



### LGA update

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### Overall context for councils

- A turbulent few months politically and economically....!
- Hiatus... and change...
- Existing financial challenges compounded by fiscal context.
- Covid 19 swiftly followed by cost of living issues
- Backdrop of recruitment challenges and skills shortages



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### The fiscal challenge

- Backdrop of austerity
- Energy costs, wider inflation, pay award
- Existing stark choices....
- £2.4 billion shortfall in 2022/23...
- Funding gaps of £3.4 billion in 2023/24....£4.5 billion in 2024/25 to stay at 2019/20 services
- ...and impact of mini budget

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**A local service  
can't be  
cut  
twice**

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**The ask**

- Sustainable funding
- Devolution

=best bang for buck in tight  
fiscal climate

**Simples**

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**Autumn statement: 17 November**  
  


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### LGA training resources

- We have [updated our licensing e-learning module](#), which covers the principles of being on a licensing committee.
- We have also [developed a series of short, interactive videos](#) in which we provide various licensing scenarios for members to work through. Members are encouraged to reflect on how they would respond, before being given tips on the sort of thing they should consider.
- To complement this, we are running a [fully subsidised Licensing Leadership Essentials Course](#) in March and another in Autumn 2023. We plan on running two a year.

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### Licensing updates

- **Taxi and PHV licensing:** reform pledged in the Levelling Up White Paper and potential for a Transport Bill which includes taxi/PHV licensing provisions.
- **Alcohol and entertainment:** Home Office's work on regulatory easements. The LGA has also produced some [guidance for licensing authorities on spiking](#).
- **Gambling:** waiting on the publication of the Gambling Act Review White Paper. We are also refreshing our guidance on taking a whole council approach to gambling harms.
- **Online forms:** the LGA is engaged in discussions with the GDS and pressing for urgent clarity.

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### Questions

- If we can ever help with anything, please get in touch – [jade.hall@local.gov.uk](mailto:jade.hall@local.gov.uk) and [ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk)

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