LGiU

Rewiring Local Government

What a rewired local government does, and how we get there

6 October 2026

About Rewiring the State

LGiU

- A Cabinet Statement with a vision for a new state by the end of Parliament.
- Great effort is underway to model the future form of the emerging regional tier.
- Local government and strategic authorities are both the local state. They have a symbiotic relationship in which each improves the other.
- But how can local government ensure the success of Rewiring?

Role of local government

39%
of councils expect to need Exceptional Financial Support in the next five years

51%
of the public do not trust their council to act in their best interest

61%
want more information and influence over how decisions are made locally

6 in 10
people say they know little or nothing about the work of councils

So far, there is far more focus on the playbook for strategic authorities than on the role of councils.

Sources: LGIU 2026 survey of council finances; 2026 Ipsos polling

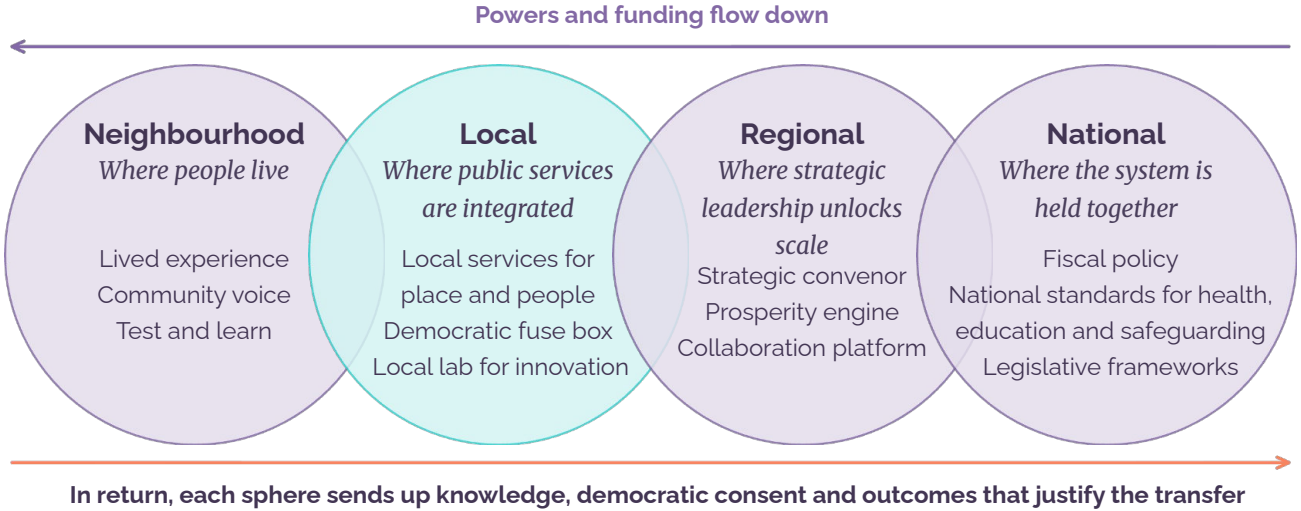
Six roles for local government

LGiU

1. Statutory services close to the citizen
2. Everyday services that underpin prevention
3. Co-authoring growth where people live
4. Bridging neighbourhood, local and regional
5. Community innovation labs
6. Shared accountability from the citizen to the region

How a rewired system works

LGiU



From institutions to systems
The test is the capability of the whole place.

From control to trust
Built through repeated joint work.

From transfer to exchange
An exchange of powers, funding and knowledge, not a delegation.

Rewiring local government:
Key asks

LGiU

1. Accelerate reforms to children's and adults, and **pathways out from EFS.**
2. **Confirmed decisions and timelines** for LGR and SA's so councils can engage fully in rewiring.
3. Implement **systematic local taxation reform** for councils.
4. Refresh the **new burdens doctrine** to avoid devolution by delegation.
5. Rewiring regulation with a **Shared Outcomes Framework** across councils and health.
6. A statutory **power to convene** for neighbourhood services.

What success looks like by 2030

LGiU

Statutory people services	Integrated service delivery that works proactively and preventively to meet local needs.
Place and prevention	Preventative spend is core to the Spending Review and finance settlements.
Co-authoring growth	Local Growth Plans are co-authored with councils, and places benefit from a rising local share of national taxation.
Democratic link	Across England, a citizen can take part in a rewired state, from hyperlocal neighbourhood governance to councils to mayors.
Innovation	Policy variation is accepted across devolved areas, and neighbourhoods are the testbed for Test, Learn and Grow labs.
Accountability	Parity of esteem across every part of the rewired state, underpinned by local concordats and a standing Leaders Council.