



# STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SURVEY 2020

Published February 2020

**THE MJ LGiU**

## About the State of Local Government Finance Report

The LGiU and MJ have collaborated on the State of Local Government Finance Report every January since 2012 to coincide with English councils setting their annual budgets. The results of our annual survey give a snapshot of the key pressures facing councils and the impact of ongoing financial uncertainty on their communities.

The 2020 survey was sent to senior decision-makers at each of England's 343 councils (council leaders, chief executives, cabinet members for finance/resources and directors of finance/resources) between 13th and 27th January 2020.

This year we received 195 responses from 152 individual councils, meaning that almost half of English councils are represented in the results. We received responses from a broad cross-section of councils, encompassing county, district and unitary authorities, a mixture of political control, and all regions. A full breakdown is included below.

The survey questions covered topics including income sources, confidence, service level spending and innovation.

## Executive Summary

- ▶ Nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase council tax in 2020/21, with most (93%) planning to raise it by more than 1.5%
- ▶ 90% of councils with social care responsibilities are planning to make use of the social care precept in 2020/21
- ▶ Nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase fees and charges in 2020/21, with some being forced to raise them 'by the maximum possible amount' (14%)
- ▶ Over half of councils (57%) plan to use their reserves this year; most of these councils (74%) also used their reserves last year
- ▶ Most councils (86%) said that exploring other sources of income aside from council tax and business rates is a high priority or essential
- ▶ Confidence in the sustainability of local government finance remains very low, with three quarters (74%) of councils saying they do not feel confident
- ▶ 1 in 10 councils (12%) say they are in danger of being unable to fulfil statutory duties this year
- ▶ 1 in 7 councils (14%) said they anticipate an increase in judicial challenges to the level of service provision this year
- ▶ Children's Services & Education was the top immediate pressure, while Adult Social Care remains the top longterm pressure
- ▶ Two thirds (66%) think that councils will become more reliant on income from commercial investments in the future
- ▶ Three quarters of councils (75%) plan to increase their level of borrowing over the coming year
- ▶ For over half of councils (59%), the Public Works Loan Board interest rate rise has forced them to alter their 2020/21 financial plans. Nevertheless most (87%) still hope to borrow from the PWLB this year, while 23% plan to use the Municipal Bonds Agency
- ▶ 75% of councils said they were exploring local commercial developments, 71% are looking at local housing developments and 47% are considering investing in energy projects this year
- ▶ 77% lack confidence in 100% Business Rate Retention as a mechanism to fund local government. However, two thirds (63%) still said that they would support it

- ▶ **Alternative funding models which have support include local income tax (46%), having more freedom to levy other local taxes (40%), a local share of the new digital tax (38%), tourist tax (36%) and a local share of corporation tax (31%)**
- ▶ **Two thirds (67%) called for the scrapping of the council tax referendum requirement**
- ▶ **Nearly all councils (98%) say they are planning work to tackle climate change. In order to fund this work, a quarter (25%) are planning to attract external investment and almost a quarter (22%) intend to borrow**
- ▶ **There was near universal disappointment in the Government's progress delivering a sustainable funding system for local government (97%) and a longterm social care strategy (98%)**

## Forewords

### Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive of LGiU

The state of local government finances is dire. Eight years later and the message continues to be the same, a broken record. It is simply unacceptable that the Government has let things get to this point. Councils deserve better as they work tirelessly, day in and day out, to deliver the best quality services for their residents.



This isn't local government asking for more money. This is about a fundamentally flawed system that has been broken for years and the Government continually refusing to acknowledge or engage in a proper solution. Sticking plasters will not solve these critical issues. Our social care system is no longer on the edge, it's fallen off the cliff. Our children's services aren't at breaking point, they're broken. These are issues that cannot wait another year to be solved. That is why we look forward to working with the new Government to develop solutions in the weeks and months ahead.

### Heather Jameson, Editor of The MJ

The local government funding system is in desperate need of an overhaul. Despite a decade of austerity, local government is doing a valiant job of holding their services together, but they can't go on forever without proper funding. While the Government is reviewing the current funding system, the reforms are unlikely to go far enough to pay for the vital services that care for our elderly, protect our children, and help our communities thrive.



As a country, we need to have a serious debate about the state of our state. We need to consider what services we want and how to pay for them. And we need to give local government the powers to get on with the job.

## Introduction

The 8th annual State of Local Government Finance Report gives a snapshot of the pressures facing councils. We ask the most senior figures in each council to tell us their plans for the coming year in the run-up to setting their annual budget. This year 195 council leaders, chief executives, cabinet members for finance and finance directors took part, representing almost half of all English councils.

The results help us to assess the impact of policies and highlight areas that are of current or future concern. As an independent, cross-party membership body we hope to bring together the voice of the sector and contribute to the strength of our local democracy.

## What we found

Councils are still struggling financially after years of public sector cuts and ongoing uncertainty about the future of the local government funding system. Only 3 per cent of councils are happy with the Government's progress on local finances and only 20% of councils are confident this will be prioritised going forward.

