



The LG Group quick guide to local government

Acknowledgements

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What is local government?

The Local Government Act 1888 created 66 county councils, plus a London county council, all run by elected councillors. Local government today comprises 375 councils in England and Wales, with almost 18,500 elected councillors.

What does local government do?

Councils work with residents and other parts of the public sector to determine and deliver local priorities. They provide a wide range of services, either directly through their employees or by commissioning services from outside organisations. They also have responsibility for the economic, social and environmental 'wellbeing' of their area.

Most council services are mandatory. This means that the council must do them because they are under a duty to do so by law (eg to operate an alcohol licensing regime under the Licensing Act 2003). Some mandatory functions are tightly controlled by central government, resulting in a similar level of service across the country (eg the administration of housing benefit). Other mandatory requirements (eg the library function) leave councils with some discretion over the level and type of service they provide.

Some council services and functions are discretionary. These are services a council can choose to provide but does not have to. They range from large economic regeneration projects, to the

removal of wasp nests. Councils have a general power to charge for discretionary services provided they are not prohibited by other legislation and the council does not make a profit. Councils can charge for arts and entertainment activities, sport and recreational facilities and some pest control services, under Acts of Parliament.

Councils provide over 700 services¹. The following table provides a summary of their main services and responsibilities.²

Principal service	Includes
Children's services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools – nursery, primary, secondary and special • pre-school education • youth, adult and family and community education • student support • children's and families' services – including welfare, fostering and adoption and child protection, Sure Start children's centres • youth centres • youth justice – secure accommodation and youth offender teams.
Highways, roads and transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highways – non-trunk roads and bridges • street lighting • traffic management and road safety • public transport – discounted travel schemes and local transport co-ordination • airports, harbours and toll facilities.

1 Department for Communities and Local Government website www.communities.gov.uk/locagovernment/efficiencybetter/capacitybuilding/whywascapacity/

2 Department for Communities and Local Government, Local Government Financial Statistics England No. 19 2009, p.13

Adult services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services for older people including nursing, home, residential and day care and meals • services for people with a physical disability, learning disability or mental health need, support for people with AIDS/HIV • asylum seekers • employment support services • drug and alcohol services.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social housing • housing benefit and welfare services • homelessness • housing strategy.
Cultural services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • culture and heritage, including archives and museums and galleries • recreation and sport, including facilities and sports development • open spaces – parks and playgrounds, the countryside and allotments • tourism – visitor information, marketing and tourism development • libraries and information services.
Environmental services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cemetery, cremation and mortuary services • community safety – including consumer protection, coastal protection and trading standards • environmental health – including food safety, pollution and pest control, public toilets • licensing – including alcohol, public entertainment, taxis • agricultural and fisheries services • waste collection and disposal, recycling and street cleaning.

<p>Planning and development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building and development control • planning policy – including conservation and listed buildings • environmental initiatives • economic and community development.
<p>Protective services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fire and rescue services • court services such as coroners.
<p>Central and other services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local tax collection – council tax and non-domestic rates (business rates) • registration of births, deaths and marriages • elections – local and national, including registration of electors • emergency planning • local land charges.



Councils choose how to organise their operations based on their responsibilities. A number of models exist and just one example is Leicestershire County Council (a top tier council that is not unitary), which is organised around five main departments³:

Adults and communities	Social services, home care, protecting adults, carers support, rehabilitation, care homes, supported housing, community meals, libraries, museums, record office and more
Chief executive's department	Democratic services, councillors, council meetings, youth justice, community safety, public relations, trading standards and more.
Children and young people's service	Children and family services such as education (including special needs), child protection, youth activities, teenage pregnancy, adoption, fostering and more.
Corporate resources	Job vacancies, property services, procurement, finance, freedom of information, corporate complaints, pension services, website and more.
Environment and transport	Construction and maintenance of roads, parking, road safety, recycling campaigns, recycling/waste sites, public transport and environment.

It is important to be aware that not all local authorities are structured in the same way.

³ Leicestershire County Council website, www.leics.gov.uk/index/help/contact_us/departments.htm

How is local government organised?

The structure of local government varies from area to area. In much of England, there are two tiers – county and district – with responsibility for council services split between the two tiers, however London, other metropolitan areas and parts of shire England operate under a single tier structure.

In total there are five possible types of local authority in England.

