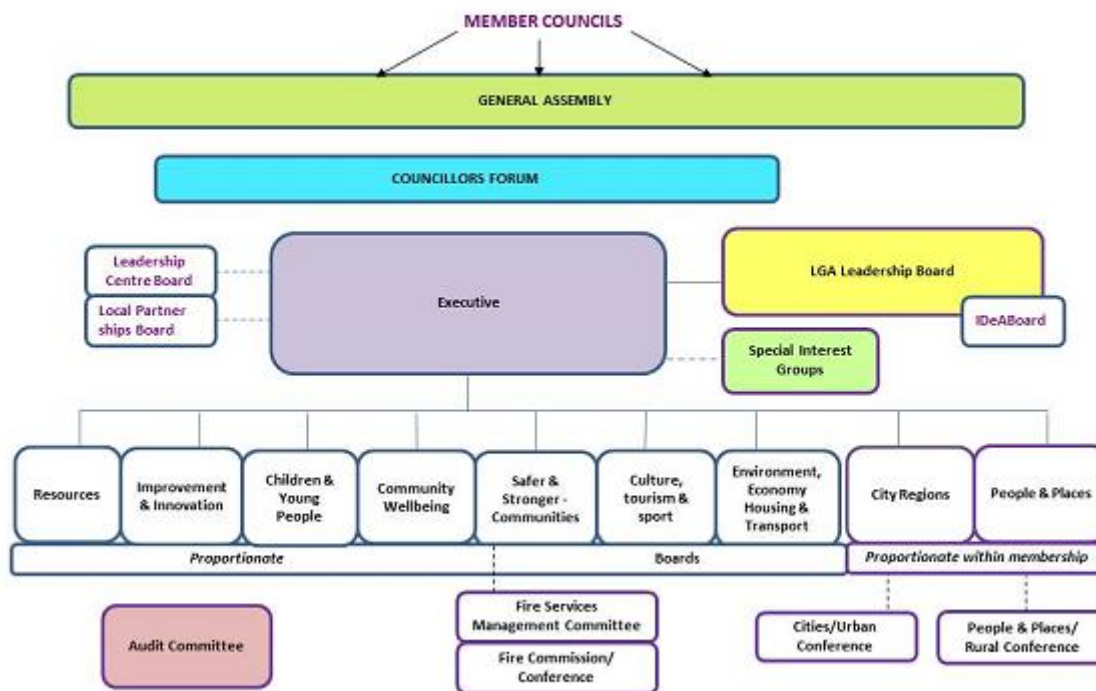


## Local Government Association Governance Structures and Special Interest Groups.

### LGA Governance Structures

The LGA's governance structures are designed to ensure that elected members from member authorities provide direction and oversee the work of the LGA. Appointments to governance structures are managed through the LGA's 4 Political Groups. The main governance structures are set out in the diagram below:



- All member authorities are entitled to a representative on the **LGA General Assembly** which meets once a year and acts as the 'parliament' for local government.
- The **Councillors' Forum** is an advisory body that provides a steer to the LGA Executive on current priority issues for local government.
- The chair, vice and deputy chairs of the Association are nominated annually by the four political groups, and approved by the LGA General Assembly. Together they form the **LGA Leadership Board** whose purpose is to direct the Association's activities and business, in accordance with the strategic priorities and direction set by the Executive.

- The **LGA Executive** comprises the members of the Leadership Board, the chairs of the policy boards and representatives of Wales and the nine English regions. The County Councils Network (CCN), District Councils Network (DCN) and the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) also have a non-voting place along with the chair of Local Partnerships. The LGA Executive provides strategic direction to the work of the Association, taking account of the advice from our boards and panels in order to represent the views of local government. The Leadership Board directs the Association's business in accordance with those priorities.
- The **LGA Boards** develop, steer and oversee all policy and improvement activity, in line with the LGA priorities. The Boards meet four times a year. Each board includes a chair, vice-chair and two deputy chairs – one nominated by each group. Collectively these are known as 'Lead Members' and they oversee delivery of the priorities in the LGA's Business Plan, particularly between Board meetings.

### **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**

With over 415 authorities in membership, the LGA covers a wide range of issues and priorities. The core focus is on priority issues that are of relevance to the whole of the membership base. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide an important means of focus on specific issues of relevance to groupings of authorities that the LGA is not able to do. SIGs are able to speak for their interests as part of the LGA provided that their policies or statements do not conflict with or undermine LGA policy as a whole, or damage the interests of other member authorities. SIGs are able to make representations direct to Government and elsewhere on matters arising directly from their special interest. There are currently approximately 20 SIGs. The requirement for an annual report from the SIGs is intended to ensure that the executive and relevant boards are aware of the SIGs' priorities, achievements and dealings with government departments.

### **LGA support to SIGs**

If requested, and subject to the availability of resources, the LGA will provide:

- secretarial support to Special Interest Groups for up to a maximum of 3 meetings per year in London;
- accommodation in Local Government House, free of charge, subject to availability of rooms;
- catering at normal LGA rates, printing and mailing subject to the LGA's own policies on use of printed documents.

The LGA is keen to ensure that there is effective collaboration between SIGs and the relevant Boards where issues of relevance and wider interest to Local Government arise. In the case of NuLeAf this includes ensuring appropriate

communication with the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board. The Board's priorities are set out in annex A.