Nearly all councils have been forced to raise council tax and increase charges to make ends meet this year. Despite the increase, one in ten councils believe there is a danger they will be unable to fulfil their statutory duties. Nearly a quarter of councils believe their 2020/21 financial plans will lead to cuts that are noticed by the public.

Children's services and education was named as the top immediate pressure for council finances, followed by adult social care and housing and homelessness. Adult social care was named as the top long-term pressure for council finances.

However councils continue to take bold decisions to generate new income and are making ambitious plans to address the challenges of the future. Many councils are looking at investing in property developments and energy projects and commercialising council services in order to secure their council's longterm financial sustainability. Almost all councils are planning extra work to tackle climate change and are seriously considering how to fund this work, whether through borrowing, external investment or other sources.

These findings tell a story of local government, while battling with the consequences of years of under-investment and neglect, continuing to be ambitious and innovative on behalf of their residents and places.



nurseries



health and safety checks



new housing



bus shelters

# What does my council do?



gritting the roads



elderly care



allotments



social housing



equipment for disabilities



youth centres



museums



taxi licenses



leisure centres



trading standards



adoption & fostering



parks



public health



bins & recycling



public space



street cleaning



public toilets



schools

## Current situation

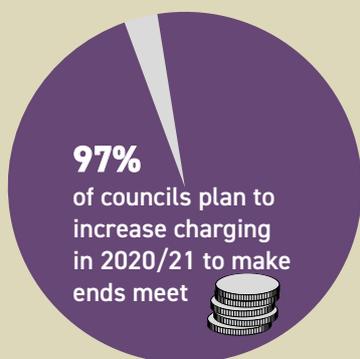
**97%**  
of councils  
plan to  
increase  
council tax  
in 2020/21

...and **93%**  
plan to raise  
council tax  
by more  
than 1.5%

Source: LGIU/MJ State of Local Government Finance Survey 2020

Nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase council tax in 2020/21, with most (93%) planning to raise it by more than 1.5% (the maximum rise is 2% without a referendum in most cases). No councils surveyed are planning to reduce council tax this year.

90% of councils with social care responsibilities are planning to make use of the social care precept in 2020/21.



Source: LGIU/MJ State of Local Government Finance Survey 2020

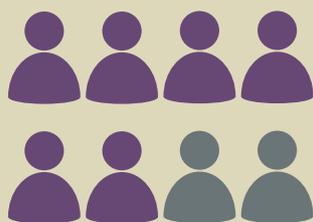
Nearly all (97%) councils plan to increase fees and charges in 2020/21, with some being forced to raise them 'by the maximum possible amount' (14%) as they face another year of financial uncertainty.

**57%**  
of councils  
intend to  
use their  
reserves in  
2020/21

**74%**  
of these  
councils  
also used their  
reserves  
last year

Source: LGIU/MJ State of Local Government Finance Survey 2020

Over half of councils (57%) plan to use their reserves this year; most of these councils (74%) also used their reserves last year. A few councils (17%) do intend to increase their reserves in 2020/21.



Three quarters of councils lack confidence in their financial sustainability

Source: LGIU/MJ State of Local Government Finance Survey 2020

Confidence in the sustainability of local government finance remains very low, with three quarters (74%) of councils saying they do not feel confident, although there was a slight uptick in confidence compared with the past three years (80%).

## Pressure on local services

Almost one in five (19%) councils said their residents have seen a decline in the level of frontline services they are able to access over the past year and nearly a quarter (23%) believe their 2020/21 budget will lead to cuts that are noticed by the public.

**1 in 10**  
councils say they  
are in danger of  
being unable to  
fulfil statutory  
duties this year

In 2020/21, only a third (36%) of councils will be able to comfortably provide a range of non-statutory services and one in ten (12%) believe there is a danger they will be unable to fulfil statutory duties, up from 6% last year.

One in seven councils (14%) said they anticipate an increase in judicial challenges to the level of service provision this year, with Children's Services (including social care and school transport), special educational needs and disabilities

