lobbying, the Government announced councils would retain **100 per cent of their Right to Buy receipts** for 2022/23 and 2023/24, and we launched the **Local Leadership Framework for Councillors**.





MAY

The Department for Education launched a **£165 million fund** for communities to improve **local skills** and help get more people into jobs.

JUNE

Following extensive LGA lobbying, the Government launched the **£60 million Swimming Pool Support Fund** to help public pools with increased cost pressures and investment.

JULY

We welcomed more than 2,600 people at the **2023 LGA Annual Conference** in Bournemouth, where our new Chair, Cllr Shaun Davies, set out his ambition to develop a **Local Government White Paper**. Also, alongside WLGA, we gave evidence to the **UK Covid-19 Inquiry** on behalf of local government in England and Wales.

AUGUST

LGA-commissioned research showed that schools within their council continued

to outshine academies, providing evidence for why councils should be given powers to open **new maintained schools**.

SEPTEMBER

The Government unveiled a **£1.1 billion Long-term Plan for Towns** - allocating funds based on need, not competitive bidding - for 55 towns to invest in local priorities; and we hit the airwaves to raise **concerns about RAAC in schools**.





OCTOBER

Through our **Step Ahead campaign** during National Care Leavers' Week, we highlighted support for those leaving care, and refreshed the support we provide to councils; and we concluded our **party conference season** with the LGA holding events at the Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Labour and Green conferences.

NOVEMBER

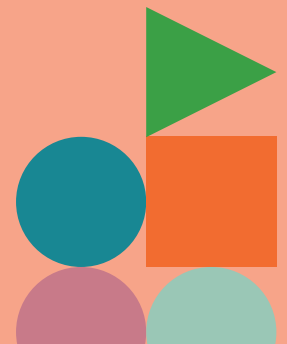
We briefed parliamentarians and took to the media

ahead of the **Autumn Statement** to highlight the financial pressures facing councils and, following our longstanding lobbying, the Government confirmed the restoration of the **Local Housing Allowance rates** to the 30th percentile of market rents.

DECEMBER

Following November's King's Speech, we set out a **roadmap for influencing legislation** and highlighted our **Debate Not Hate** campaign during a Lords

debate on democracy and standards in public life. We achieved widespread media coverage with our **finance survey results**, which revealed that almost one in five council leaders and chief executives in England think it is very or fairly likely that their chief finance officer will need to issue a Section 114 in 2024. By the end of the year, we secured more than **£2 billion for Homes for Ukraine** and associated refugee-related projects.



2023 in numbers



110

Corporate Peer Challenges and Progress Reviews delivered



16,003 delegates attended 114 online and in-person events



626

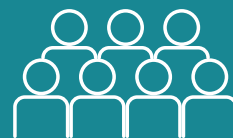
mentions of the LGA in Parliament (2022/23 parliamentary session)

1,130

councillors supported through our leadership programmes

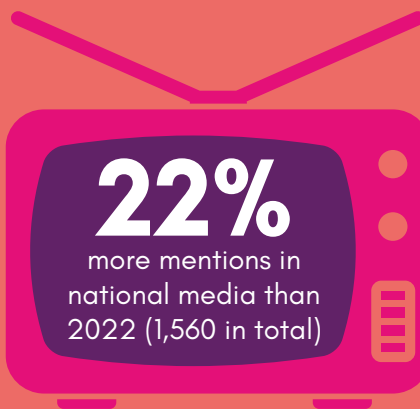
3.1 million

reach on LGA social media channels



£6.3 billion

additional grant funding for social care secured since 2022/23



22%

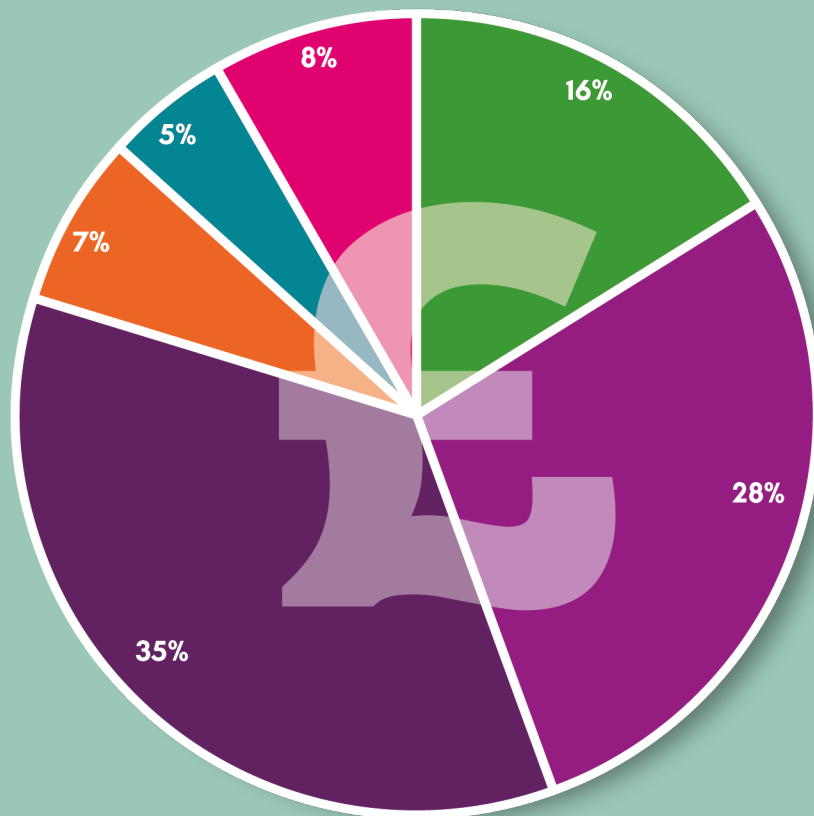
more mentions in national media than 2022 (1,560 in total)