## Annex A - Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport (EEHT) work programme 2014-15

Work area	Objective	Deliverables
Local growth/ city deals	<p>Maintain pressure on national parties and Whitehall to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of ring-fenced budgets, ensuring that future rounds of local growth fund are a genuine reflection of the Heseltine single pot</li> <li>• Increase the size and number of central growth-related funding streams into the local growth fund.</li> <li>• Ensure that negotiations end up with growth deals that are a genuine reflection of local priorities.</li> <li>• Keep to promises and deals made.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain debate of inadequacies of current growth deals, including capturing a compendium of reflections from members' own areas.</li> </ul>
Skills - Hidden Talents	<p>It is recommended that the EEHT's work on Hidden Talents continues jointly with the Children and Young People's Board through a task and finish group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign looking at the reform of services supporting Youth Transitions, launched at the National Children and Adult Services conference on 30 October.</li> <li>• Project for developing a locally-led apprenticeship model, working with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).</li> </ul>
Future roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling councils to be able to view roads investment as a whole (and in the context of transport as a whole) rather than micromanaged through Whitehall.</li> <li>• Continued pressure on HA and DfT to ensure that the HA/ new company effectively engages with councils, residents, road users and businesses on growth and roads/ transport investment and that Route Based Strategies develop to their potential as co-productions between central and local government</li> <li>• Continue to press Government to give councils certainty of funding for highways maintenance and to spend to spend the equivalent of 2 pence of existing fuel duty to bring our roads up to scratch</li> <li>• Continue to oppose the ban on use of CCTV enforcement for parking and lobby for TMA part 6 powers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through securing amendments in the Infrastructure Bill and other means to ensure there is an embedded (ideally legal) requirement on the new company to engage with councils.</li> <li>• Through securing amendments in the Deregulation Bill to ensure councils secure key exemptions on parking reform.</li> <li>• Keeping pressure on new government to deal with the backlog.</li> </ul>

Work area	Objective	Deliverables
Bus subsidy reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the sector's work to improve utility performance</li> <li>• Work with Government and in partnership with key stakeholders – e.g. PTEG and PTC to address the growing public concern about the capacity of councils to fund local bus services and devolve funding and franchising powers.</li> <li>• New task and finish group on Community Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with officer level reviews of Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) to push for BSOG devolution.</li> <li>• Influence the next CSR and work with City Regions and P&amp;P Boards to influence further devolution of buses.</li> <li>• Link subsidy reform where possible to increased powers and influence for councils over local bus networks.</li> <li>• Possible output – joint publication/ launch event</li> </ul>
Active Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To encourage and influence LEP support for investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>• To further the LGA's opposition to ring-fenced funding</li> <li>• To support the devolution of transport powers to councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage stakeholders on a joint campaign to encourage LEPs to support investment in active travel, while spreading knowledge in the sector of how health funding may be used to support such projects and generally highlighting central government barriers to active travel. Output – possible report/ seminar</li> </ul>
Housing Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To demonstrate that councils are a key part of increasing overall housing supply and to remove barriers to increased local authority supply.</li> <li>• To promote more effective use of surplus public sector land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to demonstrate the additional uplift in housing supply that council be achieved via reform of the Right to Buy and HRA and press for necessary changes.</li> <li>• Support local authorities to bring forward development outside of the HRA by working with the Improvement and Innovation Board to promote and support a consortium approach to finance.</li> <li>• Develop proposals to align and pool surplus public sector land.</li> </ul>
Waste and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby for changes to European Commission proposals to impose an increased recycling target of 70% by 2030.</li> <li>• Work with partners to raise awareness of existing EU target and signpost councils to support, good practice and advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the risks of EU fines associated with the 2025 recycling targets and work with WRAP to focus their support to councils to increase recycling levels.</li> <li>• Identify the cost implications of the EU Commission's proposals to raise the recycling target and lobby against centrally imposed targets that focus on just one element of resource management.</li> </ul>
Strategic planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the case for an effective, locally-led, approach to planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication outlining the case for a locally-led response and highlighting existing good practice.</li> <li>• Accompanying lobbying strategy to influence an incoming</li> </ul>

Work area	Objective	Deliverables
		Government's approach to planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGA event for member councils to share good practice and share the messages from the report.</li> </ul>
Winter weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and defend the reputation of councils and their work to help residents and businesses prepare for and respond to severe winter weather.</li> <li>• Secure reforms to the Bellwin scheme to ensure that it more effectively reflects the costs that councils incur.</li> <li>• Press for a simpler and coordinated approach to emergency funding schemes allocation and application.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter readiness survey of local authorities.</li> <li>• Response to consultation on the Bellwin scheme.</li> <li>• Press for a simplification of future government funding initiatives.</li> <li>• In the event of severe weather provide communications, policy and advocacy support at a national level.</li> </ul>
Renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlight examples of council's work to put in place renewable energy schemes.</li> <li>• Explore and publicise opportunities for councils to secure revenue raising opportunities and community benefit.</li> <li>• Support and promote local action on climate resilience through the Climate Local support service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a case study library to promote action taken by local authorities to put in place renewable energy schemes.</li> <li>• Publication setting out the options for councils to secure revenue raising and community benefit from renewable energy schemes.</li> <li>• Deliver the climate local work programme to March 2015 and engage with Defra and EA on funding opportunities for the continuation of the programme following this date.</li> <li>• Continue ongoing engagement with DECC on energy issues.</li> </ul>