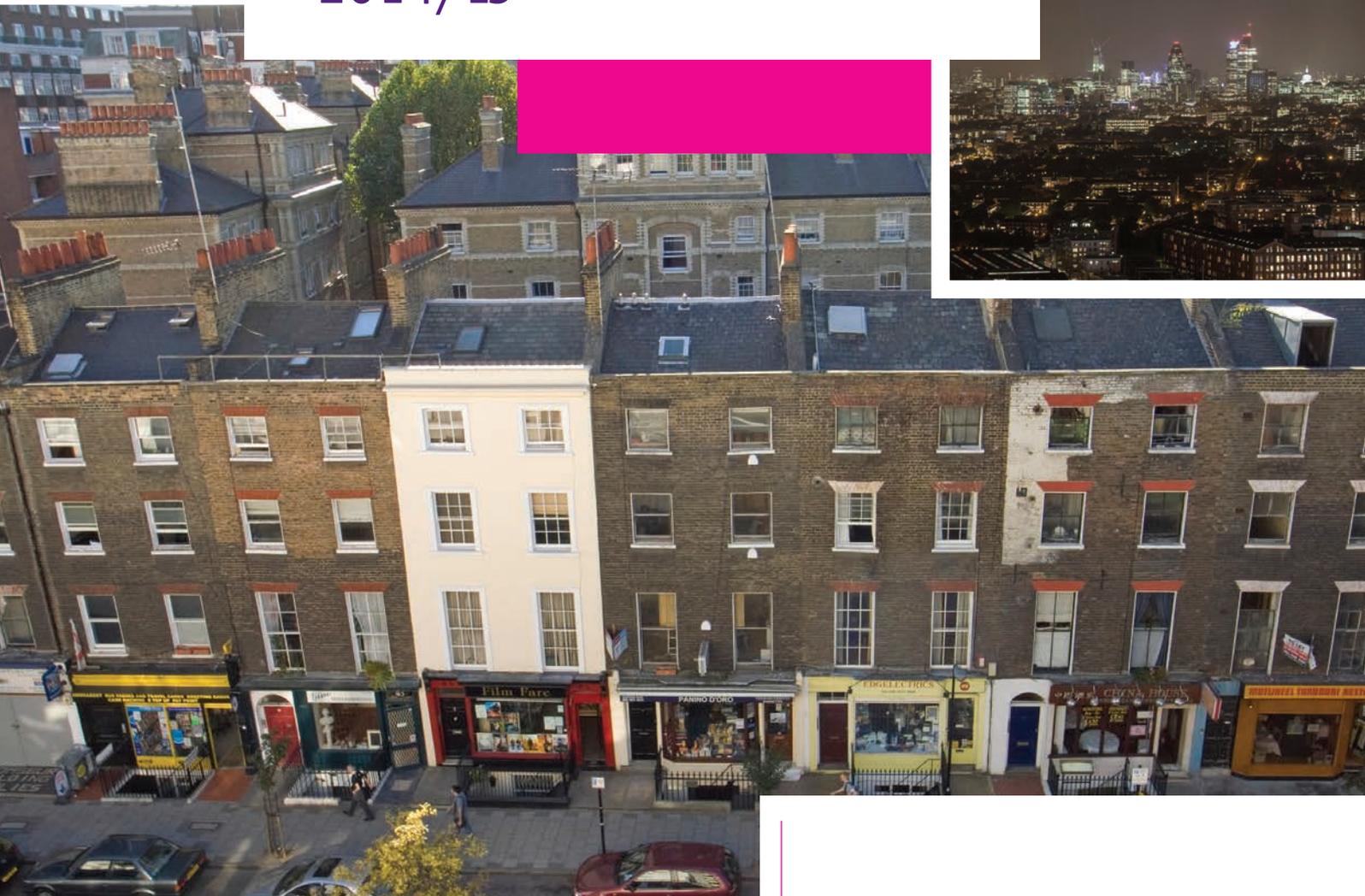




London Councils

# Annual Review

2014/15



**LONDON**  
**COUNCILS**



# Foreword

Each year London Councils' Leaders' Committee agrees the key areas for the organisation to focus on and the annual review is a chance to reflect back on how successful London Councils has been in its pursuit of these goals.

The year of activities covered by this review is largely captured within two significant sets of elections in the London local elections of 22 May 2014 and the General Election of 7 May 2015.

The cycle of national and local polls (and not forgetting that next year will see elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly) is an appropriate frame through which to view the activities of London Councils, given that much of the focus over the past year has been on making the case for greater devolution of power and resources from the national level to London local government - the boroughs and the Mayor.

The momentum for such devolution has been gathering pace significantly over recent months and 2014 saw some important milestones in our journey, not least in the announcement of a London Growth Deal in July.

The devolutionary case that London leaders have been building and demonstrating is not one based on abstract notions of the merits of different democratic structures, but is rooted in the reality of stimulating economic growth and delivering services to a growing population at a time of public finance austerity.



We know that London's population is growing at a historically extraordinary rate and that the capital will be home to more than 9 million people within five years. We know that many residents are caused suffering by the capital's housing shortage. We know that our hospitals and GPs are struggling to keep up with demand, particularly when winter pressures hit, while our schools are racing to keep pace with the growing number of young Londoners entering education. And we know that this situation is simply not sustainable.

To manage this level of demand and to support growth we need councils to be able to unlock the potential for devolution to join-up services locally, target limited resources to their maximum impact and to come up with more effective ways of delivering outcomes for residents.

Devolution is therefore not an end in itself but a necessary step in the direction we need to reform our public services in ways that really can bring together various public agencies at the local level to deliver integrated and preventative services that can help avoid the high costs of failure.

Our boroughs, individually and together, have already begun to demonstrate how we can do more to tackle the deep-rooted challenges the capital faces and this annual review highlights many of these examples. I commend this annual review as a useful reflection on what can be achieved when we work together in pursuit of common goals for our great capital.

**Mayor Jules Pipe**  
Chair, London Councils



Devolution is not an end in itself but a necessary step in the direction we need to reform our public services.



# About London Councils

London Councils represents London's 32 borough councils and the City of London.

It is a cross-party organisation that works on behalf of all of its member authorities regardless of political persuasion.

London Councils makes the case to government, the Mayor and others to get the best deal for Londoners and to ensure that our member authorities have the resources, freedoms and powers to do the best possible job for their residents and local businesses.

London Councils runs a number of direct services for member authorities including the Freedom Pass, Taxicard and Health Emergency Badge. It also supports an independent parking appeals service and a pan-London grants programme for voluntary organisations.

London Councils acts as a catalyst for effective sharing among boroughs – be that ideas, good practice, people, resources, or policies and new approaches.

The strategic direction of London Councils is set by the Leaders' Committee, which comprises the Leaders and directly elected Mayors of all of London's local authorities. There is also a cross-party Executive, which guides the organisation's day-to-day work.



# Adding value for London's boroughs

London Councils acts as host for a number of bodies which add value to the work of our member authorities by helping them co-ordinate their work with pan-London organisations. These include:

**London Safeguarding Children Board**, representing London's councils in a broader partnership with police, health and other partners to promote child safeguarding across London.

**London Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) Board** – the lead strategic body for 14-19 education and training in the capital.

London Councils is the **Regional Employers' body for London local authorities**. Boroughs are members of the Greater London Employment Forum and are represented on the Greater London Provincial Council for the purposes of negotiations with trades unions.

**Capital Ambition**, London's improvement and efficiency partnership.

**London European Partnership for Transport**, which provides the London boroughs with support and access to European funding for transport projects.

London Councils also provides a key interface between boroughs, the London Fire Brigade, the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the other emergency services on issues around city management and resilience.



# Advancing London local government

Member authorities have their own relationships with pan-London organisations and in particular with the Mayor and the GLA. There are, however, a range of issues where the Mayor, the GLA and other pan-London organisations seek to establish negotiation or dialogue with London's boroughs. On these issues, London Councils acts as the focal point for representing borough interests – informed by the political and professional networks that we run. We then ensure that information is shared and disseminated quickly with member boroughs.