7.5%

increase in overall core spending for councils in 2024/25

Working for you

Where our funding comes from



Subscriptions income 16%



Core improvement grant, funded by the UK Government 28%



Other grants and income for contracts and services 35%



Rental and property income 7%



Joint ventures 5%

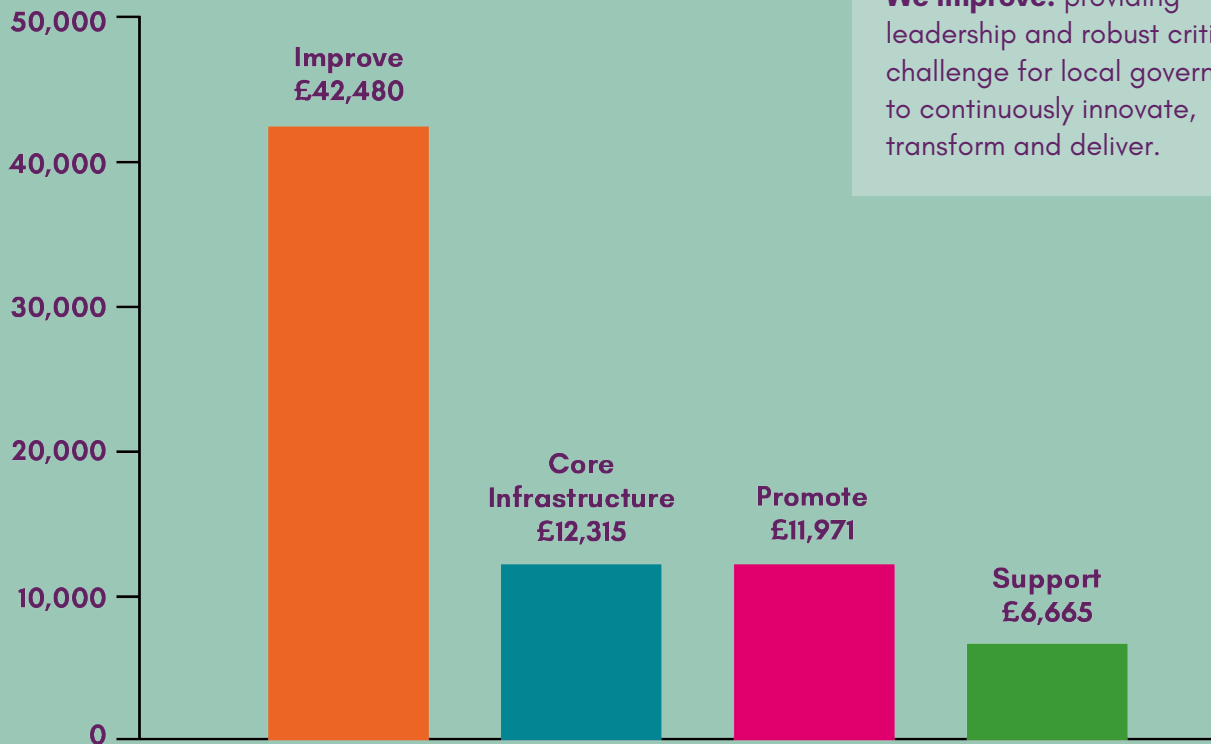


Commercial income 8%

Working for you

How we use our funding

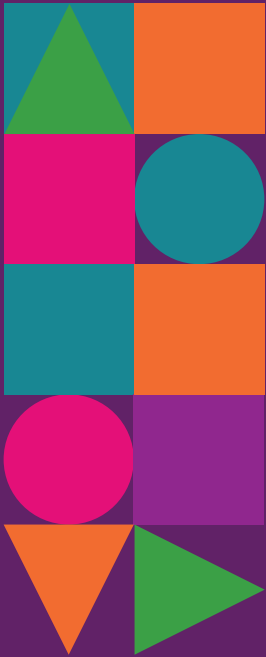
Our budget (2023/24) breakdown by business plan priority ('000s)



We promote: influencing government policy and shaping how it's delivered through partnerships at local level, e.g. Debate Not Hate, supporting care leavers.

We support: providing expert technical and professional support, including a comprehensive workforce offer and specialist legal and communications expertise.

We improve: providing leadership and robust critical challenge for local government to continuously innovate, transform and deliver.



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