These are:

- **county councils** – cover the whole county and provide 80 per cent of services in these areas, including children’s services and adult social care)
- **district councils** – covering a smaller area, providing more local services (such as housing, local planning, waste and leisure but not children’s services or adult social care), can be called district, borough or city councils
- **unitary authorities** – just one level of local government responsible for all local services, can be called a council (eg Medway Council), a city council (eg Nottingham City Council) or borough council (eg Reading Borough Council)
- **London boroughs** – each of the 33 boroughs is a unitary authority, but the Greater London Authority (GLA) provides London-wide government, including special responsibility for police, fire, strategic planning and transport
- **metropolitan districts** – effectively unitary authorities, the name being a relic from past organisational arrangements. They can be called metropolitan borough or city councils.

Currently there are 27 counties split into 201 districts, and 56 unitary authorities in England⁴. The latest round of English reorganisation became effective in April 2009. Forty four local authorities were amalgamated into nine unitary authorities serving a combined population of over 3.2 million⁵.



4 Office of National Statistics website, Counties, Non-metropolitan Districts and Unitary Authorities www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/counties_nonmet_ua.asp

5 At the time of writing the government had just given the go ahead for Exeter and Norwich to run their cities' local services as unitary councils. www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1463715

Who does what?

The table below provides a quick guide to local authority responsibility for major services in England.⁶

	Shire areas			Metropolitan areas	London	
	unitaries	county councils	district councils	metropolitan districts	London boroughs	GLA
Education	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Highways	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Transport planning	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Passenger transport	✓	✓		✓		✓
Social care	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Housing	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Libraries	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Leisure and recreation	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Environmental health	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Waste collection	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Waste disposal	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Planning applications	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Strategic planning	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Local taxation collection	✓		✓	✓	✓	

⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government, Local Government Financial Statistics England No.19 2009, p.15

Town and parish councils

Below the district level, in some parts of England there are town and parish councils, responsible for services such as management of town and village centres, litter, verges, cemeteries, parks, ponds, allotments, war memorials, and community halls.

There are around 10,000 such councils in England and Wales and nearly 100,000 councillors. The National Association of Local Councils represents these councils. For more information, visit www.nalc.gov.uk

Around the UK

Wales

All 22 Welsh councils are unitary authorities providing all local government services to their local communities. The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) represents the interests of local government and promotes local democracy in Wales. The WLGA remains a constituent part of the LGA, ensuring that we continue to represent the interests of Welsh local government to the UK government. For more information about Welsh local government, visit www.wlga.gov.uk

Scotland

Scotland has had a unitary system of local government since 1996. There are 32 Scottish unitaries and their powers are essentially the same as those of unitary authorities in England. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) is the representative voice of Scottish local government and acts as the employers' association on behalf of all Scottish councils. For more information about Scottish local government, visit www.cosla.gov.uk

Fire and rescue authorities

Every part of the UK is covered by a local authority fire and rescue service. There are four types of fire authority, each with a different relationship with local authorities:

- **county fire authorities** – effectively departments of the county council with budgets set and controlled by the council. Political membership comes from county council members.
- **combined fire authorities and fire and civil defence authorities** – constitutionally separate authorities covering more than one local authority area. Each council nominates elected members to the fire and rescue authority.
- **London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority** – London has separate arrangements linked to the Greater London Authority (GLA).

For more information, contact fire.policy@lga.gov.uk

National Park authorities – have planning and related responsibilities in areas covered by national parks in England and Wales.

How councils operate

The role of councillors

Councillors are elected to represent people in a defined geographical area for a fixed term of four years, unless elected at a by-election in which case the time will be shorter. Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents, voters, political parties and the councils.

The role of a councillor includes:

Representing their ward – this is the primary duty of all councillors. They also have a responsibility to communicate council policy and decisions to people in their ward.

Decision making – they will be involved in decision-making through: full council; regulatory committees such as planning control or licensing; local voluntary organisation management; membership of partnership boards; as school governors; as employers of staff on appointment panels and disciplinary and grievance procedures.

Policy and strategy review and development – they contribute to this through mechanisms such as membership of overview and scrutiny committees; involvement in advisory groups and partnerships; interaction with executive members; membership on area forums and committees; through case work and surgeries; and membership of a political group.

Overview and scrutiny – councillors who are not in the cabinet can be overview and scrutiny members, who are responsible for scrutinising decisions, plans and services provided by the council or by health bodies. See the section on overview and scrutiny below.

Regulatory duties – this involves councillors in quasi-judicial roles on special committees appointed by the council, including planning and licensing.

