

# Your LGA membership





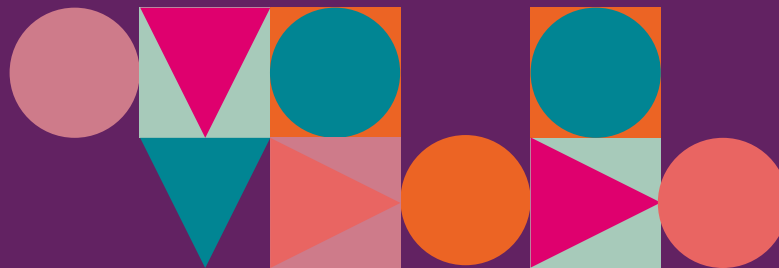
# Welcome to the LGA

There has never been a more difficult time for local government. Rising demand and costs have meant the toughest of choices, with less to spend on the services that communities value. But it is also a time of opportunity. Our members continue to show great resilience, to innovate and to show the importance of local leadership.

Local government is the key to solving some of our biggest national challenges. Here at the LGA, we are committed to working with our members of all sizes, shapes and political affiliation, and with our partners and supporters to stand up for local government. We will work closely with the new Government – and through our networks in Westminster, Whitehall and across the media – to help create the conditions for councils to thrive.

We continue to listen to the issues affecting your residents and the places you serve, as we focus on priorities including: long-term and sustainable funding; adult social care; children's services; asylum and refugee resettlement; housing and planning; and the climate emergency.

In the past year, we used our legal, analytical, and lobbying skills to coordinate work on behalf of our members. Our support extends to addressing current issues occurring for local authorities, such as asylum, building regulations, and the Standards Committee Model Code, where we provide guidance and legal advice to our members.





We identify and coordinate collective actions on behalf of the sector, for example, the truck cartel and the Mastercard/Visa claim and Local Land Charges, generating significant funds. Insights gathered from member surveys and case studies have been instrumental in highlighting the unprecedented cost and demand pressures facing councils in the lead-up to the Autumn Statement 2023 and the Spring Budget 2024.

Through our policy development, engagement and influencing, we helped secure positive changes for local government. Our events, training, guidance and support for council leaders, councillors and officers have helped you get to grips with a wide range of issues – from transformation to cyber security.

Thank you to our members, whose support has been central to these successes over the past year. We hope that this membership pack demonstrates the value of councils working together through the LGA as your national voice.



**Councillor Louise Gittins**  
**Chair, LGA**



**Joanna Killian**  
**Chief Executive, LGA**

# LGA Group Leaders



**Councillor  
Kevin Bentley**

LGA Conservative  
Group Leader and  
Senior Vice Chair  
of the LGA



**Councillor  
Bev Craig**

LGA Labour Group  
Leader and Vice Chair  
of the LGA



**Councillor  
Joe Harris**

LGA Liberal  
Democrat Group  
Leader and Vice  
Chair of the LGA

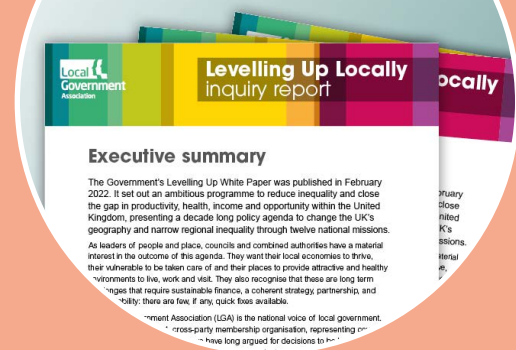


**Councillor  
Marianne Overton MBE**

LGA Independent  
Group Leader  
and Vice Chair  
of the LGA

Thank you to **Councillor Shaun Davies**, who served as LGA Chair from July 2023 to July 2024, and **Councillor Nesil Caliskan**, who served as LGA Labour Group Leader and Vice Chair of the LGA for the same period.

# 2023/24 LGA highlights



Over the past year, we took every opportunity to support, promote, and improve local government. Here is a selection of highlights.

## 2023

### 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 concrete in schools**.

### OCTOBER

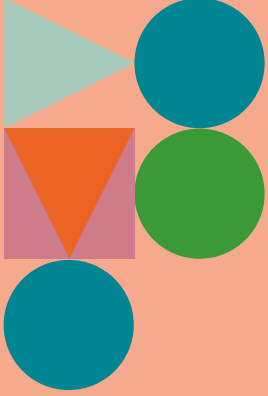
Through our **Step Ahead campaign** during National Care Leavers' Week, we highlighted support for those leaving care, and refreshed the support we provide to councils; and

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 2024

### JANUARY

The Government announced **£600 million** of funding for the sector in 2024/25, including **£500 million** for social care; plans to **ban single-use vapes** were announced following our longstanding calls. We also launched our local government recruitment

campaign pilot in the NorthEast, which rolls out nationwide this year.