To ensure that our member authorities have influence in the decisions made at pan-London level that impact on them and the communities they serve, London Councils has developed a series of shared governance arrangements with the Mayor, Transport for London (TfL), Metropolitan Police, health and other partners, including London business organisations. London Councils nominates – on a cross party basis – members to serve in such shared governance arrangements, including the:

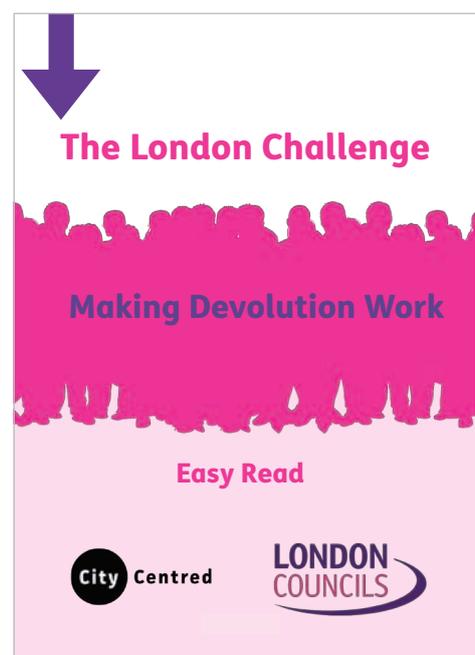
- London Crime Reduction Board
- London Enterprise Partnership
- London Health Board
- London Housing Board
- London Waste and Recycling Board

Some of these have statutory underpinning. The overall progress of these is monitored jointly by the Mayor and borough leaders.

London Councils, in conjunction with the Mayor and key health partners, was instrumental in the establishment of the London Health Board (LHB). The LHB's role is to provide leadership on health issues of pan-London significance, where this adds value to decisions, agreements and action at local level. It will make the case for appropriate resourcing of the London health economy, ensuring that the importance of London's health, and its medical research centres, to the national economy is fully recognised.

More recently, London Councils played a central role in negotiations to develop a Growth Deal for London as part of our overall programme to pursue opportunities for financial and wider devolution to London.

In addition, London Councils ensures that the London local government perspective is part of policy development at national level by, for example, organising a full set of ministerial meetings and senior official discussions, and also by promoting ideas and policies at each of the party conferences.



# Devolution and Public Service Reform

London local government has proved its ability to face up to the challenge of public finance austerity, managing the largest reduction in public funding while protecting frontline services to communities and individuals.

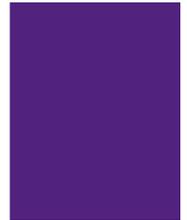
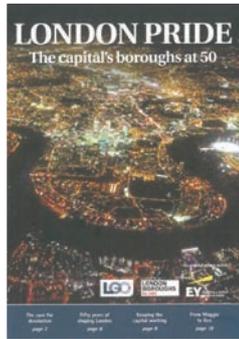
But with public finance austerity set to continue and demand for services from both a growing and an aging population rising significantly, London Councils believes that only a radical reform of public services – one that focuses on integrated, preventative services that avoid the high costs of failure – can address the scale of challenges ahead.

London boroughs have already begun to explore the initiatives that show the potential for more effective ways of delivering outcomes for residents and the role local authorities can play in bringing other public agencies together to tackle deep-rooted challenges. But London Councils believes central government now needs to go much further to help enable reform of public services and greater local autonomy that can be a springboard for a sustainable future.

To this end London Councils has continued to highlight the strong London argument for boroughs, groups of boroughs and the Mayor to be at the heart of commissioning a broader range of integrated local public services. In 2014/15 this work included:

## **Growth Deal**

- Brokered the inclusion of a devolution proposition within the London Growth Deal, working with the GLA and the London Enterprise Panel (LEP). Key components within the London Growth Deal were:
  - a. A series of employment pilots that have the potential to demonstrate the effectiveness of local integrated delivery.
  - b. The inclusion of promised 'progressive steps to unlock devolution'.
  - c. Preliminary steps to developing London influence over skills commissioning.
- Initiated discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to help shape the successor to the Work Programme.

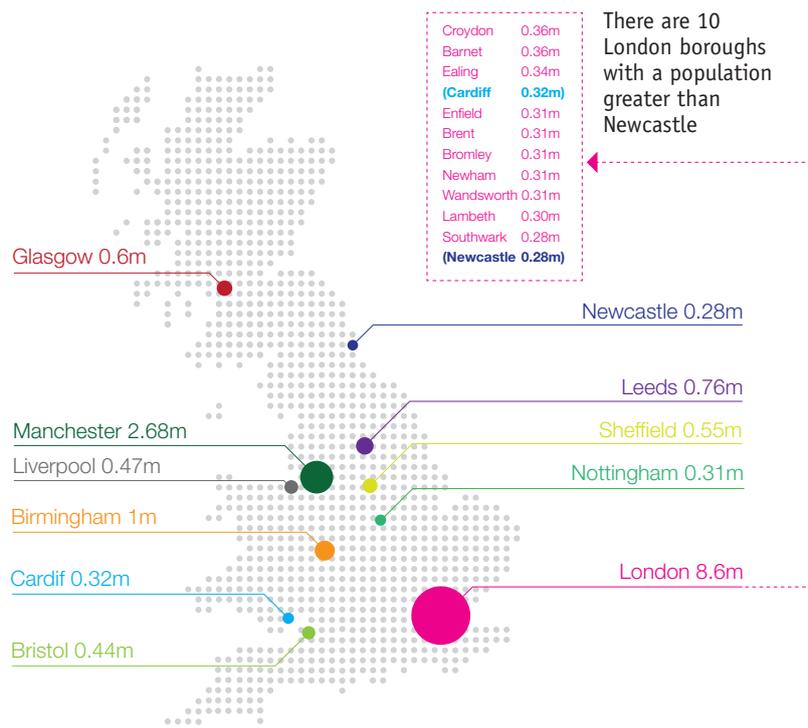


### London Proposition

- Secured agreement with the Mayor of London to a joint approach to government, proposing talks on the scope of London devolution and public service reform agreement.
- Worked closely with chief executives, boroughs and groups of boroughs to marshal evidence and to build up capacity to deliver on the proposals.
- Initiated discussions with the GLA on potential governance models for newly devolved functions (building on existing mechanisms).

### The Broader Case for Devolution

- Delivered a range of publications, briefings and events supporting the case for devolution to London, including party conference publications and events and a detailed report on the potential to expand the Troubled Families approach to complex dependency.
- Ensured that the RSA City Growth Commission took account of the unique London governance arrangements and the need for devolution below the GLA to boroughs and borough groupings
- Made the case for fiscal devolution, working with the Mayor of London and Core Cities.



# Resources

An essential core of London Councils' work is to ensure our member boroughs have the resources to deliver and improve services for Londoners and maintain the environment and the places where our communities live. We make the case for London local government in terms of both specific funding streams and its overall resource base. In 2014/15 this work included:

## **The Care Act**

Social care costs are set to account for almost 60 per cent of borough spending by 2019. London Councils was the first to develop a model of financial costs of the Care Act. The model has been influential, leading to changes in financial forecasts of government and others. The model has been used to highlight a new burdens funding pressure in London of £85 million in 2015/16 and further new burdens of at least £738 million between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

This work has been critical in getting the Department of Health to recognise that its current allocations for London are not sufficient – and resulted in the department redistributing the funds available for implementation of the Care Act in 2015/16. The government increased its funding for carers and committed to on-going funding for them. The extension of carers' rights is expected to result in £36.5 million increased costs in 2015/16. Overall the redistributive changes resulted in an increase for London of just over £1.3 million.

## **HRA borrowing cap**

London Councils and others made a sustained case to government that the artificial cap on boroughs' borrowing against their Housing Revenue Accounts (HRAs) placed a fiscally unnecessary block on building more of the new affordable homes London needs. Following extensive work by London Councils the government announced a £300 million increase in HRA borrowing capacity. Nine London boroughs have recently been awarded £63 million of the £123 million announced nationally to date.



### School places

We have successfully lobbied for funding for additional school places in London. London Councils' work has been recognised nationally as helping divert a significant amount of additional resources towards the capital for this most pressing of problems. London's share of the capital funding allocations has risen from 26 per cent in 2011 to an overall share of 33 per cent across the period up to 2017-18. This has meant an additional £520 million for London schools.