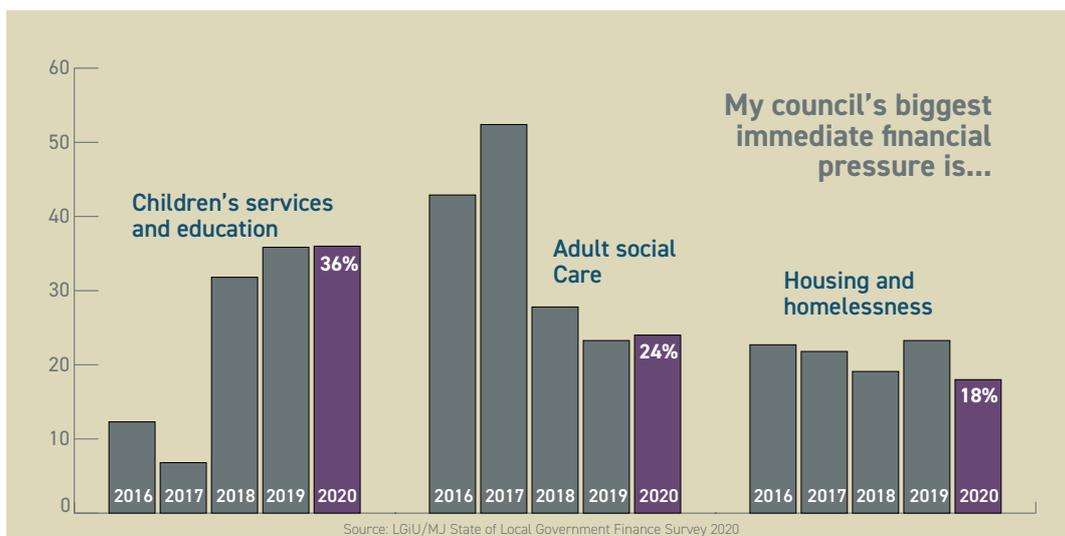
(SEND) provision, planning, libraries, waste, homelessness and adult social care cited as the areas in which they predict the most legal challenges.

Services in which activity may be reduced in the coming year include business support (22% of councils), parks and leisure facilities (19%) and arts and culture (18%). However, compared with last two years fewer councils told us they will be cutting service activity; whether this is a sign of improving financial confidence or that there is nothing left to cut is unclear.

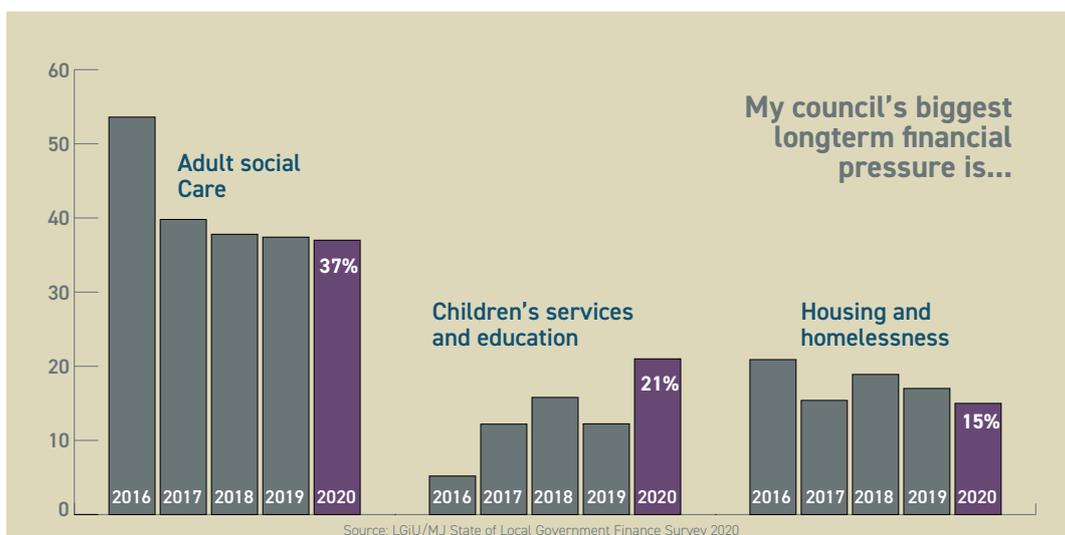
**1 in 7**  
councils expect  
to face legal  
challenges this  
year due to  
service cuts

Over the last few years we have seen Children’s Services & Education cement its place at the top of the list of immediate pressures, ahead of Adult Social Care which remains a significant longterm pressure. Given that Adult Social Care is still under immense pressure and the Government has not yet delivered a sustainable funding system for it, rather than adult social care becoming a less urgent issue this suggests that councils are no longer able to shield children from the worst of the budgetary pressures.

Children’s Services and Education was named as the top immediate pressure for council finances (with 36% of councils placing it first), followed by Adult Social Care (24%) and Housing and Homelessness (18%).



Adult Social Care was named as the top longterm pressure for council finances (37% of councils), followed by Children’s Services (21%) and Housing and Homelessness (15%).



This differed slightly by council type. Social care authorities said that Children’s Services and Education is their top immediate concern (67%) and Adult Social Care is their top longterm pressure (55%). Councils without social care duties said that Housing and Homelessness is their top immediate and longterm pressure (33% immediate; 28% longterm), followed by Environment and Waste (27% immediate; 26% longterm).

## Income generation

Most councils (86%) said that exploring other sources of income aside from council tax and business rates is a high priority or essential. Two thirds (66%) think that councils will become more reliant on income from commercial investments in the future. Therefore councils are exploring many income generation options to prepare.



Local housing and commercial developments are still high up on the list of preferred income-generating activities. Three quarters (75%) of councils said they were exploring local commercial developments and a similar proportion (71%) are looking at investing in local housing developments. Councils also plan to continue their involvement in purchasing investment properties for return (60% are exploring this option for 2020/21).