### FEBRUARY

Widely reported new LGA analysis showed that **two-thirds of councils warned there will be a cutback in 2024 to local services**, such as waste collection and road repairs. We called on political parties to introduce the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and proposed new **reforms to the Right to Buy scheme**.





**STEP** →  
**AHEAD**

## MARCH

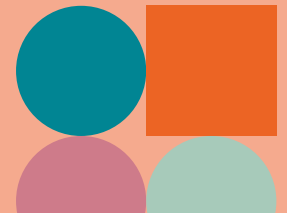
Over 170 council leaders joined us to call on the Chancellor to **extend the Housing Support Fund** at the Spring Budget. We welcomed the announced six-month extension but lamented the absence of measures to adequately fund local services. We also launched a strengthened **Corporate Peer Challenge** and welcomed **Joanna Killian** as the LGA's new Chief Executive.

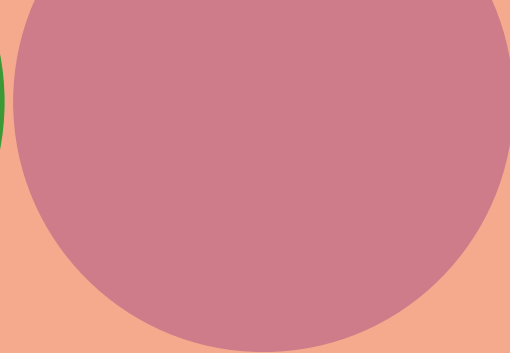
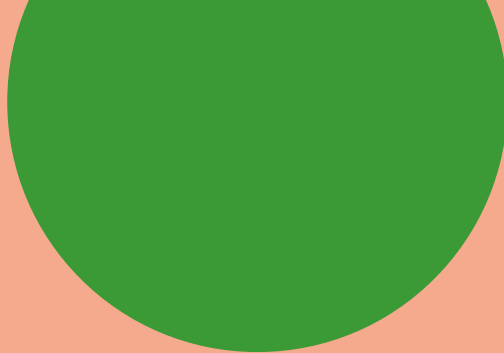
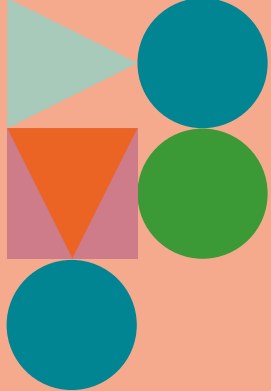
## APRIL

We launched our highly valued **2024/25 Sector Support programme**, and we **joined forces with the Electoral Commission and the Jo Cox Foundation** to protect candidates from abuse during local elections. We issued a **strong, cross-party statement** about the role of the Office for Local Government (Oflog) after its data was used by the media to create misleading and inaccurate rankings of councils.

## MAY

Ten years after the introduction of the **Care Act**, our report laid bare the urgent action needed in adult social care, and we called for immediate investment. To support local leaders and councils, we launched our **Leaders Plus programme** and a new **improvement and assurance framework**. Following strong engagement with the LGA, the National Employers announced a **full and final pay offer for council employees**.





## JUNE

Following the announcement of the General Election, we published our **Local Government White Paper**.

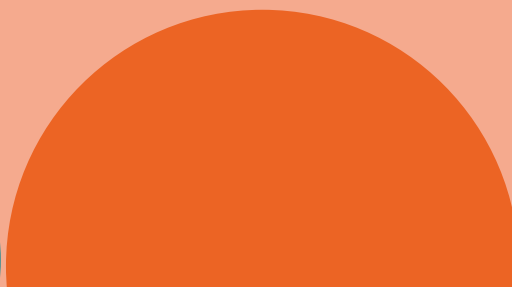
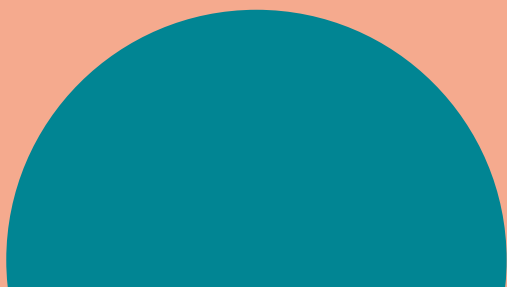
It included new analysis that councils in England face a **funding gap of £6.2 billion** over the next two years, and we called on all parties to commit to a significant and sustained increase in council funding in the next Spending Review. We announced **Impact: The Local Government Graduate Programme**

as the new name and rebrand of our successful graduate scheme.

## JULY

We **welcomed a new Government** with many new MPs entering their roles from the local government family, including former LGA Chair Councillor Shaun Davies. Consequently, we also **welcomed the new LGA Chair, Councillor Louise Gittins**, who led her first Councillors' Forum with Angela Rayner – the new Deputy Prime Minister

and Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – and Minister of State Jim McMahon. The **UK COVID-19 Inquiry report on Module 1: Resilience and Preparedness** was published, where the LGA was a core participant. Finally, we published a new report with County Councils Network and Isos Partnership showing that **education outcomes for SEND pupils have failed to improve over the last decade** despite costs trebling.