Community leadership and engagement – this at the heart of the councillor’s role, working in partnership with voluntary and community organisations to actively engage citizens, residents and service users.

How are decisions made?

Under the Local Government Act 2000, councils may be structured in three different ways:

- **a leader and cabinet** – local councillors elect a council leader who then appoints a cabinet. Each cabinet member is responsible for a particular sector.
- **an executive mayor and a cabinet** – in some areas the public vote for a mayor who then appoints the cabinet.
- in areas with populations below 85,000, councils may adapt their older structure of committees, each dealing with a separate sector, in which **no distinction is made between cabinet and backbenchers**.

Leader – elected by the majority of the council, the council leader is responsible for setting the vision and direction of the authority.

Cabinet member – an executive member appointed by the leader or directly – elected mayor, with responsibilities for a particular portfolio. The leader can choose the portfolios for cabinet members so there is a great deal of local variation.

Mayor – Some councils have opted to have a directly elected mayor supported by a cabinet. The position of mayor in most local authorities is a purely ceremonial role, usually held by a senior councillor for a year, to represent the council at civic and council events.

The executive is required to set out its programme of work, known as ‘the forward plan’. The plan includes all key decisions due to be made by the executive in the following four months. It must be made available to the public and to all the relevant overview and scrutiny committees.

In all cases, the sovereign body is the full council meeting in which all councillors may vote. This body agrees the budget, sets the policy framework, appoints chief officers and makes constitutional decisions. Consequently, the council officers who support councillors work for the whole council, not on behalf of the controlling party, unlike civil servants in central government.

Overview and scrutiny committees

Overview and scrutiny is at the heart of local accountability. It is the principal, democratic means, between elections, of ensuring that decisions made by the council and its partners are held to account. It also provides a vital means of ensuring all councillors can take part in the development of council policy.

Councils must establish overview and scrutiny arrangements through which non-executive councillors can question and challenge the performance of the executive in a manner that will enable public debate. Overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs) must reflect the political balance of the councils. Executive members may be asked to attend OSCs to answer questions and contribute to the debate but they are not able to be members of OSCs.

It is up to councils to determine their overview and scrutiny arrangements and there is considerable local variation on the number of committees and their remit.

The Health and Social Care Act 2001, confers on first-tier local authorities (those with social care responsibilities) powers of health scrutiny. Health scrutiny powers and duties are summarised below:

- the right to scrutinise and review health service matters and making reports and recommendations to NHS bodies
- powers to delegate health scrutiny to other authorities, including district councils; to co-opt from other authorities; and to establish joint health overview and scrutiny committees with other first-tier authorities
- places duties on health trusts to consult health overview and scrutiny committees on substantial developments and variations to health services
- requires officers of all NHS bodies to attend scrutiny committees when requested
- requires NHS bodies to provide health scrutiny committee with information about the planning, commissioning, provision and operation of health services
- requires NHS bodies to respond to reports and recommendations of health scrutiny committees
- empowers health scrutiny committees to refer proposals for substantial developments or variations in health services to the Secretary of State.

Relationship between councillors and officers

There is a clear distinction between councillors and officers. Councillors, through decisions of the full council and the executive, set the overall policy of the council. Senior officers, led by the chief executive and chief officers are responsible for advising the cabinet and scrutiny committees on policy and are responsible for implementing councillors' decisions and for service performance. Officers have a duty to give unbiased professional advice.



How local authorities engage with communities

Elections – Elections provide an opportunity for councillors to explain to their communities the policies and priorities. It is also an opportunity for them to understand the needs and concerns of their residents.

Parish and town councils – This third tier of local government that is often overlooked but it is crucial in connecting with local people. Many rural areas and some urban ones are divided into parishes and town councils, representing by parish and town councillors. All tiers of local government aim to work together to develop a dialogue with people, in order to inform plans and services.

Neighbourhood assemblies, community forums and area committees – Many councils have created local mechanisms for devolving decision-making to neighbourhoods and smaller areas. These provide an opportunity for citizens to have greater involvement in local decisions including:

- decisions about spending through delegated budgets and participatory budgeting
- developing and monitoring community action plans
- informing priorities for local scrutiny
- have a say on planning applications, issues and campaigns.

Surgeries and casework – regular ward surgeries to enable local people to:

- meet their councillors
- raise their problems for councillors to take up as casework

- hear about and have a say in local plans and priorities
- discuss the impact of policies on local areas.

