

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

[insert your name here]

Autumn Budget

[insert date sent]

By the end of this decade, English councils will have suffered £16bn of reductions to Government funding. In this context, everyone in Local Government is keenly waiting for the Government's Autumn budget later this week.

It is vital that the Government take this opportunity to recognise that with the right funding and the right powers councils are extremely well placed to lead their local areas. But, without sufficient and sustainable resources councils cannot continue to do so.

As a member of the Independent Group of the Local Government Association, I support the LGA's submission on the Budget. I would call on the government, in particular, to take this opportunity to announce change in the key areas of children's services and housing.

Councillor Marianne Overton, Leader of the Independent Group of the Local Government Association, said "Residents feel they are paying their income tax just the same, but less is coming back to Councils for local spend. In England, Children's services budgets were overspent by £605m last year. We call upon the Government to plug the £2bn funding gap that will be faced by 2020. Should we really be spending more on HS2 than on children?"

"The Government must take this opportunity to let councils keep our own money from council house sales, extend the time available to spend the receipts and lift the borrowing cap. It is bizarre that councils can borrow to build a swimming pool or a hotel, but not for much-needed housing."

[Add your own quote here – possibly something like: "the Budget must deliver powers and fiscal incentives for councils to build their local economies. The housing crisis is an urgent priority but any new homes must be affordable, in the right places, and have adequate infrastructure and services."]

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Councillor Marianne Overton MBE, is Leader of the LGA Independent Group

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The LGA Independent Group seeks to represent the voices of Members who are independent from Labour, Conservative or Liberal Democrat parties, on all issues to do with local government, nationally and across the work of the LGA.

The LGA's Budget submission:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/5.20%20budget%20submission_06.pdf

ENDS