### Welfare reform

Following efforts by London Councils and individual boroughs, the government reconsidered its decision to end funding for local welfare provision and has provided an additional £74 million, of which £14 million finds its way to London.

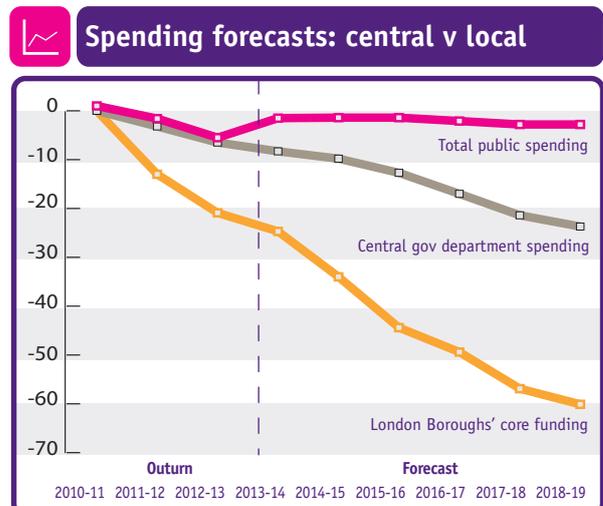
Arguments made by London Councils and individual boroughs were successful in securing a second year's targeted uplift to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates in London, (higher than the standard one per cent).

### Services for 0-5 year-olds

London Councils was successful in helping secure an additional £5.4 million in funding for 0-5 year-olds in London as part of the health visiting transfer due to take place in 2015.

### London Councils' operational and service review

In addition to securing the best possible resources for our members, London Councils has been engaged in thorough review of all the services and operations it provides to deliver the maximum possible savings to member boroughs. Savings in 2014/15, compared to the 2010/11 budget, excluding grants payments and grants administration, totalled £5.102 million.



# Economic development

An essential core of London Councils' work is to ensure our member boroughs have the resources to deliver and improve services for Londoners and maintain the environment and the places where our communities live. We make the case for London local government in terms of both specific funding streams and its overall resource base. In 2014/15 this work included:

- Improving the effectiveness of employment programmes in London.
- Improving the skills system for the capital's employers and residents.
- Driving local economic growth through high streets and town centres and supporting boroughs to develop infrastructure projects to generate economic growth.

In 2014/15 we completed the following work on behalf of member boroughs:

## **Devolution (employment and skills)**

- Developed and submitted proposals to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for how co-commissioning of mainstream employment programmes with London local government should work.
- Contributed to the development of further devolution proposals around employment and skills, working with boroughs and the GLA.
- Supported further development of the Growth Deal pilots to establish a sound evidence base for devolution of employment support.
- Published qualitative research on how to improve employment support for Londoners with complex needs, to inform our devolution work.



*Hillingdon's Inspiring Shop Fronts campaign offered 70 small businesses free design expertise*

- Working with London boroughs developed detailed proposals to inform European Social Fund (ESF) specifications for adult skills, families, in-work progression and business start-up/self-employment worth over £75 million.
- Developed proposals for better joint working between Jobcentre Plus and London boroughs.
- Held a successful London Borough Apprenticeship Awards, highlighting boroughs' work in this area. Boroughs continue to deliver a year-on-year increase in the number of apprenticeships created directly or through their supply chain.
- Ran a campaign to lobby for changes to planning Use Class Orders, specifically around dealing with clusters of betting shops and succeeded in influencing government to amend planning Use Class Orders accordingly;
- Held and promoted the Small Business Friendly Borough awards in London with the FSB to recognise excellence and raise the profile of boroughs' work.

### **Pan-London and local economic growth**

- Secured agreement from the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) for a £70 million package of proposals to drive economic growth in London, funded through the New Homes Bonus (NHB) topslice and to be delivered by all London boroughs. London Councils negotiated that the programme was co-designed jointly between London boroughs and the GLA. All funding contributed to the NHB topslice by each borough will be returned to those communities. The programme should create more than 800 jobs, place more than 6,000 Londoners into work and generate more than 2,000 apprenticeship opportunities. It should support over 6,000 businesses and create or improve 180,000 sqm of workspace/commercial space.



*Carl Pirie (LB Redbridge) collects his highly commended certificate for best progression by an apprentice.*

# Culture

London Councils recognises the important role culture and sport plays in both sustaining London's local economies and in making our localities places where people want to live, work and visit. Our work in support of culture and sport in the capital in 2014/15 included:

- Publishing two reports highlighting London's local government's wider support for arts and culture across a range of council services and its impact on the sectors.
- Working with London Sport and its new senior leadership to influence the organisation's new strategy for sport and its proposed operating model, including how it will work with London boroughs.
- Making the case against the proposed 'rebalancing' of Arts Council funding away from London, including submitting evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry.
- Supporting the formation of the London Archives Partnership, a new pan-London partnership of archive and local studies services designed to deliver efficiency savings and improve services.



# LONDON BOROUGHS

Est 1965



- We worked with boroughs to help mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the London boroughs. This included branding to be used across publicity for anniversary activities, a microsite of images from borough archives from 1965 to today and a political almanac with interactive maps and data on London's local elections over the past 50 years. London Councils also commissioned LSE Professor Tony Travers to deliver a lecture on 50 years of the London boroughs to around 300 leading figures from across London government, including borough leaders past and present, London Mayor Boris Johnson and Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP. The lecture is available to download as a booklet and an audio file from the London Councils 50th anniversary site: [boroughs50.londoncouncils.gov.uk](http://boroughs50.londoncouncils.gov.uk)



**London Councils** @londoncouncils - Mar 26  
The logo being used by @LBofHavering to mark 50th anniversary of London #boroughs50 this year



# Children's services and schools

Our children and young people team co-ordinates policy work and represents the interests of boroughs on a pan-London basis relating to all aspects children's services. They work closely with groups such as the Association of London Directors of Children's Services (ALDCS) on a broad range of issues relating to children, young people and their families. Key areas of work in 2014/15 included:

- Successfully lobbying the Department for Education (DfE) to provide additional payments to local authorities that built new primary schools, or whole primary school expansions, in 2013/14. London secured £29 million.
- Securing agreement from Leaders' Committee to develop pan-London policies to address the challenges of affordability, availability and quality of childcare that parents are tackling.
- Commissioning and publishing a series of insight essays examining the role of London boroughs in the London Challenge to inform the role boroughs can play to continue support the rise in standards.
- Commissioning and publicising a YouGov attitudinal survey that provided tangible evidence of the high levels of support among London parents for a local government role in ensuring standards in all schools, including academies and free schools.



London Councils retweet

**Mayor's Fund** @mayorsfund - Mar 16

Very interesting insight and debate this afternoon at Lessons from London launch event [@londoncouncils](#) [#Londonschools](#)

What is happening with 17+ participation, attainment and progression in London?

Report 2: Risk factors and strategies to support students in schools

A report by commissioned by London Councils Young People's Education & Skills  
Report authors:  
Ben Hodgson and Ken Smees, Institute of Education, University of London

- Overseeing the refreshing of the London Safeguarding Children's Board procedures.
- Supporting ALDCS prepare for the new Ofsted inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement.
- Continuing to promote ideas and best practice to improve child protection in the capital through the London Safeguarding Children Award (won in 2014 by 'Empower', a project set up by youth safety charity Safer London Foundation, which helps girls and young women at risk of sexual exploitation from gangs in London).
- Supporting all boroughs to prepare for the transition of health visiting and Family Nurse Partnership commissioning.
- Securing £5.4 million additional funding for under 5s in London through the health visiting transfer.
- Lobbying the Department of Health (DoH) for a fairer needs-based funding methodology for the 0-5 year-old public health from 2016/17.

## Do the Maths 2014

London's school places challenge



LONDON  
COUNCILS

# YPES

The Young People's Education and Skills (YPES) Board is the lead strategic body for 14-19 education and training services in London. It provides pan-London leadership for 14-19 education and training provision in relation to the current and future needs of learners and employers, supports local authorities in undertaking their statutory functions, and assists other stakeholders in planning, policy and provision.