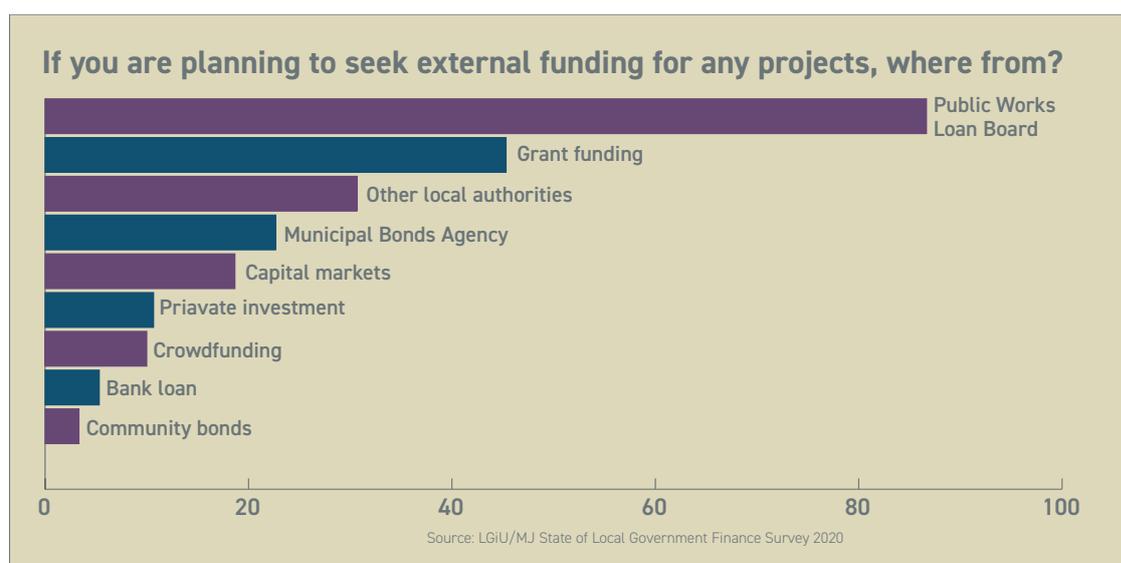
Commercialising council services remains a popular income

**Almost half of councils are considering investing in energy projects this year**

generation option with two thirds of councils (66%) considering it for the coming year, although this proportion has fallen slightly from around 80% in 2017-19.

Energy projects have moved up the list this year, with almost half of councils (47%) considering this as a source of income, compared with around a quarter (28%) last year.

## External funding



In order to fund both income-generation activities and other projects, councils are exploring various sources of external funding in 2020/21. Three quarters of councils (75%) plan to increase their level of borrowing over the coming year.

## Three quarters of councils plan to increase their level of borrowing this year

For over half of councils (59%), the Public Works Loan Board (PWL) interest rate rise has forced them to alter their 2020/21 financial plans. For some this means borrowing from an alternative source (22%), while others still intend to use the PWLB but are scaling back their plans (37%).

**59%** said: “The PWLB interest rate rise has forced us to change our plans”

Nevertheless the PWLB remains a popular choice for councils seeking external funding for projects, with most (87%) hoping to make use of its loans in the coming year. This is the same proportion as last year (88%) but down slightly from 2018 (94%).

Borrowing from other local authorities is a more popular option this year, with a third (31%) saying they plan to use this form of external funding compared with 15% in 2019 and 18% in 2018.

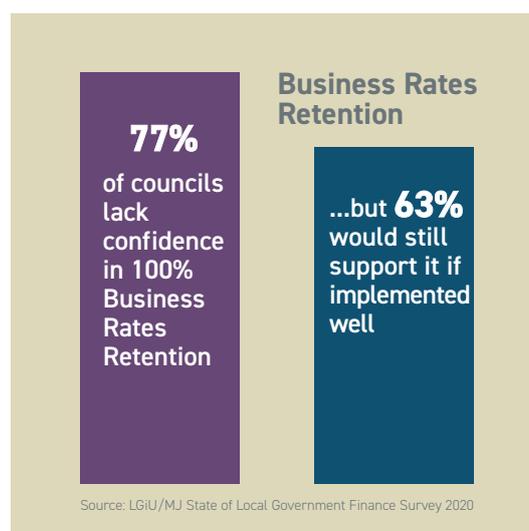
Similarly the Municipal Bonds Agency may see more activity this year, with almost a quarter (23%) of councils considering it to fund their projects in 2020/21, up from previous years (it has hovered between 7-14% since 2015).

Crowdfunding (10%) and community bonds (3%) are among the innovative forms of finance councils are considering to fund external projects. Other income sources under consideration include tourist taxes (subject to legislation), coach charges, voluntary contributions from residents and businesses, lending for a financial return, social impact bonds, investment in electric vehicle charging points and second home charges.

