

Stroud District Council



Benefits of LGA Membership	
Political Group Offices	Access to the four political groups at the LGA – Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independent – who influence, liaise and network with government, shadow teams and party administrations, and help to sustain wider LG Group campaigns, policy, media & public affairs work.
Boards and Panels	Councillors appointed to our Programme Boards, Panels, Committees, informal advisory groups or the Councillors' Forum have the opportunity to influence the LG Group's work nationally.
Rural and Urban Commissions	Member councils can appoint up to two representatives to the Rural or Urban Commission, which provide a forum for rural and urban authorities to discuss matters of common concern, exchange good practice.
Special Interest Groups	LGA Special Interest Groups (or SIGs) provide a forum for councils with a shared interest to meet, discuss and influence the work of the LGA. All SIGs, including the District Councils' Network and County Councils' Network, have access to LGA administrative support and meeting space.
Legal Opinions	On certain complex issues, the LGA will commission legal advice, opinion and guidance at its own cost, and make the outcome available free of charge to member councils. Legal opinions can often cost individual non-member authorities tens of thousands of pounds.
Media	As the national media office for local government, we offer advice and support to all our members on national media relations and are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The media team also provides the free fortnightly magazine, <i>first</i> , a daily e-mail bulletin summarising all stories relevant to local government in the national media, and a weekly e-mail alerting council officers to upcoming events relevant to the sector.
Facilities	Local Government House is a resource for the benefit of LGA member councils. Councillors can use the dedicated Business Centre, or Open Council for an informal meeting space with self-service refreshments, additional workstations and a flat screen television. The Members' Lounge is ideal for quiet work, with further workspace, a flat screen television and access to the Bruce Lockhart roof terrace.
Free Room Hire	Meeting rooms in Local Government House are available free of charge to LGA member authorities, between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. These range from small quiet rooms for two to three people, to the Westminster Suite (with sweeping views of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament) and Bevin Hall which can accommodate up to 100 people with breakout rooms for larger events. A charge is made for any refreshments.
Website	By registering on the members-only site, members can access up-to-the-minute news, briefings and statements from the LGA. The site also offers downloadable publications, access to the LGA public affairs network containing briefings and legislative updates on local government bills, and the LGA's webcast microsite, which broadcasts speeches, ministerial addresses, highlights of events and key announcements.
Royal Garden Parties	Councils in membership of the LGA receive an annual allocation of invitations to the Royal Garden Parties held at Buckingham Palace each summer.