The YPES works for London's boroughs and exists to guide and support them in developing their local commissioning plans in tune with regional priorities. The YPES Board brings together key stakeholders from across London to help set the region's priorities to influence and shape the education provision on offer to young people. A small YPES staff resource is based in London Councils to support the work generated by the Board. In 2014/15 the team worked to further four key priorities:

- Business and Education – London's education and learning institutions and the business community should work better together to enable more young people to succeed.
- Careers Guidance – Young people should expect to exercise informed choices about their options, progress and reach their potential.
- Better Support to Young People at 17 and 19 - Young people need to be better prepared, especially at 17 and 19, for progression to further and higher education and employment.
- Working Together – Stakeholders should work collaboratively in the interests of young people.



Achievements in 2014/15 included:

- Shaping the high level priorities for the future £129 million ESF Youth Programme (the Youth Employment Initiative) ensuring the views of London's local authorities were strongly influential.
- Supporting local authorities to increase the participation of 16 and 17 year-olds to over 90 per cent and significantly reduce the numbers of young people not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET), through regular monitoring and good-practice sharing events on participation.
- Leading and developing a programme of activity for local authorities and partners to implement ambitious reforms for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, including highlighting the need for more employers to change their recruitment practices through a highly successful media and pledge campaign.
- Effectively lobbying for improvements to careers guidance for young people, the protection of funding for full-time 18 year-old students and increases to the Dedicated Schools Grant for high needs students.

## The higher education journey of young London residents in a changing landscape

A report commissioned by London Councils Young People's Education & Skills

Report authors:

Gary Tindell BSc, MBPAS, University of East London  
Shelia Weeden, MBA MEd, London Borough of Newham  
Professor John Storan, University of East London

# Health and adult care

London's boroughs have longstanding responsibilities for adult social care that are facing significant challenge from financial and demographic pressures and considerable change with the advent of the Care Act 2014 and widened health responsibilities flowing from the Health and Social Care Act 2012. These include new public health functions and responsibility for establishing Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Social care costs are set to account for almost 60 per cent of borough spending by 2019. London Councils was the first to develop a model of financial costs of the Care Act. The model has been influential, leading to changes in financial forecasts of government and others. The model has been used to highlight a new burdens funding pressure in London of £85 million in 2015/16 and further new burdens of at least £738 million between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

This work has been critical in getting the Department of Health (DoH) to recognise that its current allocations for London are not sufficient – and resulted in the department redistributing the funds available for implementation of the Care Act in 2015/16. The government increased its funding for carers and committed to on-going funding for them. The extension of carers' rights is expected to result in £36.5 million increased costs in 2015/16.

London Councils successfully engaged in the regional process with NHS England for the assurance of draft and final Better Care Fund plans, to ensure that local government perspectives and the needs of adult social care were effectively taken into account. It has worked with NHS England and other partners to support a London Health and Care Collaborative, bringing together practitioners to share best practice, problem-solve and influence national policy to support local integration programmes. London Councils is now making the case for the future of the Better Care Fund, to operate in a more streamlined way to support local leadership of service changes. The reforms of the NHS, the Care Act and the



London Councils retweet

**Cllr Michael Borio** @MichaelBorio - Mar 20

Is London prepared to implement the #careact?  
At seminar by @londoncouncils to address this.  
£30m implementation funding shortfall in 15/16



London Councils retweet  
**NHS England London @NHSEnglandLDN - Mar 19**  
 Together with **@MayorLondon @londoncouncils @PHE\_London**, today we published Better Health for London: Next Steps plan [ow.ly/KxU9P](http://ow.ly/KxU9P)

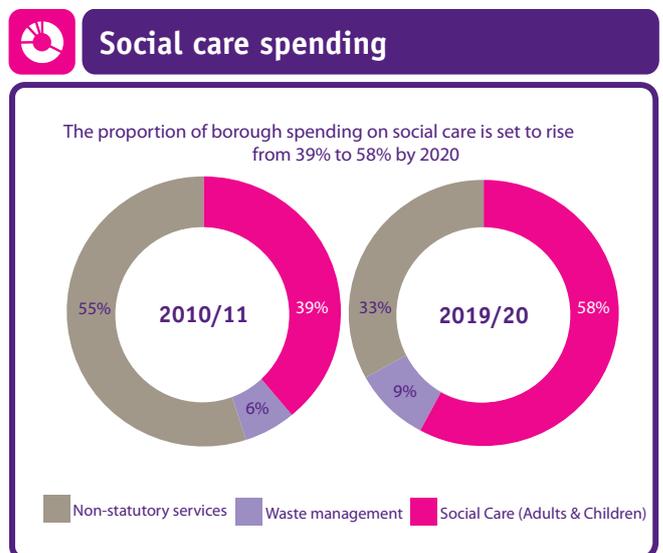
devolution of public health to local government created a new health environment in London with significant opportunities and risks for the boroughs and their localities. London Councils has responded with a range of activities, including the establishment of:

- A multi-partner steering group that oversaw the allocation regional health improvement funding from the Department of Health/LGA. In 2014/15 £98,000 funding was used to support a London-wide conference on strengthening Health & Wellbeing Boards and small grants to support local Board development.
- The London Health Board with the GLA, NHS England (London Region), Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Public Health England on which five Leaders now sit ensuring the voice of the boroughs is heard.
- The London Health Chief Officers' Group, to strengthen relationships with the NHS and influence NHS programmes in London, which includes the regional directors of NHS England and Public Health England and representatives.



In September 2013, the Mayor of London launched an independent London Health Commission, chaired by Lord Darzi. London Councils secured consideration of local government's role and interests in the work of the Commission.

Following the publication of the report in October 2014, London Councils has worked with other partners to refocus the London Health Board to provide more political leadership, including over the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, and to secure local government involvement in NHS transformation programmes.



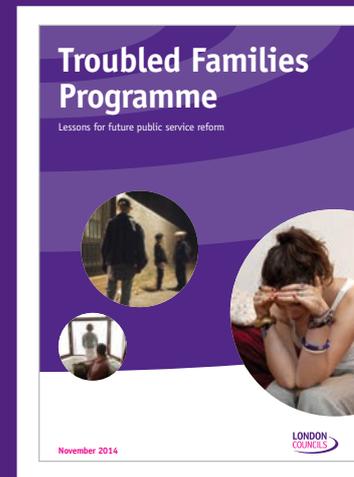
# Policing and crime

Crime is a constant feature in any survey of Londoners' prime concerns and London Councils aim is to ensure that the interests of Londoners, and their councils, are fully recognised in policing, in the development of community safety policies, and in the allocation of funding.

Our team works on a range of issues including, policing accountability, violence against women and girls, anti-social behaviour, anti-violence and reducing re-offending.

The team also plays a key role in ensuring London is fully prepared for terrorist attacks or other major emergencies in London. In 2014/15 we completed the following work on behalf of member boroughs:

- Led an initiative on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to tackle persistent challenges and develop shared approaches to new ASB powers.
- Made the case for embedding greater control and devolution of criminal justice budgets to London.
- Worked with MOPAC to influence the implementation of the Ministry of Justice's Transforming Rehabilitation reforms. This has included working to ensure the new probation provider's operating model reflects London's priorities. At an operational level, we also sought to mitigate risk through the transition to 'Transforming Rehabilitation' reforms.
- Supported boroughs delivering the Prevent Strategy in London and lobbied for borough interests in the revised legal framework and guidance.
- Published a detailed analysis of the Troubled Families programme showing the potential for London local government to integrate public services to deliver better outcomes. We hosted an event that explored the factors behind the success of the programme in London and its potential to provide a model for devolution where the benefits of integration and personalisation can be realised to improve outcomes and cut costs.



# Housing and planning

No-one now doubts that London faces a significant housing crisis and London Councils' analysis has been crucial in providing a comprehensive picture of the scale of both the existing and the projected housing shortfall in the capital, which needs an additional 526,000 new homes by 2021 just to keep pace with population growth.

