

LGA in Parliament 2015/16

The national voice
of local government





The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act is a positive step to give areas the range of powers they need to create jobs, build homes, strengthen communities and protect the vulnerable. This is critical, as it allows local leaders to start delivering on the devolution deals that can unlock growth and improve public services in their areas. Through their proposals for devolution in England, the Government have already recognised the principle that national prosperity can be enhanced by vibrant local democracy, as councils work with residents and businesses in their communities to provide the services that people need and expect.

Lord Porter



Foreword

LGA Chairman Lord Porter of Spalding CBE



This parliamentary year is proof that the Local Government Association (LGA) has been instrumental in delivering real change for local government and our residents. We have made sure that when decisions about local government

are being made in Parliament, we are the first people through the door promoting the interests of councils. Our success is demonstrated by the LGA's work influencing a number of high profile pieces of legislation including the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act, the Housing and Planning Act, the Welfare Reform and Work Act and the Education and Adoption Act.

By working with Government on the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act we were able to secure a commitment that will see parliamentary reports published on devolution. We were heavily involved in the Welfare Reform and Work Act which resulted in the Government conducting a review of supported accommodation, the findings of which will be published in the spring 2016, and we worked to support the passage of the Psychoactive Substances Act which created a ban on the sale of legal highs. And by engaging with the Childcare Act, we helped to secure additional funding for the provision of free childcare.

We are indebted to the hard work of our President, Vice-Presidents and supportive MPs and Peers who have been actively defending the interests of councils in both Houses. It is because of their work behind the scenes, in committee hearings and on the floor of both Houses of Parliament that the voice of local government is heard and respected. At the LGA we will continue to prioritise working with MPs and Peers to highlight the important role of councils in delivering the services our residents value.

The achievements contained in these pages are confirmation that we are making a real difference. On a personal level, it has been a genuine privilege to join the House of Lords and to have the opportunity to speak in Parliament on many of the challenges facing local government. I know that councillors share in my passion for local democracy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who gave evidence to Parliament on behalf of local government in the last session. We have done a lot to further the local government agenda and I know that we will continue to build on our successes and shape the debate in the year ahead.

Reflections and a look ahead

LGA President Lord Kerslake



In my time as President I've been reminded just how much the LGA is a trusted and influential voice amongst Peers and MPs. Barely a day goes by without reference to the LGA's work in both Houses of Parliament and the

breadth of the issues covered is significant. From local government funding to adult social care, housing to childcare, the LGA has successfully kept the voice of local government at the forefront of parliamentary debates.

Lobbying to progress devolution has continued at pace. Earlier this year I was pleased to chair the Inquiry into Better Devolution for the Whole UK on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Reform, Decentralisation, and Devolution. The Inquiry came at an important time and has led to a wider conversation about the future of governance and devolution within the UK.

I've also worked closely with Vice-Presidents to promote local government on a range of subjects, from housing to social care, devolution to council finances. I know I speak on behalf of many parliamentarians when I say that it is a genuine privilege to be given the opportunity to be a champion for the important work of councils and their central role in our democracy.

Finally I would like to thank the staff at the LGA for their fantastic support to myself and my fellow parliamentarians in our work. We would not have been able to be anything like as effective in our review and scrutiny role without their help.

LGA Chief Executive Mark Lloyd



When we asked councils what they thought of the work we do, one of the most positive messages was how effective we have been in keeping local government at the forefront of the political debate. Influencing the country's

key decision-makers is one of our greatest strengths. Whilst our achievements might go unnoticed in the first instance the evidence set out in this publication illustrates that we have been hugely influential in Whitehall and Westminster over the past year.

By providing Members of Parliament and Peers with timely and practical briefings on the issues that matter, as well as tabling amendments to legislation, posing questions to central government and ensuring councillors are well prepared ahead of Select Committee evidence sessions, we have been able to effectively put forward the case for local government.

In the coming year, the parliamentary agenda will be just as important. With the Queen's Speech opening the new parliamentary session and announcing 21 new Bills there is plenty for us to shape on your behalf. The Bus Services Bill, Children and Social Work Bill, Education for All Bill and the Local Growth and Jobs Bill will make a range of changes to transport, children's services, our education system and business rates, all of which have important impacts on local government. It is crucial that we continue to make the case for local government. We will, on your behalf, be promoting the work of local government, discussing the challenges, finding the solutions and shaping the political debate.