## Future of local government finance

The shape of the future local government funding system is still unknown. With 100% Business Rate Retention having stalled and the Revenue Support Grant being phased out, councils are currently only able to plan their finances 12 months ahead. We asked the sector about their views on the proposed plans and their ideas for a sustainable system.

Three quarters (77%) of councils lack confidence in 100% Business Rate Retention as a mechanism to fund local government. This cuts across party, tier and politician/officer divides. Problems cited include a lack of clarity around the technical details, the split between tiers, how it will interact with the Fair Funding mechanism, its volatility and the suitability of business rates to the modern economy.



However, it appears that the sector's concerns are not insurmountable. Despite their reservations, two thirds (63%) of councils still said that they would support 100% Business Rate Retention as a route to fiscal devolution.

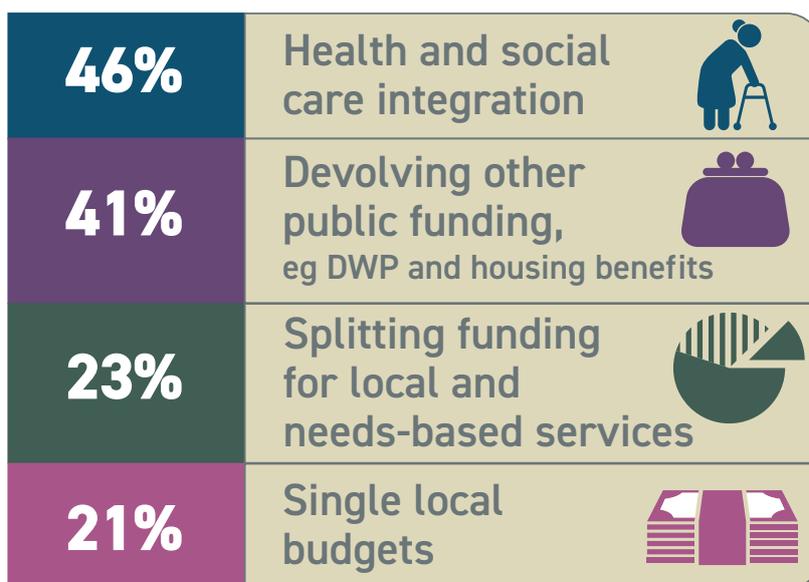
Alternative funding models which have support include introducing a local share of income tax (46%), having more freedom to levy other local taxes (40%), a local share of the new digital tax (38%), tourist tax (36%) and a local share of corporation tax (31%). Two thirds of councils also called for the scrapping of the council tax referendum requirement (67% of councils).

## Support for alternative fiscal devolution options

<b>46%</b>	Local income tax	
<b>40%</b>	Freedom to levy other taxes	
<b>38%</b>	Local share of digital tax	
<b>36%</b>	Tourist tax	
<b>31%</b>	Local share of corporation tax	

We asked councils to rank different levels of fiscal devolution in terms of their effectiveness. Overall fiscal devolution to individual councils was the most popular choice (with a weighted average score of 4.41 out of 6; 35% placed it first), followed by partnerships between local authorities in an area (4.23; 18%), new/existing unitaries (3.99; 25%), new/existing combined authorities (3.92; 17%) and new regional authorities (3.08; 10%).

## Ideas for public sector delivery reform



Preferences differed by type of authority, with counties and unitaries preferring fiscal devolution to new/existing unitaries, while districts preferred partnerships between councils, London Boroughs preferred individual councils and metropolitan boroughs preferring new/existing combined authorities. All types of council agreed that 'no further fiscal devolution' was the least favourable outcome.

## Funding climate change projects

Many councils have declared a climate emergency and they are now actively planning how they will fund the work required to make meaningful progress towards this commitment.

We found that nearly all councils (98%) say they are planning work to tackle climate change. In order to fund this work, a quarter (25%) are planning to attract external investment and almost a quarter (22%) intend to borrow. Others are exploring community bonds and crowdfunding (9% of councils) or raising ringfenced money through council tax rises (3%). Three quarters (72%) said they would be funding this work using their general funds or reserves, while a third (34%) say their climate change plans will be cost-neutral by incorporating goals into existing service area strategies. A tenth (9%) are currently consulting with the public about the best funding options.

**98% of councils  
are planning  
work to tackle  
climate change**

## Perceptions of central government

We asked councils about their views on the Government's progress on key issues affecting local government and whether they felt confident that these areas would be prioritised by the new Government.

In terms of short-term financial planning, three quarters (76%) said they are unhappy with Government's progress in giving councils enough clarity to plan their short-term finances and almost three quarters (70%) think that the Government will not prioritise this issue going forward.

In a broader sense, there was near universal disappointment in the Government's progress delivering a sustainable funding system for local government (97%) and only 20% are confident this will be prioritised.

Adult social care remains a major area of concern. While there was some agreement that the Government had made progress towards (28%), and would continue to prioritise (39%), meeting immediate adult social care funding needs, the sector was damning in its assessment of the Government's progress towards and its plans for a longterm social care strategy. 98% said they are unhappy with the progress so far and 76% lack confidence that the issue will be prioritised.