London Councils has been at the forefront of highlighting London's housing crisis and supporting boroughs in managing the impact of the crisis. In 2014/15 year, London Councils has:

- Supported boroughs in agreeing a pan-London response to the problem of excessive costs for nightly paid temporary accommodation, helping to mitigate budgetary pressures for local authorities in tackling homelessness.
- Advised and supported boroughs on housing investment issues, particularly around new development through the HRA; influenced the Elphicke-House review in promoting role of boroughs as key enablers of new housing.
- Made the case to government to allow development management powers to remain in local hands, including opposing Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) proposals on extending permitted development rights.
- Lobbied parliament to allow boroughs to retain powers to manage short-term residential accommodation through the planning system. Government conceded that safeguards should be in primary legislation.
- Defended interests of boroughs in responding to the Mayor's Further Alterations to the London Plan, particularly in relation to housing delivery issues. Influenced Inspector's conclusions on borough planning responsibilities.
- Worked closely with the Greater London Authority (GLA) on shaping the Housing Zones initiative and supported boroughs on developing bids; co-hosted prospectus launch event.
- Organised and hosted councillor event with GLA and London First on housing development issues in London.
- In public commentary and consultation responses, continued to make the case for stronger housing delivery powers for boroughs, in particular lifting the HRA borrowing cap and 'full cost recovery' for planning departments.



# Transport and environment

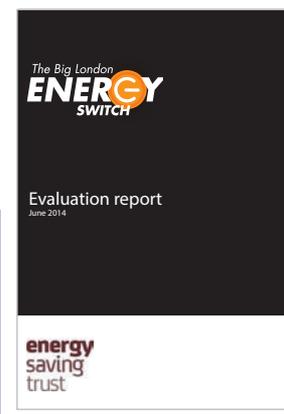
London Councils works with boroughs and develops policy on a range of transport and environmental challenges affecting the capital. London Councils' work in this area is governed by our Transport and Environment Committee (TEC), a statutory committee of councillors from the 33 London local authorities. In 2014/15 we completed the following work on behalf of member boroughs:

- Assisted interested boroughs to access funding for the Mini Holland fund provided by TfL. This represents investment in cycling infrastructure of up to £90 million in the LB of Waltham Forest, Kingston and Enfield.
- The Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC), to which TEC nominates seven members, were successful in attracting an unprecedented six year £301 million settlement for the Thames region. Upon receipt of a strong business case, Members voted in favour of a levy increase of 1.99 per cent in 2015/16 and principally for the next five years, which will bring the total investment in flood defences in the Thames region to £376 million by 2020/21.
- The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) to which London Councils nominates four members and two independent members, has established a new partnership with WRAP, "Resource London", which is overseen by a steering group formed of LWARB, LEDNET and CELC members. This partnership will invest £2.25 million in London's waste authorities to help with efficiencies, maintaining high service standards and achieving the 50 per cent recycling target for London.

## Transport and Environment

### Resourcing London

- The final evaluation report of the Big London Energy Switch (BLES) project showed that residents who switched using this scheme, saved on average £153 off their energy bill per annum. In addition, BLES was the most successful scheme of its kind in the country in attracting vulnerable residents to participate. Twenty three boroughs have continued to support further auctions using the BLES logo and communications material and funding from the original DECC bid and revenue created from the actual switches.
- Ensured that RE:NEW, the housing retrofit project led by the GLA has fuel poverty and accessing external funding sources as a key priority of phase 3. The project now has a support team in place after a successful funding bid to the European Investment Bank (EIB).



### **Supporting London delivery**

- We continued to support the Drain London partnership of GLA, Thames Water, Environment Agency and London Councils, jointly producing a London Drainage Action Plan, which will go out to consultation in 2015.
- Worked with the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) to ensure the challenges we identified in our waste paper are taken on board within their borough support programme from 2015 onwards.
- Jointly with the GLA called on government to work in partnership across all tiers of political leadership to tackle the air pollution problem in London. We are now working with the GLA on a bespoke Air Quality Management Plan for London.
- Consulted and agreed on a fixed penalty fine for anti-social spitting.
- Worked with the London Assembly to influence TfL to change the way in which TfL engages with boroughs on buses in particular. This has resulted in TfL adopting a new approach to borough engagement.
- Represented borough views at the TfL road safety steering group and influenced the Pedestrian and Cycling Safety Action Plans.
- London Councils together with TfL and GLA launched car club best practice guidance at the Car Lite event in July 2014.

### **Securing Devolution and Localism**

- Our briefings and engagement with peers was successful in raising our concerns about the Deregulation Bill to the House of Lords that resulted in changes to the provisions within it for waste collection arrangements in London.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Supporting London Delivery**

- We established ourselves as an influential voice in the infrastructure debate, working with the Mayor on the London Infrastructure Plan 2050 during its various stages;
  1. Contributed to its development
  2. Formally responded to the draft plan
  3. Providing formal representation on the London Infrastructure Delivery Board and any subsidiary groupings, such as the Green Infrastructure Task Force and the Connectivity Advisory Group.
- We continued our important role to make community representations to the Airports Commission's consultations, based on the London Councils agreed set of parameters.
- We continued to influence Crossrail 1. Our sustained pressure to increase the positive economic effects from the construction of Crossrail for more vulnerable residents and smaller and medium sized businesses, have led to Crossrail's supply chain to include 58 per cent SMEs. In addition, Crossrail is on target to employ 400 apprenticeships and has been very successful in attracting previously unemployed individuals.
- Our success around influencing Crossrail has put us in a strong position to doing the same with Crossrail 2. We have been invited and attended appropriate forums and highlighted issues through our networks and submitted responses to consultations.
- We played a key role in establishing a Car Club Coalition, representing car club operators, London Councils, GLA, TfL and other key stakeholders.
- We created a draft car club strategy, currently out for consultation to all London boroughs.

# Our services

Alongside our policy work, London Councils runs a number of direct services for and on behalf of Londoners and our member boroughs, where leaders have identified a clear benefit in these being administered by London Councils.

## Freedom Pass

The Freedom Pass provides free transport on almost all public transport in the capital to around 1.3 million older and disabled London residents. It is a much valued benefit that has been managed and paid for by London boroughs since 1986. During 2014/15, London Councils, borough officers, TfL, ATOC and Freedom Pass contractors oversaw the renewal of around 950,000 older and disabled Freedom Pass holders; whose passes expired 31 March 2015.

By the 31 March 2015, more than 83 per cent of older pass holders had completed the renewal of their Freedom Pass. For the first time pass holders could apply online and 74 per cent of those renewing did so, which far exceeded London Councils' target of 50 per cent. Boroughs also completed the reassessment of disabled pass holders and all who remain eligible received their new pass in mid-March.

During the year planning also started for the introduction of a new online and postal application process for older and disabled Freedom Pass applicants.

## Taxicard

Taxicard provides subsidised travel in licensed taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) to London residents with severe mobility or visual impairments. The scheme is funded by the London boroughs and Transport for London. It is administered on their behalf by London Councils, with CityFleet as the contractor providing Computer Cab Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles.

As of August 2014 all boroughs were serviced with PHVs. The implementation of PHVs were introduced to improve the service and to ensure that users who are unable to access Black Taxis have an alternative choice of vehicles. London Councils is constantly working with boroughs to streamline and improve the efficiency of the service for both borough councils and users of the scheme.

The scheme is available 24-hours a day, 365 days a year and 79,000 members made 1.27 million trips in 2014/15.



### the London Taxicard

#### Did you know?

- Taxicard offers subsidised travel in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles to London residents with serious mobility impairments or who are severely sight impaired
- Taxicard has been operating for 30 years
- There are currently 76,452 members
- There were 1.35 million Taxicard journeys in 2013/14
- Taxicard is funded by the participating London boroughs and the Mayor of London – and London Councils manages the scheme on their behalf!
- All taxis suitable for Taxicard members have a 'rounded' on the front of the vehicle to clearly identify them at taxi ranks or for street hailing 🚖

[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/taxicard](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/taxicard)





London Councils retweeted  
**Transport for All** @transportforall - Mar 25  
 More than 690,000 @FreedomPasLDN on their way! (@londoncouncils). Not too late to renew it: [bit.ly/1vNzmgr](http://bit.ly/1vNzmgr)



**Since being established in 2006, LEPT has:**

- Helped London boroughs to acquire over 100 million funding from the EU
- Coordinated 40 projects on behalf of boroughs
- Notified 100+ companies, shared projects
- Managed, financed, PTP Cycle, allowing boroughs to reap benefits
- Assisted 14 different London boroughs to first obtain a contract for community
- Delivered dozens of funding workshops and best practice exchanges for boroughs

**LEPT's key objectives are to:**

- Maximise the funding opportunities for London boroughs by leading bids from concept development to drafting the proposal
- Identify urban borough policy and capacity gaps to be addressed through European funding and best practice
- Ensure a coordinated approach to London borough transport and activities in European project work

**LEPT's policy areas include:**

- Walking and cycling
- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Asset demand management
- Parking and accessibility
- Collaborative change
- Real planning
- The health aspects of transport
- Local safety
- Urban health

**Contact Information**

LEPT is part of London Councils  
 20th Southwark Street  
 London  
 SE1 1UL

**General enquiries:**  
 enquiries@lept.org  
 +44 (0)20 7204 9000

You can find out more about LEPT and members of the team at our website:  
[www.lept-uk.org](http://www.lept-uk.org)  
 @lept\_info

**LEPT is a local authority partnership representing the London boroughs and based within London Councils.**

LEPT is supported by Transport for London.

