We’re here to help your council to be WELL INFORMED, INNOVATIVE & INFLUENTIAL.

97% of subscribers say we’re ‘very good’ or ‘good’ value for money.

The UK’s biggest independent local government network, a charity run by councils for councils.

2017 Review
**Briefings**

With more than 250 briefings published a year, we are the only organisation that provides the depth of coverage you need to keep on top of all the key local government issues from social care to economic growth. Our briefings provide accessible and timely information – responding quickly to the latest developments – and are emailed directly to any employee or councillor in a member authority who wishes to receive them.

The political landscape has been very much dominated by Brexit. Our briefings have provided extensive coverage of Brexit and its implications for local government; we published a regular Brexit update throughout 2017 and briefings on specific areas, such as Brexit and employment.

Our briefing writers have a wealth of expertise and many years experience working either in or closely with local authorities, including at chief executive and director level.

In 2018 our briefings will continue to reflect the wide remit of local government: Brexit will of course continue to loom large on the landscape as will finance. We may see green papers on social care and social housing which we will be monitoring closely.

**Daily News and Regional Wraps**

Our unique early morning bulletin summarises the news that matters to local government and delivers it to your inbox 362 days a year. Across the country more than 25,000 leaders, chief executives, councillors and officers read the bulletin to start their day on top of the local government news agenda.

In 2017 we introduced Regional Wraps – five-days-a-week lunchtime news roundups for the North West, North East and Midlands.

**LGiU website**

Our website is where you will find a range of useful resources, including updates on all our projects and PDFs of all our publications. Our policy briefing library houses more than 2000 briefings exclusively for the use of our members.

**C’llr magazine**

Our online magazine brings you a lively and engaging mix of articles; we are very proud to be able to showcase the work of our member councils including interviews with and articles from:
- Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
- Paul James, Leader of Gloucester City Council
- Sharon Taylor OBE, Leader of Stevenage Borough Council

**LGiU training**

We ran an extensive programme of seminars and tailored inhouse training sessions in 2017 to support councillors and officers alike with core skills and a range of policy-focused learning.

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**More than 100 events around the country including:**

- Digital leadership roundtables (with Vodafone)
  - Glasgow
  - Sheffield
  - Bristol
  - London
- Domiciliary care roundtables (with Mears)
  - Rotherham
  - London
  - Edinburgh
- Community collaboration roundtable (with Local Trust)
  - London
- Homelessness event (with Social Finance)
  - London
- Mayoral election events
  - Manchester
  - Liverpool
  - Birmingham
- Devolution Network events
  - Birmingham
  - Manchester
- Policy Cafés
  - Bradford
  - Brighton
  - Wolverhampton
  - Kirklees
- C’llr Achievement Awards ceremony
  - London
- Reception at LGA conference (with CAMRA)
  - Birmingham
- Summer Reception
  - London, House of Commons
- Local Government APPG meetings
  - London
- Party conference dinners
  - Bournemouth
  - Brighton
  - Manchester
- Assembly of European Regions event
  - London
- More than 40 inhouse training sessions including:
  - Suffolk
  - Wyre
  - Carlisle
  - Basildon
Finance
We kicked off the year with our annual *State of Local Government Finance* survey, which received 163 responses from senior council decision-makers. We used the findings to raise the profile of the financial challenges facing the sector, featuring on the front page of the Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail and the Financial Times.

We drew on this data for our joint publication with the Institute of Fiscal Studies and PwC, *The Local Vantage*, to explore how councils’ views relate to their local context. We then drilled down into the views expressed on 100% Business Rate Retention in our essay, *Local Government: In the money?*, drawing out the top five concerns.

To support council efforts in economic growth and innovation we produced a guide to crowdfunding for local government and hosted our inaugural member-only Policy Café on local growth in Bradford, with surrounding authorities sharing ideas on policy responses.

Democracy
As well as our essential coverage of local elections, and celebration of local government in the annual C’l’r Awards, this year we looked at some big questions facing local democracy. With enormous constitutional change on the horizon, public finances still in dire straits and central government preoccupied with other issues, we made radical recommendations for a significant shift of power to local leaders in *Beyond Devolution*, the report of our Devolution Network of council leaders and chief executives, run with the support of the James Madison Charitable Trust. We also investigated, with the Fawcett Society, why women are so poorly represented in local government, particularly in leadership roles; looked at case studies of councils working effectively with community groups; and convened discussions on how hate crime is being tackled at the local level.

As part of Andrew Walker’s ongoing PhD study, which LGiU is supporting with Queen Mary, University of London, we also reported from Greater Manchester on the biggest innovation in local governance in the UK at the moment.

Services
Services provided by local government are under strain with financial strictures, increased demand and changing expectations, but where councils are engaging with new ideas and with local people it is still possible to drive innovation and improvement. This year we have focused on service transformation underpinned by user focused service re-design, including developing new training. *Paying for It* looked at the human cost of low-priced care and individual stories of home care business failure and we called for a new locally-driven settlement for social care. We have developed a new app – CoCare – with Kingston Council, to support outcomes based commissioning in home care.