Introduction

The LGA is a politically-led, cross-party organisation, working on behalf of councils to ensure local government has a strong, credible voice. Our work lobbying Parliament is a key part of what we do for councils as it is funded through the membership subscription. Throughout this parliamentary session, the LGA has sought opportunities to highlight important issues to local government, influence legislation and promote the important work of councils in delivering the local services that their residents value. We seek to influence the national political debate by working closely with our Vice-Presidents and network of parliamentary supporters, lobbying for positive changes to legislation, briefing for debates and parliamentary questions, submitting evidence to parliamentary inquiries and organising events which bring together parliamentarians, LGA Vice-Presidents and councillors.

The 2015/2016 parliamentary session was crucial for local government. The Spending Review and Local Government Finance Settlement were both published, with the LGA working with central government on behalf of all councils to highlight the financial challenges local government faces. The Government also announced a move to full business rate retention which we have, and will continue, to lobby on to ensure any new system works effectively.

The parliamentary session also saw significant legislation passed on devolution, housing, welfare, education and children's services, that will change the way services are provided. In response, the LGA influenced a range of flagship legislation such as the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act, the Work and Welfare Reform Act, the Housing and Planning Act and the Education and Adoption Act. This report summarises how the LGA has been representing its membership in parliamentary debates and influencing the decisions that affect the way councils work.

In making the case for local government, the LGA has been referenced a total of 892 times. Of this we have been quoted on 578 occasions in the House of Commons and on 314 occasions in the House of Lords during this parliamentary session, or the equivalent of three times every day that Parliament sat to debate policy and legislation.

LGA parliamentary mentions

Lords

314

578

Commons

Total

892



The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, addressed the LGA's Parliamentary Reception

Legislation

Over the past year, the LGA has had significant success influencing primary legislation. Set out below are some key highlights.

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016

The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act provides the legal framework for the Government's devolution deals, including mayoral combined authorities. The LGA worked with a cross-party group of Peers to secure an amendment that requires the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to report annually on the progress of devolution, which will bring greater transparency and accountability. We also tabled proposals that called for greater fiscal devolution to local government ahead of the announcement of full business rates retention and the option for multi-year settlements.

The Housing and Planning Act 2016

The Housing and Planning Act contains provisions on new homes, landlords and property agents, abandoned premises, social housing (including extending the Right to Buy to housing association tenants and the sale of local authority assets), planning, compulsory purchase and public land (duty to dispose). The LGA worked closely with MPs and Peers across all political parties during the passage of the Act to provide background information and research on the proposals, support and table amendments to the legislation and influence government policy. Changes secured included giving councils the ability to grant secure tenancies to families with children, restrictions around the resale of starter homes, changes to the taper rate for 'pay to stay', and time-limited pilots on competition in processing planning applications.

The Childcare Act 2016

The Childcare Act extends free provision of childcare to 30 hours for working families. The LGA worked with Peers to table an amendment that led to the announcement of additional early years funding in the Spending Review. Our engagement with the Department for Education also encouraged the Government to remove the powers for the Secretary of State to prescribe the type and timings of local childcare provision that councils provide.

The Education and Adoption Act 2016

The Education and Adoption Act makes it easier to convert schools causing concern to academies and provides a statutory footing for regional collaboration on adoption. Following arguments made by the LGA, the Government amended the legislation to extend the 'coasting' definition to academies as well as council maintained schools.

The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

The LGA welcomed legislation to tackle new psychoactive substances, with local government having called for a complete ban on the sale of all legal highs, and worked closely with the Home Office and parliamentarians to support the Bill through its passage in Parliament. The Act makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, export or possess in a custodial institution psychoactive substances, which are defined in the legislation. The introduction of the ban should help to protect the public against anti-social behaviour and to also reduce councils'

expenditure on drug and alcohol misuse from public health budgets. The then Home Office Minister of State, Lord Bates (Conservative), wrote an article for the LGA's 'First' magazine on the Bill in which he thanked councils and the LGA for their work on this area, and also said the Home Office would work with local authorities to ensure the successful implementation of the Act.


The Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016

The Welfare Reform and Work Act introduces a duty to report to Parliament on progress made towards achieving full employment and the three million apprenticeships target in England. The Act also introduces reporting obligations on the effect of certain support for troubled families and the provision for social mobility, the benefit cap, social security and tax credits, loans for mortgage interest and social housing rents. Chairman of the LGA, Lord Porter, provided evidence to the Work and Welfare Reform Bill Committee session in September. He explained that the LGA fully supported the Government's aims to drive down the cost of the housing benefit bill, but he said the only way to do this sustainably would be to build new affordable homes. The LGA also campaigned for the Government to conduct a review of supported accommodation, which has subsequently been confirmed and the Government has announced it will publish its findings in spring 2016. The review is intended to find a workable and sustainable long-term solution for both the supported housing sector and the Government.

The Enterprise Act 2016

The Enterprise Act establishes a Small Business Commissioner to enable small businesses to resolve disputes with larger businesses; extends the Primary Authority Scheme to make it easier for more businesses to join; gives central government the power to set targets for apprentice numbers in the public sector; protects the term apprenticeship in law; reforms the business rates appeals system; and enables the Government to cap payments made to staff on leaving employment in the public sector.

During the Act's passage through Parliament, we welcomed extending the Primary Authority Scheme to smaller businesses; opposed mandatory apprenticeship targets for public bodies and highlighted how councils can instead contribute to creating apprenticeships; supported proposals on non-domestic rates, including measures to allow the future reform of the business rates appeals process; and raised concerns and obtained information about the public sector exit payment cap. Our engagement with the provisions in the Bill on apprenticeships supported wider discussions with central government on the important role of councils in delivering apprenticeships. On the public sector exit payment cap, we worked with a number of Peers and MPs to press ministers for information and to table amendments to address our concerns.



Our local authorities know that they have the experience and the capability to advise and to make sure that the resettlement of refugees is done in a way that is efficient, well-informed and has the best chance of being harmonious in local communities. Right from the outset, the Local Government Association has taken a very responsible and forward-looking approach to this.

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government


The Immigration Act 2016

The Immigration Act updates the legal framework on immigration and asylum, changing the law in relation to access to public services, facilities and licences to work in the UK. It also provides the Secretary of State with the powers to compel local authorities to take responsibility for unaccompanied minors who arrive elsewhere in the UK. As the Act passed through Parliament, the LGA highlighted the important role councils have in protecting families, children and vulnerable adults who are seeking asylum. We sought to ensure local authorities are able to deliver their duties, keep children safe and prevent families from becoming homeless. We also raised our concerns about the proposal to compel local authorities to take responsibility for unaccompanied minors who arrive elsewhere in the UK as there was no clarity on how their support will be funded. We argued in Parliament that no council should be made to choose between supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee children and providing vital services for their local community.

The Investigatory Powers Bill

The Investigatory Powers Bill, which is currently being debated by Parliament, contains provisions on the interception of communications, equipment interference and the acquisition and retention of communications data, bulk personal datasets and other information. At the Second Reading stage in the House of Commons, the LGA called for councils to retain access to communications data. Although councils are not the main users of communications data, teams within councils, such as trading standards, use communications data to tackle a range of criminal activity and fraud. We have called for the process of judicial authorisation to be more efficient so that it does not hinder appropriate use of communications data by councils.

For more information on any of the Acts the LGA has engaged with over the course of the 2015/2016 Parliament, please visit: www.local.gov.uk/get-in-on-the-act



We cannot legislate for double devolution because in the end, devolution has to allow areas to do things their own way, but there is a role for ministers, parliamentarians and the LGA to get the message across that devolution does not stop at the town hall door. Where powers are devolved to local authorities, it is for them to move those powers into communities and to engage with communities in a positive way to make devolution happen even further down the line.

Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Communities and Local Government Committee

Debates and questions

Each week the LGA monitors forthcoming Westminster business, looking for opportunities to raise issues of importance on the floor of both Houses of Parliament. This may be by way of a briefing for Opposition Day or Westminster Hall debates in the Commons, or for a short debate or question for short debate in the Lords. If MPs or Peers are asking relevant oral questions of ministers, we provide information which they could use to illustrate their question.