**London European Partnership for Transport**

LEPT brings together London boroughs and European cities to share knowledge, identify solutions and access EU funding in the field of urban transport and mobility.

## LEPT

The London European Partnership for Transport (LEPT) helps to coordinate, disseminate and promote the sustainable transport and mobility agenda for London and London boroughs in Europe. LEPT works with the 33 London councils to build upon European knowledge and best practice, helping cities to work together to deliver specific transport policies and initiatives, and providing better value to London.

One of LEPT's main roles is to identify, bid for and manage EU transport and mobility projects involving London boroughs which support their local priorities as well as fitting into the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

London Councils' LEPT team are currently delivering two European projects; STARS and PTP Cycle. These projects aim to increase the amount of cycling by school children and in residential areas. Both are now in the delivery stages. PTP-Cycle is now rolling out Personalised Travel Planning (PTP) programmes across two wards in Haringey and Greenwich covering 10,000 households supporting the boroughs' wider smarter travel activities.

LEPT has secured more than £4 million of European funding for London boroughs' transport goals since 2006.

## Health Emergency Badge

The Health Emergency Badge (HEB) scheme is for people involved in the delivery of primary healthcare attending medical emergencies in patients' homes. HEB ensures health professionals attending emergencies in Londoners' homes are

not inadvertently penalised by parking restrictions. London Councils administers HEB on behalf of all 33 London Councils, all London Boroughs have agreed to the scheme, although it is not a mandatory provision and it is offered entirely at the discretion of London parking authorities. In 2014/15 London Councils issued 2,046 badges across London.

## London Lorry Control Scheme

Lorry deliveries are an essential part of London's commerce but Londoners need to know that noise and pollution on residential streets are kept to a minimum, particularly during unsocial hours. To ensure residents are not kept awake by late night heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), London Councils operates the London Lorry Control Scheme that regulates the movement of HGVs at night and at weekends through a system of permits. Enforcement of the scheme is carried out by a team who patrol London and target specific locations where HGVs may be travelling at night or on weekends.

The scheme has been enforced for 30 years with over 3,600 hauliers registered for permissions, amounting to approximately 62,000 vehicles registered to the scheme.

The administration of the scheme continues to prove year-on-year how important it is to residents living in London. For the past two years no financial contributions have been requested from our representative authorities, with this trend set to continue.



London Councils is looking at new technologies to enhance enforcement practice and further streamline efficiencies to keep costs down.

### **London Safer Lorry Scheme**

In response to the significant and disproportionate number of cyclist and pedestrian collisions involving heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), London Councils together with TfL and Heathrow will be introducing a Safer Lorry Scheme from 1 September 2015. All roads in Greater London are covered by the approved traffic orders and require vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes to be fitted with sideguards and class V and class VI mirrors where appropriate. Six hundred warning signs on the boundary of Greater London are being introduced, and targeted advertising of the scheme has commenced. Enforcement will be undertaken by the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

### **CCTV**

Towards the end of 2013 the government proposed and consulted on a series of parking reforms including restrictions on the use of CCTV enforcement and the introduction of mandatory grace periods and compensation for people if they lose at appeal. London Councils worked with boroughs to provide a comprehensive response to the consultations explaining how some of the proposals will have significant impacts on London authorities' ability to manage their highways safely and efficiently. Following the introduction of new parking regulations in April 2015, London Councils will continue to fight on behalf of boroughs for a

fair, balanced and consistent approach to parking enforcement, and continues to provide detailed information, guidance and support to boroughs.

### **Parking and Traffic Consultation**

London Councils works closely with TfL and the boroughs to ensure consistency and fairness in all enforcement activity across London. We periodically consult on, and set, the level of penalty for parking and moving traffic contraventions. London Councils also provides guidance and runs innovative pilot schemes and projects to deliver parking and highway enforcement in the fairest and simplest way. It convenes borough officer forums in the areas of parking management, highways and traffic signals. These forums are used to formulate policy and share best practice.

### **TRACE – towed vehicle tracing service**

London Councils provides a central helpline service for motorists whose vehicle may have been towed away. We can help if a vehicle is removed for illegal parking by any council in London. The helpline is open 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. TRACE will advise which pound the vehicle has been moved to and provide information on the procedure for release. The service receives between 5,000 and 6,000 calls a month and has consistently met its target that 95 per cent of calls be answered within 12 seconds.

### **Parking on Private Land Appeals (POPLA)**

London Councils operates the Parking on Private Lane Appeals (POPLA) service under contract with the British Parking Association (BPA). The contract ends on 1 October 2015.

### **Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS)**

The Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) provides a free, independent adjudication service for motorists to decide disputed parking and bus lane penalties issued by local authorities and TfL. PATAS aims to provide a speedy, quality service that gives fair and impartial decisions, is easy to understand, as informal as possible and efficient. PATAS has a team of Adjudicators who decide the appeals and can direct the local authority involved to cancel the penalty.

Consultants to the former Lord Chancellor's Department have described PATAS as 'the most user focused aspect of justice in the country'.

PATAS is administered by London Councils and is delivered, up until 02 July 2015, by Capita. Following a rigorous tendering exercise in 2014, London Councils awarded the contract to help manage and deliver the PATAS service to Northgate. The new contract will commence on 03 July 2015 with aims to enhance the service with an online portal for appeals.



# Grants Programme

London Councils runs a longstanding, pan-London grants scheme on behalf of all 33 London councils.

Through our grants programme we fund projects to address four pan-London priorities:

- Homelessness
- Sexual and Domestic Violence
- ESF tackling poverty through employment
- Providing support to London's voluntary and community organisations

Our grants work is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) programme - every pound the boroughs contribute is matched by a pound of European Social Funding.

In 2014-15, our grants programme:

- Commissioned eight voluntary organisations across the capital to deliver much-needed support to 14,428 homeless people.
- Commissioned 11 voluntary organisations to support 24,939 people who have experienced sexual and domestic violence.

- Commissioned six voluntary organisations to build the capacity and resilience of key parts of the voluntary sector in London.
- Helped 1,286 disadvantaged people into sustained employment through job search training and support targeted at people who have been out of work for long periods.
- Helped 900 people with hard-to-reach issues such as debt and social isolation towards the world of work and in many cases into employment.
- London Councils' ESF Programme was singled out for commendation by the Project Management Committee (run by the DWP to manage overall ESF) as one of the best examples, particularly in terms of job outcomes performance and meeting equality targets and one for others to learn from.



**European Union**  
**European Social Fund**  
Investing in jobs and skills

## Case study

**Project:** Ending Harmful Practices

**Lead partner:** Asian Women's Resource Centre

**Delivery partner:** Women and Girls Network

"I came to this country after escaping from my home country, where I was forced into marriage and sent to live with my husband. When I joined my husband he took me to live with him in his home where he locked me in the flat and would beat me every day. He would say if I told anyone he would kill me, I was so terrified.

