

## Rewiring Public Services – Q&A

### 1. What is ‘Rewiring Public Services’?

Rewiring Public Services is a new LGA campaign.

The campaign launched with a key publication “**Rewiring Public Services – Rejuvenating Democracy**”, plus four supporting documents and an animation.

The campaign sets out:

- the changes needed at both a local and national level so that public services can help communities to meet people’s future needs and aspirations
- how public services can be transformed through local leadership by rebuilding democratic participation, fixing public services and revitalising the economy
- important challenges to local government, to our communities, to our partners, but most of all to central government.

The campaign is designed to run until 2015 and will seek to influence the manifesto formulation process in the run-up to the general election in that year.

### 2. How did it come about?

We have travelled up and down the country since early 2013 garnering the views of colleagues in local government – both politicians and officers.

We have heard consistently of the issues that most concern local people and have set out an approach that:

- is innovative, deliverable and sustainable
- will tackle long-term structural issues far beyond a shopping list of obvious one-off savings.

We have been impressed by the ambition of leaders, leading councillors, chief executives and others from across England. They have helped us to shape the detail of this offer and ensured that we brought local and regional perspectives to these big issues.

### 3. What are the campaign’s main objectives?

We want to enhance the quality of life of everyone by:

- rejuvenating democracy and giving back to people real reasons to participate in civic life and their communities
- transforming public services so they prevent problems instead of just picking up the pieces
- boosting economic growth in a way that offers prosperity to every place.

The campaign will also:

- Influence the manifesto formulation process in the run up to the 2015 general election

- Show members that we are working on their behalf to promote good practice and innovation at a national level
- Create a clear identity for the LGA's campaigning work.

#### **4. What are the big ideas?**

We have 10 propositions that we feel that should be taken on in order to rejuvenate democracy, transforming public services and boost economic growth. These will be set out in the "Rejuvenating democracy" publication and supporting documents – these are:

1. Give people a meaningful vote on local tax and spending issues: a local treasury in every place.
2. Cut red tape: bring local services and decisions together in one place.
3. Reduce bureaucracy and Whitehall silos: merge six government departments and create an England Office.
4. Share money fairly across the UK by replacing the Barnett formula with a new needs-based funding model.
5. Take financial distribution out of ministers' hands and replace it with agreement across English local government.
6. Strengthen local say by reducing ministers' powers to intervene in local decisions.
7. End flawed, tick box inspections by bureaucrats: create local service user champions.
8. Boost investment in infrastructure: create a thriving market in municipal bonds.
9. A multi-year funding settlement tied to the life of a Parliament.
10. Protect local democracy: give the local government settlement formal constitutional protection.

#### **5. What are the areas of focus?**

The campaign has four strands –

Economic growth  
 Financial sustainability  
 Children's services  
 Adult social care and health

We will be launching the campaign with five publications setting out each area of the Rewiring Public Services campaign.

[www.local.gov.uk/campaigns](http://www.local.gov.uk/campaigns)