When it comes to ensuring adequate resourcing for children's services, there was similarly widespread disappointment in the Government's progress (83%) and a lack of confidence that the issue would receive priority going forward (76%).

In the Government's stated priority area of housing and homelessness, despite councils being slightly more positive about the Government's activity than other policy areas, the sector is still broadly unimpressed. Regarding support for house-building and planning, three quarters (74%) are unhappy with the progress to date and two thirds (63%) lack confidence it will receive priority going forward. Regarding resources to tackle homelessness, two thirds (61%) are unhappy with the progress to date and the same proportion lack confidence it will receive priority (66%).

This reflects the more general feeling that the Government will not consider local government in wider policy decisions going forward (87%).

**Only 3% of councils are happy with Government progress on local finances**

## Appendix

### Survey respondents

Responses by region	
East of England	31
South West	16
South East	39
Yorkshire	13
East Midlands	33
London	8
West Midlands	17
North West	28
North East	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>
Responses by council type	
<i>Upper tier</i>	
County	24
Unitary	39
London Borough	8
Metropolitan	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Lower tier</i>	
Non-Metropolitan District	95
Responses by political control of councils	
Conservative council	80
Labour council	55
Liberal Democrat council	15
No overall control council	44
Non political council	1
Responses by role	
Chief executive	44
Leader	44
Director	42
Cabinet member	65

## Data tables

### Expected council tax change 2020/21

Reduce	0.00%
Freeze	3.41%
Increase - up to 0.49%	1.14%
Increase - 0.5% to 0.99%	0.57%
Increase - 1% to 1.49%	2.27%
Increase 1.5% to 1.99%	56.82%
Increase - 2% or more (without referendum)	35.80%
Increase - 2% or more (with referendum)	0.00%

### How likely are you to take advantage of the 2% social care precept in 2020/21? (For social care authorities only)

Very unlikely	10.47%
Unlikely	0.00%
Likely	5.81%
Very likely	83.72%

### How would you characterise your planned level of service provision for 2020/21?

We will fulfill our statutory obligations but nothing else	5.11%
We will provide a little bit more than our statutory obligations	59.09%
We will comfortably provide a range of non-statutory services	35.8%

### Is there a danger that financial constraints will put your authority in a position where you no longer have enough funding to fulfil your statutory duties in 2020/21?

Yes	12.43%
No	87.57%

### Are residents still able to access the same level of frontline services as this time last year?

Yes	81.36%
No	18.64%

Will your 2020/21 budgets lead to cuts in frontline services which will be evident to the public?

Yes	22.60%
No	77.40%

Did your authority use, increase or not touch your reserves last year? And do you intend to use, increase or not touch your reserves this year?

	Use reserves	Not touch reserves	Increase reserves
2019/20	56.57%	22.86%	20.57%
2020/21	57.06%	25.88%	17.06%

After fiscal tightening and funding reductions, what do you consider the GREATEST pressure on council finances? Please choose only ONE answer per column

	Adult social care	Community safety	Council support and public engagement	Culture and leisure	Children's services and education	Environment and waste	Housing and homelessness	Roads, planning and economy
Immediate	23.50%	1.09%	2.19%	2.73%	35.52%	14.75%	18.03%	2.19%
Long term	36.69%	1.18%	1.78%	4.73%	21.30%	14.20%	14.79%	5.33%

In which of these areas will activity be reduced in 2020/21 due to budgetary constraints? Tick all that apply

We are not planning to reduce activity in any service area	55.29%
Business support	21.76%
Parks and leisure facilities	19.41%
Arts and culture	18.24%
Adult Social Care	12.94%
Highways and transport	12.94%
Libraries	11.18%
Youth centres	10.00%
Citizens Advice Bureaux	8.82%
Waste collections	8.82%

Recycling	7.65%
Children's Care Services	7.06%
SEND services	7.06%
Planning	6.47%
Homelessness support	5.88%
Further education	2.94%

How much of a priority is it for you to actively explore other sources of income aside from council tax and business rates?

Not a priority	Low priority	Medium priority	High priority	Essential
0.00%	1.31%	13.07%	41.18%	44.44%

Which sources of income are you considering? Tick all that apply

Fees and charges, e.g. Garden waste, planning fees	83.23%
Commercial developments (locally)	74.85%
Housing developments (locally)	70.66%
Commercialising council services	65.87%
Asset sales	60.48%
Purchasing investment properties	59.88%
Energy projects	46.71%
Advertising space	39.52%
Sponsorship	29.94%
Commercial developments (further afield)	14.97%
Housing developments (further afield)	5.39%
Congestion charge	4.19%

Do you plan to increase the council's level of borrowing over the next year?