The LGA is regularly quoted in both the House of Commons and House of Lords. This ensures local government's concerns and policy recommendations are kept high on the parliamentary agenda and helps central government to understand the challenges councils face. Key highlights from the year included:

- During Prime Minister's Questions in December 2015, the Prime Minister spoke about Lord Porter's appearance on the Today Programme and highlighted the LGA's call for greater flexibility in the setting of council tax.
- In January 2016, our Chairman, Lord Porter of Spalding, delivered his maiden speech during a debate on local democracy in the UK. Lord Porter explained that local democracy was a subject he was involved with on a daily basis and passionate about, particularly because he thought empowering people at a local level was good for democracy and for the economy. He commended the devolution deals agreed with central government and the ability for councils to retain money raised via business rates, which he described as major achievements that should be not underestimated.
- In Communities and Local Government oral questions in September 2015, the Communities and Local Government Secretary, Greg Clark, spoke, about the LGA's role in supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children. He highlighted that local government collectively had been working well with central government to ensure the delivery of the commitment to help settle Syrian refugees.
- In a local government finance debate in February 2016, Conservative MP for Rugby, Mark Pawsey, told MPs that the funding of adult social care had been one of the biggest pressures on local authorities. He called on the Secretary of State "to listen to the concerns of council leaders such as Councillor Izzi Seccombe, of Warwickshire County Council", as she had spoken regularly on the matter. The Secretary of State Rt Hon Greg Clark MP agreed that Councillor Seccombe had been "very persuasive in making the case for extra funding and recognising the costs of social care".
- Whilst the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill was in its Committee Stage in October 2015, Clive Betts MP, (Labour, Sheffield South East), Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, said there was a role for ministers, parliamentarians and the LGA to get the message across that devolution did not stop at the town hall door. He said "Where powers are devolved to local authorities, it is for them to move those powers into communities and to engage with communities in a positive way to make devolution happen even further down the line".
- During a debate on the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill, Anna Turley MP (Labour Co-operative, Redcar), highlighted that the LGA had called for councils to be free to manage their housing assets and invest in new and existing homes to meet the needs of tenants and local conditions. She went on say "The LGA has said that government proposals should take account of the wider impact of housing reforms on councils' responsibilities to meet housing needs".
- In the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill Second Reading debate, our former Chairman, Baroness Eaton (Conservative), mentioned the LGA's report, 'English Devolution: Local Solutions for a Successful Nation' (2015), which identified that devolution could bring £20.6 billion in potential savings. She said

she was glad that the Chancellor listened to the representations of the LGA and the non-metropolitan commission and had opened the door to England's counties as well.

- In a local government finance debate in December 2015, our former Chair, Lord Beecham (Labour), highlighted the LGA's calls for the adult social care funding in the Better Care Fund to be brought forward and implemented in 2016/17. He asked how the minister envisaged councils meeting the longer-term costs of adult social care, particularly given the increasing costs of the welcome national minimum wage.
- Vice-President of the LGA, Lord Tope (Liberal Democrat) spoke about the "cost-shunting carousel" of obligations and responsibilities placed on local government, during a debate in December 2015. He called on central government to agree with the LGA a list of local government obligations and the investment needed to support the cost of local government responsibilities.

- During the Housing and Planning Bill debate, LGA Vice-President Lord Best (crossbencher) drew attention to the joint Savills and LGA research on starter homes. He explained discounted starter homes would not be affordable to people assessed as needing affordable housing in 67 per cent of local authority areas. He said he was quoting a figure that needed to become the "statistic of the day" when it came to raising the issue of affordability of discounted starter homes.



Local government is also often better placed to join up public services and ensure that they are managed and delivered in an integrated way from a one-stop shop, so to speak, that enables users to access the right help and support in the community from different sources, whether that comes from social care, health, benefits, housing, education and skills, or the justice system.

Lord Low of Dalston

Select committees and other parliamentary inquiries

In 2015/16, we gave evidence to more than 70 parliamentary inquiries ranging from flooding, regional school commissioners, health and social care, housing associations and the Right to Buy. In each case, the LGA felt the subject of the inquiry was relevant to local government and presented an opportunity to put forward the concerns and interests of local authorities to parliamentarians. Key highlights included:

- The LGA provided secretarial support to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Reform, Decentralisation and Devolution. The APPG commissioned an inquiry into better devolution for the whole UK which was chaired by our President, Lord Kerslake. The Inquiry investigated how we can better achieve devolution across the whole UK, carefully considering how to bring long-lasting and coherent constitutional renewal. LGA Chairman, Lord Porter gave evidence to the Inquiry into Better Devolution for the Whole UK, alongside Councillor Anne Western, Councillor John Pollard and Councillor Nick Forbes. The Inquiry also heard from Rt Hon Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister of the UK, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Jon Trickett MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Minister for the Constitutional Convention. The Report launched its recommendations in Parliament, securing national media coverage and support from a range of political parties.
- In March 2016, the APPG on Local Government held a panel discussion on devolution, specifically on localising council tax support and business rates. Our Chairman, Lord Porter, spoke at the event and highlighted the LGA's take on the move to 100 per cent business rate retention and the benefits that this will bring to local communities and businesses.
- In March 2016, LGA Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Pickup gave oral evidence to the Health Committee's Inquiry on the Impact of the Spending Review on Health and Social Care. She highlighted the importance of adult social care and expressed the LGA's concerns about insufficient funding for the sector. Ms Pickup called for £700 million of funding allocated to the Better Care Fund to be made available in 2016, to help alleviate the current levels of demand.
- In February 2016, the Communities and Local Government Committee took oral evidence from key stakeholders, including Vice-Chairman of the LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Councillor Martin Tett, on national planning policy earlier this week. This was part of the Committee's inquiry into the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on national planning policy. Councillor Tett used the opportunity to call for planning departments to be properly resourced, to state that new settlements are best determined locally and with the support of communities, that local authorities and the planning system are not holding back development, and also raised LGA concerns regarding starter homes.
- In February 2016, Lord Porter and Lord Kerslake gave oral evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee on the economics of the UK housing market. Lord Porter said: "If everybody just focuses on the London bubble, we will miss the problem that is elsewhere. We should see the things that London has in common with other parts of the country and then allow local authorities in those areas to tackle those problems".

- In December 2015, Councillor John Fuller, Vice-Chairman of the Resources Portfolio, gave oral evidence to the Work and Pensions inquiry on local welfare safety nets. He explained that local welfare schemes are effective at targeting support to where it is most needed, which is why the LGA had called for the Government to provide longer term certainty for local welfare assistance funding, at a local level that would be responsive to demand.
- In December 2015, Councillor Jonathan McShane, member of the Community Wellbeing Portfolio, gave evidence to the Health Committee's inquiry on public health post 2013: structures, organisation, funding and delivery inquiry. In the session, he said the LGA supported public health responsibilities being in local government and that local authorities and health and wellbeing boards were best placed to tackle public health challenges.
- In November 2015, Councillor David Simmonds, Chair of the Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group gave oral evidence to the Public Bill Committee for the Immigration Bill. He told the Committee that local authorities were committed to working with the Home Office in improving compliance with immigration processes for families on local authority asylum support and therefore wished to see local authority supported cases given priority. Councillor Simmonds also said he was concerned that the proposed measures would significantly increase the numbers of destitute adults, families and children within communities, leading to safeguarding and cohesion concerns.
- In November 2015, Councillor Jeremy Hilton, Chair of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee, gave evidence to the Public Accounts Committee in Parliament on fire and rescue services. Councillor Hilton made clear that "English fire and rescue authorities are the best in the world" and have dealt with a 28 per cent reduction to funding between 2010/2011 and 2015/2016. He warned that further reductions to funding for fire services may affect support for local areas when dealing with major emergencies. He went on to raise concerns about transferring the fire and rescue service from a county council to a police and crime commissioner, and highlighted that there is already strong collaboration between different authorities. Councillor Hilton also set out that the LGA Fire Peer Challenges are essential to delivering continued improvement in fire and rescue services.
- In November 2015, Councillor Linda Thomas, Vice-Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Portfolio, gave evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee on health devolution and how it relates to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill being passed by Parliament. In her evidence Councillor Thomas highlighted how devolution has the potential to achieve financial benefits by allowing local areas to invest in prevention and by commissioning at scale.
- In November 2015, Councillor Peter Fleming, Leader of Sevenoaks District Council and member of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, gave evidence to the Energy and Climate Change Committee on its inquiry into home energy efficiency and demand reduction. During the session, Councillor Fleming said that councils found it difficult to communicate the benefits of the Green Deal to their residents, as demonstrated by the very low take up, and that an LGA survey showed low or no demand for the Green Deal was reported by 85 per cent of councils surveyed. The panel of witnesses all agreed that future schemes to address fuel poverty should be led at the local level, with councils playing a key role.
- In October 2015, Councillor Richard Watts, Vice-Chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, gave evidence to an Education Committee's inquiry into the role of the regional school commissioners (RSCs). Councillor Watts discussed the LGA's concern that RSCs do not have the capacity or local knowledge for dealing with failing academies as well as maintained schools. He argued that councils are best placed to oversee school effectiveness and take immediate action where required.