Consultations, sounding boards and citizens panels – as with other public bodies, councils have statutory duties to consult with local people about changes to their area, for example over school closures, planning applications, plans for redevelopment and regeneration. Official consultations are bound by legal requirements. Some councils have also set up mechanisms for more informal consultation with local citizens through citizens' panels and sounding boards. Such mechanisms have no legal status but they enable the council to hear from a representative sample of local people on their plans and priorities.

Service users groups eg tenants reps, service users panels – Many councils also have established involvement mechanisms for engaging particular interest groups in order to find out about their experience of existing services, to plan improvements and to develop new innovations. For example, most adult social care departments have panels for people with use social care service to get their insight into how services can be better commissioned and provided.

Surveys on a local or nationwide basis – Councils also undertake regular surveys of their citizens on a wide range of issues to gauge satisfaction with services and plans identify the current and future needs of their population and seek ideas about innovation.

Local government spending and funding

Local government finance is notoriously complex and is worthy of a guide all of its own. Here we try to set out the very basics. If you want to know more, the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Local Government Financial Statistics England' and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's 'Councillors' Guide to Local Government Finance'⁷ are detailed guides.

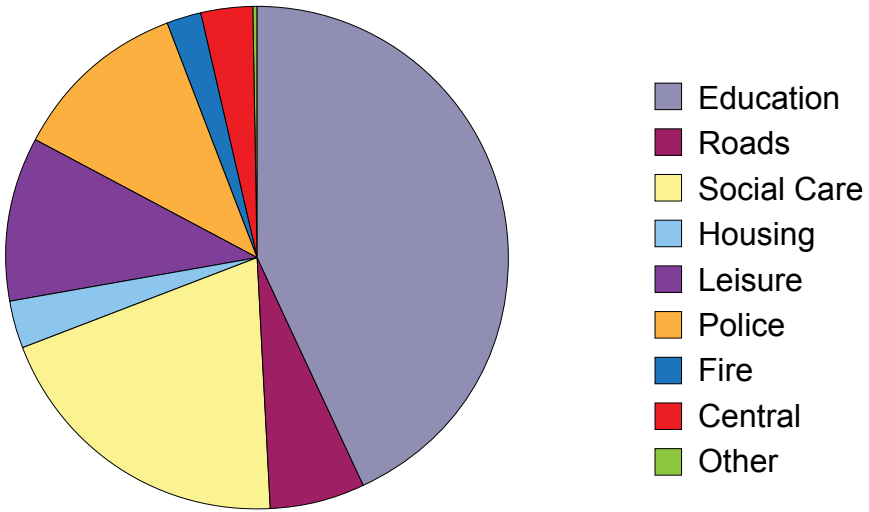
Local government accounts for about a quarter of all public spending in the UK. Local government net current expenditure in 2010-11 (excludes capital expenditure) was budgeted to be £112.319bn⁸.

7 CIPFA, Councillors' Guide to Local Government Finance (Fully Revised Edition 2009) <http://secure.cipfa.org.uk/cgi-bin/CIPFA.storefront/EN/product/LG05>

8 CIPFA Statistics: Finance and General Statistics 2010-11, page 2

It breaks down as follows:

England and Wales 2010-11 budgeted estimates



Description	Total £m
Education	48,539
Roads	6,985
Social Care	22,289
Housing	3,595
Leisure	11,785
Police	12,822
Fire	2,425
Central	3,574
Other	305
Total	112,319

The three main sources of income for local government in England are government grants, council tax and redistributed business rates. Local government's 2010-11 budgeted revenue expenditure (not the same as net current expenditure) was budgeted to be financed as follows:

£58.0bn – government grants (55 per cent)

£26.35bn – council tax (25 per cent)

£21.5bn – redistributed business rates (19 per cent)



Councils also receive income from returns on borrowing and investments, interest and capital receipts, sales, fees and charges and council rents.⁹

Council tax

Council tax makes up the majority of the difference between a council's planned budget and its central funding. In 2011-12 the Government is paying a grant to councils who freeze or reduce their council tax. All eligible authorities are taking up this grant.

Business rates

Councils collect business rates (also called National Non-Domestic Rates) on behalf of central government and pay them into a central account controlled by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These funds are then redistributed back to councils by the department on a per head basis. Councils do not set business rate levels, they are centrally determined. The Government is currently consulting on whether to allow councils to keep the business rates they collect in their area.