Our work with Ramblers focused on *Building Connected Communities* through engagement with planning departments to create a better outdoor experience. We have also looked at how technology and digital leadership can support better services and engagement, holding a series of roundtables with Vodafone and publishing *Start of the Possible* the first ever comprehensive survey of councillors attitudes to digital.
LGiu continues to provide secretariat support for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Local Government, chaired by Martin Vickers MP. In February Andrew Percy MP, the then Minister for the Northern Powerhouse, discussed the current progress on Devolution Deals and how local growth will help the Government’s industrial strategy. In June we held our annual Summer Reception at the Houses of Parliament with a keynote speech from Sajid Javid MP.

LGiu at the party conferences

Our 2017 dinners at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative conferences were attended by over 27 Leaders from local government. We were honoured to have prominent figures from the local government world hosting for us:

- **Councillor Howard Sykes MBE**, Liberal Democrat Leader, LGA
- **Jim McMahon MP**, Shadow Minister (Communities and Local Government) (Devolution)
- **Lord Porter of Spalding CBE**, Chairman, LGA

Councils represented at our dinners included: Watford; Colchester; Leeds; South Somerset; Eastbourne; Cheltenham; York; Oldham; Cambridge; Hastings; Rochdale; St Helens; Gedling; Mole Valley; Trafford; Gloucester; Hertsmere; St Albans; Windsor and Maidenhead; Leicestershire; Buckinghamshire; Stratford upon Avon; and South Holland.

C’I1r Awards

Now in its eighth year, LGiu’s C’I1r Achievement Awards has become one of the biggest events in the local government calendar. This is the only national awards ceremony to honour the important work of councillors. This year’s event was one of the largest yet, with a record number of nominations and over 200 guests attending the ceremony at the City of London’s Guildhall. LGiu is grateful for support from CCLA, IESE and Mears.

Media

We know the importance of our role in providing a voice for local government in the media. In the last year our media profile doubled to almost 1,000 press hits including extensive coverage across BBC News, Sky News and ITV News of our annual State of Local Government Finance survey, local election reporting and C’I1r awards as well as comment from our team of experts on social care reform, finance, reform and more.

International work

LGiu International works to strengthen local democracy across the globe with our practical briefings and Daily News service as well as collaborating on the development of international solutions that respond to local challenges. LGiu Scotland provides services to 20 Scottish local authorities and other organisations and LGiu Ireland in its first full year now has 20 council members.
The LGiU will be delivering three major local authority-led projects in 2018 to provide a voice for the sector on some of its biggest issues. We will work with a wide range of council representatives to challenge central government’s record on localism and find solutions that work for local people.

**Housing**
The new Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force in 2018 and will have major implications for local authorities. We will be running a year-long Commission on how local authorities should respond to the legislation and address rising homelessness in their communities. We will also be looking at the pressure to build more homes and how councils should respond.

- What more can councils do to prevent homelessness? How should it be resourced?
- What role does temporary accommodation play and how can we boost the supply?
- How does the supply of housing more broadly play a role in this agenda?
- How can data and technology be used to better effect?

**Finance**
100% business rate retention is continuing with a new generation of pilots in 2018/19. But what does this really mean for the future of local government funding – and will it provide the certainty needed for local services? We will bring together an expert practitioner Taskforce to provide a united voice for the sector on this vital issue.

- What should central government really be saying on local government finance?
- How do we open up a more meaningful debate on fiscal devolution?
- How are councils challenging traditional models of finance?
- How do we deal with the looming financial crisis in social care? What do we need to see in the green paper?

**Trust**
Public trust in authority is at a low ebb. The banking crash of 2008, the MPs’ expenses scandal and a period of extended austerity in public services have all contributed to a loss of faith in institutions, public and private. At the same time, local authorities are increasingly asking communities to step up to take responsibility for public buildings and to deliver services. We will be running an ongoing Policy Lab with experts in this field and innovative councils to explore how this might affect the future of local government.

- What is the future of the relationship between councils and their communities?
- What helps to build trust between councils and their communities? Where are the examples of best practice?
- What is the role of elected members?
- What role can mayors play in this agenda?
- How can the use of technology and digital support better engagement?
LGiU
AT A GLANCE IN 2017

77
learning and development events around the country

362
editions of Daily News emailed to 25,909 subscribers

555
Regional Wraps emailed to 11,104 subscribers in the North East, North West and Midlands

1,000
Nearly 1,000 media hits across national and regional tv and radio and print and trade press.

4
long reads
including: Lessons from the Greater Manchester experiment and Local government: in the money?

11
policy reports and essential guides, including: Paying for it: the human cost of cut-price care; Community collaboration: a councillor’s guide; Beyond devolution.

15
new subscribing members:
1. Blaby District Council
2. City of York Council
3. Craven District Council
4. Derby City Council
5. Darlington Borough Council
6. Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
7. Mendip District Council
8. Middlesbrough Council
9. Richmondshire District Council
10. Rossendale Borough Council
11. Ryedale District Council
12. Scarborough Borough Council
13. Slough Borough Council
14. South Lakeland District Council
15. Three Rivers District Council

280
policy briefings

More than 2m
Twitter impressions and 1,897 new followers

LGiU is a charity run by councils for councils. LGiU welcomes councils and other organisations committed to public sector innovation. For details of a free trial please contact: partnerships@lgiu.org.uk

For more information see www.lgiu.org.uk, email info@lgiu.org.uk, or follow @LGiU

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