Yes	74.85%
No	25.15%

If you are planning to seek external funding for any projects, where from?  
Tick all that apply

Public Works Loan Board	86.67%
Grant funding	45.33%
Other local authorities	30.67%

Municipal Bonds Agency	22.67%
Capital markets	18.67%
Private investment	10.67%
Crowdfundinig	10.00%
Bank loan	5.33%
Community bonds	3.33%

### Has the increase in the Public Works Loan Board interest rate affected your financial plans?

Yes - going forward, we will borrow from another source	22.16%
Yes - we will still use the PWLB but are scaling back plans	37.13%
No - it hasn't affected our plans	40.12%

### Do you intend to increase fees and charges in 2020/21 compared with last year? Give a best estimate across all service areas

Yes - by the maximum possible amount	13.86%
Yes - by slightly more than inflation	38.55%
Yes - by inflation only	44.58%
No - we are freezing fees and charges	3.01%
No - we are reducing fees and charges	0.00%

### Councils in the UK are looking at new, innovative types of funding, including climate change bonds, a late night levy and tourist taxes. Are you considering any new forms of funding?

No - just the usual	80.00%
Yes - please give details	20.00%

### How confident do you feel about the sustainability of local government finance?

Not at all confident	Not very confident	Quite confident	Very confident
25.49%	48.37%	24.84%	1.13%

### Are you anticipating an increase in judicial challenges to the level of service provision this year?

Yes	13.66%
No	85.71%

**In the future do you see core services becoming more reliant on income from commercial investments?**

Yes	66.26%
No	13.50%
Not sure	20.25%

**Many councils have now declared a climate emergency. How, if at all, do you plan to fund the council's work tackling climate change? Tick all that apply**

Using general funds and/or reserves	72.67%
Our plans will be cost neutral - we will incorporate climate change goals into existing service area strategies	33.54%
Attracting external investment	24.84%
Borrowing	21.74%
Community bonds or crowdfunding	8.70%
We are currently consulting with the public on how to fund it	8.70%
Raising ringfenced money through council tax rises	3.11%
We are not planning any work in this area	1.86%

**How confident do you feel about 100% Business Rates Retention as a mechanism to fund local government?**

Not at all confident	Not very confident	Quite confident	Very confident	Not sure
31.48%	45.68%	17.28%	1.85%	3.70%

**Which options for fiscal devolution would you support? Tick all that apply**

Scrapping the council tax referendum requirement	66.88%
100% Business Rates Retention	62.50%
Local share of income tax	45.63%
Health and social care integration	45.63%
Devolving funding for other public services, e.g. DWP, housing benefits	41.25%
Having more freedoms to levy other local taxes	40.00%
Local share of any new digital business tax	37.50%
Ability to levy a tourism tax	36.25%
Local share of corporation tax	30.63%
Splitting funding for local services (local) and needs-based duties (national)	23.13%
Single local budgets (across all public services)	20.63%

In your opinion, at what level would fiscal devolution be most effective? Drag-and-drop to rank in order of preference (1=favourite)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Individual councils	35.42%	16.67%	15.97%	18.75%	11.81%	1.39%
Partnerships between councils in an area	18.24%	32.43%	20.27%	12.16%	16.89%	0.00%
New/existing unitaries	24.65%	20.42%	14.79%	16.90%	16.20%	7.04%
New/existing combined authorities	16.55%	20.86%	24.46%	20.14%	12.23%	5.76%
New regional authorities	9.86%	11.27%	17.61%	14.79%	30.99%	15.49%
No further fiscal devolution	3.65%	1.46%	8.03%	10.95%	6.57%	69.34%

The sector has been calling for central government to respond to a variety of issues related to local government finances. Do you agree with these statements about the Government's performance?

<b>Providing enough clarity to allow us to plan our short-term finances</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	24.05%	75.95%
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	30.19%	69.81%
<b>Delivering a sustainable funding system</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	3.16%	96.84%
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	20.38%	79.62%
<b>Considering local government in wider policy decisions</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	13.38%	86.62%
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	12.82%	87.18%
<b>Meeting the immediate funding needs for adult social care</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	28.28%	71.72%
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	38.51%	61.49%
<b>Implementing a long term adult social care funding strategy</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>

<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	<b>2.04%</b>	<b>97.96%</b>
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	<b>24.16%</b>	<b>75.84%</b>
<b>Meeting the immediate funding needs for children's services</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	<b>17.36%</b>	<b>82.64%</b>
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	<b>23.81%</b>	<b>76.19%</b>
<b>Support for house-building and planning</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	<b>25.97%</b>	<b>74.03%</b>
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	<b>37.25%</b>	<b>62.75%</b>
<b>Resources to tackle homelessness</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<i>"I'm happy with the progress that's been made"</i>	<b>39.47%</b>	<b>60.53%</b>
<i>"I feel confident that the Government will prioritise the issue"</i>	<b>33.56%</b>	<b>66.44%</b>

## Copyright notices for images used on pages 6-7

Children's play area, Springfield Park - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © P L Chadwick - [geograph.org.uk/p/798887](http://geograph.org.uk/p/798887)

Gritter lorry at Baltasound - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Mike Pennington - [geograph.org.uk/p/1691778](http://geograph.org.uk/p/1691778)