2011-12 Local government finance settlement

The 2011-12 local government finance settlement leaves local government with a funding shortfall of around £6.5bn in the next financial year, with some councils facing more than 16 per cent reductions in the amount of money they receive from the Government. This is the toughest settlement in living memory.

⁹ CIPFA Statistics: Finance and General Statistics 2010-11, page 3

Who works in local government?

Councils employ around 2.2 million in around 600 occupations – that’s around 9 per cent of the 25.5 million people of working in England and Wales. Almost half of all local government staff are employed in schools.

Spending on employees accounts for approximately half of all local government service spending and is the single largest area of spending for local government.



How do local elections work?

Councillors are elected for four-year terms. Councils are elected either 'all-up' or 'by thirds'.

In 'all-up' councils, there is an election of the whole council every four years. In 'by thirds' councils, one third of councillors are elected in three out of four years. Seven district councils are, unusually, elected by halves.



Current political balance and recent election results

The balance of power in local government changes frequently due to regular elections and by-elections. Following the May 2010 local elections, the political parties' representation in England and Wales was as follows:

- Conservatives – controlled 201 councils and had 9,265 councillors
- Labour – controlled 51 councils and had 4,487 councillors
- Liberal Democrats – controlled 25 councils and had 3,772 councillors
- 'others' – controlled 9 councils and had 1,965 councillors.

There was no overall control in 87 councils. The above figures relate to overall control. A council is described as having no overall control if one party rules as a minority or with coalition agreement.

Party	Number of Councillors	% of total
Conservative	9,265	47.5%
Labour	4,487	23%
Liberal Democrat	3,772	19.4%
Others	1,965	10.1%

The 2011 local elections will be held on Thursday 5 May in 279 English local authorities: 49 unitary authorities (29 all up and 20 by thirds); 36 metropolitan boroughs (all by thirds); and 194 shire district councils (123 all up and 71 by thirds). The results of the May 2011 elections will change the political balance across the country. Please see the LG Group website for an update.



Who is the Local Government Group?

In 1997, local government created the Local Government Association (LGA) to be its national voice in England and Wales. As a politician-led membership body, the LGA lobbies and campaigns for changes in policy and legislation on behalf of its member councils and the people and communities they serve. In 2010 the LG Group was created by bringing together the six organisations - Local Government Association, Local Government Improvement and Development, Local Government Employers, Local Government Leadership, Local Government Regulation and Local Partnerships.

The 419 authorities which make up what is now known as the LG Group, cover every part of England and Wales and include county and district councils, metropolitan and unitary councils, London boroughs, Welsh unitary councils, fire, police, national park and passenger transport authorities. Together they represent over 50 million people and spend around £115bn a year on local services.

The LG Group is working for:

- a new world of responsibility, choice and local control with public services redesigned and reshaped around the needs of local places and local people so that they can take responsibility for improving their own lives
- a shift in the balance of power away from central government to local government, with accountability for public services

transferred to the local level, along with a reduction in the burden of central bureaucracy

- stronger, more powerful local government, with councils and elected councillors providing leadership at the centre of new local governance arrangements
- local public service providers to be freed up from unnecessary controls so that they can develop tailored responses appropriate to the challenges of their communities
- local people able to make informed judgements and choices about local services, with the information and ability to challenge those who provide public services on their behalf
- councils working in fundamentally different ways with their partners to provide more responsive, more efficient and more innovative public services in a world of tighter public finance.

The LG Group is made up of:

Local Government Association (LGA) – a cross-party politically-led member association which works with and on behalf of its membership to deliver an independent and confident local government sector, where local priorities drive public service improvement and every councillor acts as a champion for the people they represent.

The LGA has four political group offices, each with elected leaders: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent. The LGA chairman is elected by the political group that has the largest councillor representation in local government and is the association's principal political spokesperson.

Seven policy boards of elected councillors provide strategic direction for the high priority projects in the LGA business plan

and co-ordinate policy and direct lobbying activities in their areas of responsibility. The seven boards are: Children and Young People; Community Wellbeing; Tourism and Sport; Environment; Improvement; Economy and Transport; and Safer Communities.

Local Government Improvement and Development – supports improvement and innovation in local government, focusing on the issues that are important to councils and using tried and tested ways of working. LG Improvement and Development work with councils in developing good practice while supporting them in their partnerships.

Local Government Employers – works with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead and create solutions on pay, pensions and the employment contract.