# 2023/24 in numbers



# 113

Corporate Peer Challenges  
and Progress Reviews delivered



14,037  
delegates  
attended our  
events with  
an overall 94%  
satisfaction  
rate



# 626

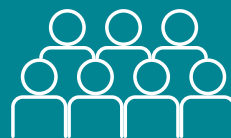
mentions of  
the LGA in  
Parliament

# 1,030

councillors supported through  
our leadership programmes

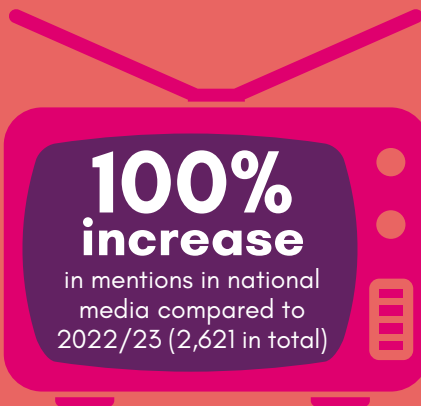
# 3.4 million

reach on LGA social  
media channels



# £6.3 billion

additional grant  
funding for social  
care secured  
since 2022/23



# 100% increase

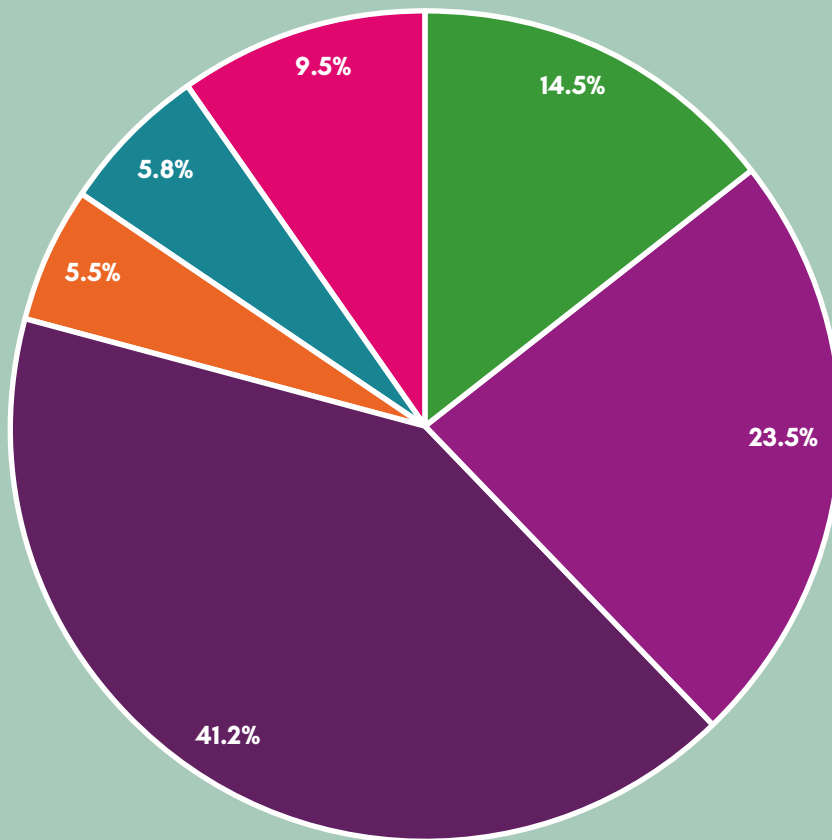
in mentions in national  
media compared to  
2022/23 (2,621 in total)

# 7.5%

increase in overall  
core spending for  
councils in 2024/25

# Working for you

Where our funding came from 2023/24 financial year



Subscription income: 14.5%



Core improvement grant, funded by UK government: 23.5%



Other grants and income for contracts and services: 41.2%



Rental and property income: 5.5%



Joint ventures: 5.8%



Commercial income: 9.5%

# Working for you

## How we used our funding 2023/24 financial year

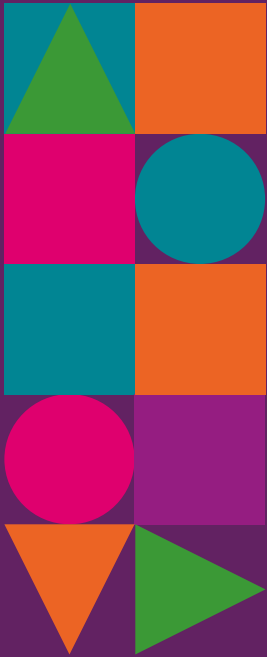
### Our 2023/24 spend breakdown by business plan priority ('000s)



**We promote:** influencing government policy and shaping how it's delivered through partnerships at local level, for example 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.



## **Local Government Association**

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