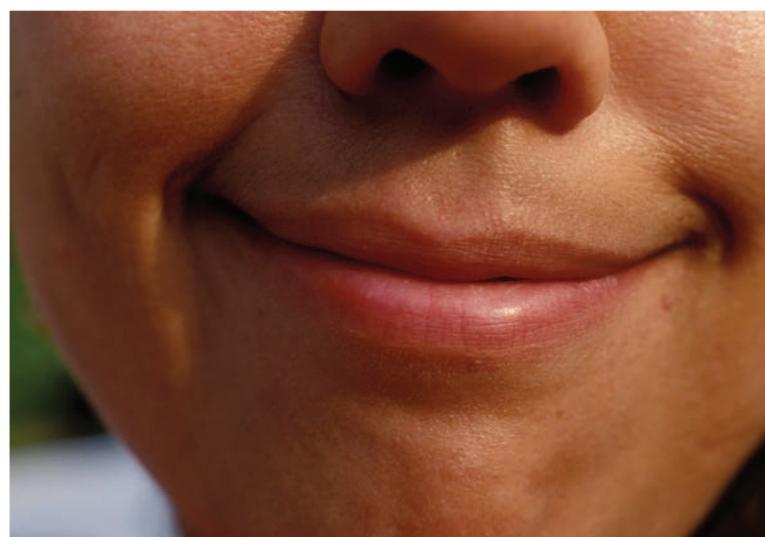
One day some men came and took me away and before I knew, I was somewhere in England being told this was my new home and I would need to have sex with men to pay for staying in this house. I was giving up on life but something inside me when I realised I was pregnant knew I needed to escape this hell. Then one day when I saw a small opportunity I ran out the door and just kept running.

A few months later I ended up in London and was sitting with an advice worker at the Poppy Project. I shared how I got to London and everything I had gone through since being forced into marriage. The worker at the Poppy Project discussed counselling and some specialist support for what I had experienced. She told me about an organisation called Women & Girls Network and completed a referral to them for me.

When I came to my first appointment the counsellor explained to me what they did and how long they have been helping women. When I slowly began to tell her my story she began telling me what I was seeing everyday was normal after going through trauma and explained I was experiencing something called Post-traumatic stress disorder. I couldn't believe it was normal and she understood.

I am now half way through my counselling and during one of my sessions I actually cried, I told my counsellor that I never cried in front of anyone, especially my husband and the men who abused me as I didn't want them to know they had won and I was weak. I even have shared the abuse I went through by my father and how sad I feel at times knowing my mother is still probably suffering this pain and I can't help her at all.

Before I came to Women & Girls Network I didn't trust I could get better and be happy again with my child and plan our lives ahead... but now I am slowly really opening up when I come here and when I speak to my counsellor I feel I am getting better. If I am honest I'm still scared, but I hope this will also change in time, as I want to help women like me from my community like I've been helped."



# Care Services

London Care Services (LCS) works on behalf of 40 local authorities (31 London boroughs, the City of London and eight partner authorities), supporting them in their local commissioning of outstanding services for looked after children (LAC) and young people.

London Care Services manages a single contract with providers of services for looked-after children. Member councils can draw down services from these providers without having to renegotiate contract terms and costs. This service eliminates wasteful bureaucracy by centralising the contracting work, while giving councils the freedom they need to choose between contracted providers.

The work of LCS adds value to our member boroughs; contracting centrally removes the need for boroughs to undertake the same checks on the same contracts and organisations. By representing 40 members, LCS also offers a stronger bargaining position when negotiating costs with providers of services.

In 2014/15 we completed the following work on behalf of member boroughs:

- Effectively negotiated competitive prices for local authorities to spot purchase quality services for LAC.
- Re-contracted with 333 care service providers to deliver a managed market for London.

Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities at the London Care Services Conference 2015



- Vetted new services wanting to join the London Model Contract.
- Provided a valued source of support, information sharing and best practice.
- Continued to deliver londoncareplacements.gov.uk, a secure platform for information sharing.
- Delivered the LCS Conference 2015, an event that brought together boroughs and the independent sector to discuss the commissioning and procurement of services for LAC.



**London Councils** @londoncouncils - Feb 11  
Didn't make it to the London #careservice2015 conference? Take a look at our short film to see what you missed [youtu.be/5Hclly4Glg](http://youtu.be/5Hclly4Glg)



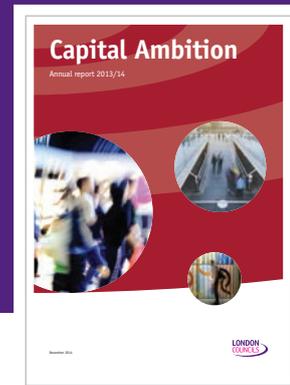
**London Care Services Conference 2015**  
Speakers, delegates and exhibitors from the London Service Conference 2015 held at the Kia Oval

# Capital Ambition

London Councils is home to the Capital Ambition programme that evolved from the regional improvement and efficiency partnership. Between 2008 and 2013 the Capital Ambition grants programme invested £34 million in funding projects in all 33 London Councils to achieve £87 million of cashable savings. By 2016 the programme is forecast to have delivered total savings of £356 million. This would take the programme return on investment to an impressive 13:1.

Capital Ambition has evolved and with the austerity measures likely to continue for the foreseeable future, maintaining the space and opportunity for councils to innovate is a valuable way to support public service delivery.

A key strand of the current Capital Ambition activity is the London Ventures programme. Capital Ambition is working in partnership with EY (formerly Ernst & Young) to deliver London Ventures. The partnership involves EY acting as a strategic brokerage service bringing new



and innovative ideas from the private and third sectors to help meet some of the key challenges facing local government. London Councils' role is in advocating ventures, promoting emerging innovation and transformation opportunities among London's authorities.

The Capital Ambition Board has approved three generations of Ventures to date, which are now being showcased to boroughs through workshops and presentations. Early momentum is now gathering with four of the Ventures being implemented in 10 different boroughs in total. The Spacehive London Venture has seen over £500,000 of additional investment in civic projects and spaces – much of this from citizens themselves that have been inspired and empowered to act. Whilst implementing Oxygen Finance is set to return £1.5 million to one local authority over the next five years, and implementing robotic automation is already speeding up one local authority process by seven times: as the programme grows so too will the combined impact both in terms of direct savings and improved service delivery for Londoners.



London Councils retweet  
**EY Government Public** @EY\_GovtPublic - Mar 20  
#EY shortlisted for Best Innovation project with @LondonCouncils  
for #LondonVentures #MCAwards

# London Self Improvement Board

Collaborative work between boroughs on self-improvement, mutual challenge and support goes back to the founding of Capital Ambition, and in recent years has been directed by the London Self Improvement Board, comprising a number of borough chief executives, senior chief officer representatives and representatives of London Councils. The board liaises at a political level with the Chair of London Councils Leaders' Committee on key issues and with relevant political portfolio holders across London.

The board provides an overall coherence to London's engagement with national improvement programmes and also supports the work of chief officer groupings across London seeking to drive improvement. It provides Leaders' Committee and the Chief Executives London Committee (CELC) with advice on putting robust tools and techniques in place to identify areas of key risk to performance across London local government and triggering remedial action where appropriate

Concentrating on key risk areas; Adult Social Care, Children's Social Services and the overall financial and corporate health of individual authorities, the board has helped to develop, review and challenge a number of tools for supporting self-improvement. The London Authority Performance Solution (LAPS) and Chief Executive to Chief Executive (CE2CE) and Treasurer to Treasurer (T2T) peer challenge processes are part of these developments. Recognising the importance of the sector demonstrating a consistent approach to self-improvement and showing councils are open to identifying performance challenges and acting upon them, both peer challenge processes in 2014/15 featured the highest number of participants taking part to date.



# London Procurement Strategy Board

London currently spends more than £8 billion on goods and services through third parties. While on an individual basis London Boroughs are making substantial savings on their local third party expenditure, there is good evidence from work carried out under the governance of the London Procurement Strategy Board (LPSB) that taking a broader approach can offer additional cross-cutting opportunities that would otherwise be missed.

LPSB was formed to assess what opportunities exist to take a strategic view of third party spend across the London boroughs to achieve savings and efficiencies.

A major component of the LPSB work is to locate procurement decision making at the right organisational level – either devolved to individual councils, or aggregated at sub-regional (e.g. West London Alliance), regional (i.e. the whole of London) or national level.

The LPSB has identified a number of categories of spending that could potentially be purchased cheaper were councils to aggregate their requirements and buy them collectively, the outcomes of the collective work has produced considerable benefits for London as set out below:

- ICT has now been taken on as a national project – Local Authority Software Applications framework was implemented in 2014 and at the

time of writing has a pipeline of £45 million, a national ICT category strategy has been launched.