Local Government Regulation – is the local government central body responsible for overseeing local authority regulatory and related services in the UK.

Local Partnerships – is a joint venture between LGA and Partnerships UK, whose objective is to enhance the quality of people's lives by giving trusted, professional support to local public bodies to improve their ability to source and deliver high quality, cost-effective public services and infrastructure.

Leadership Centre for Local Government – aims to give senior political and managerial leaders the opportunities to shift their thinking on leadership to help them transform their communities to meet the challenges of today, tomorrow and into the future.

The health and social care bill and how we can help you

The LG Group is an authoritative source of information and support for those working in or with local government.

In an effort to provide direction to the current health reforms, the LG Group has been working closely with the Department of Health, councils, medical and public health sector colleagues to ensure that reforms are meaningful and workable, that transition is managed safely and without the loss of expertise, and that no action is taken that threatens or undermines the good work that already takes place across the country on integrated health and social care delivery.

We are also working with the Department of Health to develop sector-led support programmes which use existing good practice to support the new public health landscape.

In December 2010, the LG Group produced a discussion document called ‘The Health of the Public’¹⁰ aimed at informing debate about the role of councils in improving the health of their communities and in addressing health inequalities. ‘The Health of the Public’, along with the LG Groups responses to the ‘Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS’ and ‘Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for Public Health in England’¹¹ consultations, sets out what is needed to turn this aspiration into a reality. We acknowledge that successful reform requires strong relationships

¹⁰ <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=14992001>

¹¹ <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=17670839>



and dialogue with:

- our communities so that a full discussion is had about local health improvement priorities
- GP commissioning consortia on how we can transfer resources from treating sickness towards promoting health and wellbeing
- and at national level, with Government, on the need for them to empower local government and their partners to develop their own strategies for delivering better health.

Our position on the reforms has been directly informed by our work with the sector. Since 2006 the Local Government Improvement and Development Healthy Communities Programme, for example, has worked with councils to improve health leadership, partnership working, addressing the social determinants of health, Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs) and health scrutiny.

We are currently supporting authorities to develop shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards; discussing how councils might interact with GP consortia; and considering how authorities' JSNAs will provide a framework for commissioning. We are producing a 'must knows' guide to public health for members and senior authority officers.

144 of the 150 first-tier authorities have expressed an interest in joining the group of Health and Wellbeing Board 'early implementers'. This is a clear indication of the strong support from local government to be at the forefront of translating aspirations into action. The LG Group believes there needs to be in place a well-resourced mechanism for ensuring that the experiences of the 'early implementers' can be analysed objectively and the lessons clearly disseminated as widely as possible.

We have commissioned five case studies on GP consortia covering Crawley West Sussex NHS, Cumbria, Leeds, Manchester and Nean Valley in Northamptonshire. Each case study gives examples of different ways of working and responding to GP consortia which reinforces the view that every consortia will be different according to the circumstances in a particular area.

Local government acronyms

AEF – Aggregate External Finance – total amount of money given by central government to local government.

ABG – Area Based Grant – a general non ring-fenced grant allocated by central government directly to councils' additional revenue funding.

CDRP – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership – a multi-agency group set up in law, consisting of the council, police and other local agencies, to tackle crime, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant – a ring fenced grant that is the principal source of funding for schools and related activities in England.

GLA – Greater London Authority – consists of an elected mayor and a separately elected London Assembly of 25 members.

HRA – Housing Revenue Account – an account showing the income and expenditure incurred in the provision and maintenance of the council's housing stock, that councils have to maintain by law.

LDF – Local Development Framework – collection of local development documents produced by the local planning authority which collectively form the spatial planning strategy for its area.

LSP – Local Strategic Partnership – non statutory body bringing together the different parts of the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, to work at a local level with the local council in the lead role.

NNDR – National Non-Domestic Rates – also called business rates, they are collected from businesses by councils, pooled by central government and redistributed to councils by formula.

RSG – Revenue Support Grant – one of three components of the Formula Grant from central to local government.

SCS – Sustainable Community Strategy – prepared by Local Strategic Partnerships (see LSPs) as a set of goals and actions which they wish to promote. Informs the Local Development Framework (see LDF) and acts as an umbrella for all other strategies devised for the area.

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Local Government Group

The Local Government Group is made up of six organisations which support, promote and improve local government.



Local
Government
Association



Local
Government
Improvement
and Development



Local
Government
Employers



Local
Government
Regulation



Local
Government
Leadership



Local
Partnerships

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