Events

Throughout this parliamentary session the LGA has hosted briefing sessions and roundtables in Parliament, and we've been actively engaged with the autumn party conferences.


Roundtable briefings

The LGA held a series of roundtable briefings in Parliament on a range of legislative and policy challenges of importance to local government. For example, we held briefings on devolution, the Spending Review, the local government finance settlement and housing attended by MPs, Peers and interested stakeholders.

Party conferences

This year our party conference engagement supported the LGA's wider lobbying on the Spending Review, highlighting the fiscal and devolutionary measures councils were calling for. The LGA held a number of debates and briefings at the conferences on devolution, local government funding, health and social care and housing.

We also worked closely with over 40 stakeholders from across the private, public and voluntary sectors to ensure local government was represented at debates, policy seminars and meetings. In particular, the LGA's Chairman, political group leaders and our councillors spoke at events on devolution, housing, enterprise and growth, skills, social investment, health and social care, transport, licensing, public health, and young people and children services.



It is indisputable that during the attack on the deficit local government has been hit first and hardest, as it often is by all governments —because local government is not us. We set the budget and they, the councillors, have to make the cuts. In fact, however, it is the only public service budget that has to reach a black line every year, no matter what we throw at it—and we have thrown an awful lot at it, which makes things tough and constrained. It is widely admitted, however, that in very difficult circumstances local government has coped quite admirably.

John Pugh MP, Member of the Public Accounts Committee

LGA Vice-Presidents

Every year the four political groups at the LGA invite parliamentary representatives from the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament to be LGA Vice-Presidents who are then appointed by the General Assembly, usually in July. Vice-Presidents generally have an association with local government and champion it keenly in their day-to-day work. The support given to us by our Vice-Presidents during this parliamentary session has been invaluable and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them all.

Lord Adebawale
Baroness Barker
Baroness Bakewell
Catherine Bearder MEP
Lord Beecham
Lord Best
Clive Betts MP
Lord Bichard
Douglas Carswell MP
Baroness Eaton
Tim Farron MP
Julie Girling MEP
Lord Greaves
Baroness Greengross
Baroness Grey-Thompson
Baroness Howarth

Richard Howitt MEP
Stewart Jackson MP
Margot James MP
Andrea Jenkyns MP
Baroness Jones of
Moulsecoomb
Lord Kerslake
Norman Lamb MP
Andrew Lewer MEP
Earl of Listowel
Earl of Lytton
Baroness Maddock
Lord McKenzie of Luton
Baroness Pinnock
John Pugh MP
Steve Reed MP

Baroness Scott of Needham
Market
Lord Shipley
Baroness Smith of Basildon
Lord Smith of Leigh
Wes Streeting MP
Keith Taylor MEP
Lord Tope
Derek Vaughan MEP
Charles Walker MP
Catherine West MP
Heather Wheeler MP
Lord Whitby of Harborne
Lord Whitty



APPG Inquiry into Better Devolution for the Whole UK. Pictured (standing) are Chair of the Inquiry and LGA President **Lord Kerslake** with (seated left to right) **Lord Porter**, LGA Chairman; **Councillor Anne Western** (Labour), Leader of Derbyshire County Council; **Councillor Nick Forbes** (Labour), Leader of Newcastle City Council (and now LGA Labour Group Leader); and **Councillor John Pollard** (Independent), Leader of Cornwall Council.



How can we get more women to be local councillors? I know that my Honourable Friend served as a local councillor, as have many colleagues across the House, and she will know that women are under-represented on local councils, making up only 31.7 per cent of members. That is why schemes such as the Be a Councillor campaign, which has been run by the Local Government Association since 2012, are important. We want to encourage new candidates from all walks of life to come forward and represent their local community.

Caroline Dinenage MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Family Justice





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