Pothole patching. Locality: Táboritů street, Olomouc - © Michal Mañas - CC BY 3.0 - [wikimedia.org.uk](http://wikimedia.org.uk)

Checking in with a Patient - CC BY-ND 2.0 - © Jose Luis Pelaez, Inc./Blend Images/Corbis - [flickr.com](http://flickr.com)

Solihull Library - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Nigel Mykura - [geograph.org.uk/p/5253558](http://geograph.org.uk/p/5253558)

Kingston Youth Centre, Hull - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Stephen Meara-Blount - [geograph.org.uk/p/3222476](http://geograph.org.uk/p/3222476)

Taxi rank in Channel Street, Galashiels - © Walter Baxter - CC BY-SA 2.0

Hampshire County Council counterfeit goods warning notice, Blackbushe - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Jaggery - [geograph.org.uk/p/3672644](http://geograph.org.uk/p/3672644)

Food hygiene rating - © Quinn Comendant - CC BY-SA 2.0 - via Flickr

Colour-coded recycling bins outside Somerfield, Lower Northam Road - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Peter Facey - [geograph.org.uk/p/1041984](http://geograph.org.uk/p/1041984)

Uxbridge Foster Posters - © Alan Stanton - CC BY-SA 2.0 - via Flickr

Portree Community Swimming Pool - © John Allan - CC BY-SA 2.0 - via Wikimedia

Outdoor gym in Fairy Hill Park - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Stephen Craven - [geograph.org.uk/p/2362164](http://geograph.org.uk/p/2362164)

City centre regeneration in Birmingham - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Roger Kidd - [geograph.org.uk/p/5343739](http://geograph.org.uk/p/5343739)

Roadside parking restriction notice in Fulham - © DeFacto - CC BY-SA 2.5 via Wikimedia

Fallow Hill, Sydenham, Leamington - © Lydia - CC BY 2.0 via Flickr

Runnymede council dialaride bus - © David Howard - CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia

Base seeks crosswalk patrols for school year - Senior Airman Stacy Sanchez via <https://www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/News/Photos/igphoto/2000684068/>

Planning Notice on Halfacres Lane - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Ian S - [geograph.org.uk/p/4074914](http://geograph.org.uk/p/4074914)

Bournemouth : Housing Construction - © Lewis Clarke CC BY-SA 2.0 via Wikimedia

A quadrant bench on Saint Werburgh Street - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © John S Turner - [geograph.org.uk/p/781494](http://geograph.org.uk/p/781494)

Bus shelter, Albany Road, Preston - © Derek Harper CC BY-SA 2.0 [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk) - 764960.jpg

The Great Bath at the Roman Baths - © Diliff - CC BY 2.5 via Wikimedia

Street cleaning vehicle on a Neath corner - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Jaggery - [geograph.org.uk/p/4944441](http://geograph.org.uk/p/4944441)

Afternoon playtime at Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School - © John Sutton - CC BY-SA 2.0 via [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk) - 1408918.jpg

Wheatley Village allotments - © allispossible.org.uk - CC BY 2.0 - via Flickr

Public toilets, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire - © michael ely - CC BY-SA 2.0 [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk) - 970563.jpg

Children's Nursery - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Alan Hughes - [geograph.org.uk/p/4985875](http://geograph.org.uk/p/4985875)

London Road cycle path - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Richard Croft - [geograph.org.uk/p/535347](http://geograph.org.uk/p/535347)

Colourful outdoor play area, Little Acorns Nursery, Littledean - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Jaggery - [geograph.org.uk/p/4367979](http://geograph.org.uk/p/4367979)

Thamesdown Transport school bus fleet - cc-by-sa/2.0 - © P L Chadwick - [geograph.org.uk/p/885423](http://geograph.org.uk/p/885423)

A straight rail stairlift - © Bcm924 - CC BY-SA 4.0 - via Wikimedia

Basketball practice court Banks Road - © David Lally - CC BY-SA 2.0 - [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk) - 752055.jpg

## About the LGIU

The LGIU is the UK's biggest independent local government membership body with more than 250 councils and other organisations subscribing to our networks. We provide unrivalled practical support to our member councils and an uncompromising advocacy for local government and services that are designed and delivered in the communities that need them. For more information visit [lgiu.org](http://lgiu.org)

## About the MJ

The Municipal Journal (MJ) is the UK's leading weekly magazine for council chief executives and senior managers in local authorities and allied sectors. It offers an insiders' view of what's going on and what people are thinking in today's ever changing and challenging world of local politics – the latest news, incisive comment, in-depth features and interviews, business analysis and the top recruitment vacancies. Visit [www.themj.co.uk](http://www.themj.co.uk)

# LGIU

Third Floor  
251 Pentonville Road  
London N1 9NG  
020 2775 2800  
[info@lgiu.org](mailto:info@lgiu.org)  
[www.lgiu.org](http://www.lgiu.org)

©LGIU February 2020