- A successful pan-London project was undertaken to implement a wireless concession contract for lampposts. 16 boroughs participated in the arrangement with 14 going on to sign contracts. This will generate many millions of pound income for those boroughs over the 10 year concession contract.
- A second phase project involving the exploitation of rooftop assets could also generate significant income and discussions are being held with a consultancy on the feasibility of this and the opportunity it may provide.

Co-ordination of procurements of the LPSB over the next one to two years include:

- i) Sexual Health - a particular opportunity exists currently to take forward a significant procurement for Sexual Health Services as part of the Public Health services that were transferred to local authorities.
- ii) Adults and Children – these are very large areas of expenditure and the LPSB recognises that better engagement needs to be held with representatives from ALDACS and ADASS to identify how best procurement activity could support the outcomes they need to deliver.

# Income and expenditure 2014/15

## Expenditure

Employee costs	5,299,000.00
Running costs	2,716,000.00
Direct services - Parking and traffic	11,514,000.00
Direct services - European contract	66,000.00
Payments in respect of Freedom Pass and Taxicard	359,648,000.00
Commissioned grant payments	9,420,000.00
Improvement and efficiency	305,000.00
Young People Education and Skills (YPES) regional/provider activity	132,000.00
Commissioning and Research	552,000.00
One-off borough payment	1,309,000.00
Other operating expenditure	60,000.00
	<b>391,021,000.00</b>

## Income

Contribution in respect of Freedom Pass and Taxicard	360,051,000.00
Borough contribution towards commissioned grant payments	8,540,000.00
Borough contribution towards YPES activity	66,000.00
Direct services - Parking and traffic	11,920,000.00
Core member subscriptions	6,131,000.00
Borough contribution to LCP payments	210,000.00
Government grants	1,461,000.00
Other income	633,000.00
Use of Reserves	2,009,000.00
	<b>391,021,000.00</b>

# Keeping you informed

**Website** – London Councils’ website was visited by more than 959,751 users in the last year and serves a variety of purposes and functions for a wide range of stakeholders, including members, officers and policy makers, as well as Londoners and London businesses who rely on services such as the Freedom Pass, the Health Emergency Badge or the London Lorry Control Scheme.

In 2015 we updated our website to better serve the needs of all users and the fully redesigned site launched in April 2015. Among the features of the new website is are:

- A fully updated and responsive design.
- The members’ dashboard which enables our members to edit and personalise their own content.
- A new platform for our rich policy and services content including comments, blogging and more.

**Key Issues** – our weekly e-newsletter, sent to more than 8,000 subscribers across the capital each Wednesday morning, provides a quick summary of the issues affecting London local government and the evolving policy landscape in the capital.

**Member Briefings** – our member briefing service provides members with timely policy analysis and information across all our main policy themes directly to their inbox. The newly designed website enables members to edit and amend their preferences more easily than ever before. In 2014/15 we sent 74 briefings to subscribing members.

**Parliamentary Briefings** – we regularly brief MPs and Peers on government bills that affect London Boroughs. In 2014/15 these included briefings in support of our lobbying work on the Deregulation Bill, which included topics on short-term lets, domestic waste and CCTV use in parking control. We also briefed Parliamentarians ahead of important debates on devolution, the Chancellor’s autumn statement and the Freedom Pass renewal. Our briefings and policy positions were cited on a large number of occasions in both Houses.

**Twitter** – London Councils’ Twitter account @londoncouncils has around 14,400 followers who receive up-to-date news on all the latest developments in London local government as they happen.

**London Government Directory** – a free copy of our annual London Government Directory, sponsored by the London Communication Agency, is sent to every member and senior officers in all 33 London local authorities. The Directory is also available to view online at [www.director.londoncouncils.gov.uk](http://www.director.londoncouncils.gov.uk)

**Policy reports** – London Councils publishes a comprehensive range of policy reports providing data, analysis and recommendations on key policy challenges in the capital. In 2014 these included reports on school places, further education and skills, health and wellbeing, culture, welfare reform, homelessness and troubled families.



Jules Pipe  
Mayor of Hackney (Lab) and Chair of London Councils

## Events and awards

**The London Summit** – Our annual flagship event is free to all London members and senior borough officers. Our 2014 Summit - held on 22 November at the City of London’s Guildhall - saw hundreds of councillors of all political parties from the 32 London boroughs and the City of London, as well as representatives from the business, public and voluntary sectors, gather to engage in debate and share experiences from across the capital.

**Awards** – London Councils supports and organises a number of awards on behalf of boroughs that highlight and share their successes:

**The London Borough Apprenticeship Awards** - Established in 2011 to showcase the value of apprenticeships to London boroughs, how borough staff have contributed to apprentices’ success and how boroughs are helping to maximise apprenticeship opportunities with contractors and suppliers. Outstanding work in this field by Camden, Hackney, Enfield, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets were all recognised in the 2014 Awards.

**The Andy Ludlow Homelessness Awards** - The awards are sponsored by the London Housing Foundation, the London boroughs and Shelter and run by London Councils. Inside Housing magazine is our media partner. The awards are the country’s leading homelessness awards, with prize money awarded to the organisations that demonstrate innovative and creative solutions to tackling homelessness in the capital. Groundswell UK’s ‘health peer advocacy service’ took the top prize of £30,000 in the 2014 awards.

### **The London Safeguarding Children Awards**

- Run by London Councils on behalf of the London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), the awards showcase good and promising practice in safeguarding and child protections. The 2014 winner of the award was Empower, a project set up by Safer London Foundation to help girls and young women at risk of sexual exploitation by gangs in London.

### **The Small Business Friendly Awards**

- Organised by London Councils and the London Region of The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) the awards are an opportunity to celebrate projects or initiatives delivered by the London boroughs that have a positive impact on London’s small business community. Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Greenwich and Merton were all recognised for their work in support of their local small businesses in 2014.



Mark Boleat  
Policy Chairman of City of London Corporation

# London Councils executive members 2014/15

Our Leaders' Committee, which consists of the Leaders and directly elected Mayors of London's 33 local authorities, meets regularly throughout the year to discuss and agree policy issues of importance to Londoners. A list of all Leaders' Committee dates, along with agenda and minutes of past meetings is available at [www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees).

At its summer AGM, the Leaders' Committee elects a chair, deputy chair and vice chairs for the organisation. A cross-party Executive acts as a forum for more detailed policy development and reports to the Leaders' Committee.

The Executive is made up of 11 councillors from across the political groups. Our leading members and their portfolios in 2014/15 were:

<b>Mayor Jules Pipe</b> (Lab)	- Chair of London Councils
<b>Cllr Claire Kober</b> (Lab)	- Deputy Chair and executive member for infrastructure and regeneration
<b>Cllr Peter John</b> (Lab)	- Executive member for children, skills and employment
<b>Cllr Teresa O'Neill</b> (Con)	- Vice Chair and executive member for health
<b>Mark Boleat</b> (Ind)	- Vice Chair
<b>Cllr Lib Peck</b> (Lab)	- Executive member for crime and public protection
<b>Cllr Ruth Dombey</b> (LibDem)	- Vice Chair
<b>Cllr Philippa Roe</b> (Con)	- Executive member and Conservative Group Lead on devolution and public service reform
<b>Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE</b> (Con)	- Executive member for adult social care
<b>Mayor Sir Steve Bullock</b> (Lab)	- Executive member for housing
<b>Cllr Julian Bell</b> (Lab)	- Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee

In addition, the following members also played key leadership roles:

<b>Cllr Paul McGlone</b> (Lab)	- Chair of Grants Committee
<b>Cllr Roger Ramsey</b> (Con)	- Chair of Audit Committee
<b>Cllr Marie Pye</b> (Lab)	- Lead member for equalities
<b>Edward Lord OBE</b> (Ind)	- Chair of Capital Ambition Board

Group whips

**Labour Cllr Clyde Loakes** (Waltham Forest)

**Conservative Cllr Ravi Govindia** (Wandsworth)

London Councils  
59½ Southwark Street  
London SE1 0AL  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk)  
020 7934 9999

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