

# The LGA debate

In partnership with Curtin&Co

## #CouncilsCan: Why is the Queen's Speech important for local government?

**Monday 16 September**  
**1.00 pm-2.00 pm**

Hardy Suite,  
Hermitage Hotel  
(Exeter Road opposite  
the conference centre)  
Refreshments provided

In this year's Local Government Association (LGA) debate, in partnership with Curtin&Co, a high-profile panel will be discussing what is needed in the Queen's Speech to turn our Councils Can report, setting out the need for a new localism settlement, into reality. Our proposals in Councils Can seek to reset the conversation on public service reform, ensuring councils can continue to deliver for their residents.

Confirmed speakers include:

**Councillor Howard Sykes**  
**MBE**, Leader of the LGA Liberal Democrat Group (Chair)

**Angela Smith MP**

**Councillor Emily Smith**, Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council

**Dr Darren G Lilleker**, Associate Professor in Political Communication, Bournemouth University

**Nick Stanton**, Joint Chief Executive at Curtin&Co and former Leader, London Borough of Southwark

# #CouncilsCan

# How can a new localism settlement empower councils to continue to provide for their communities?

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## What measures should the Liberal Democrats commit to in a Queen's Speech and Budget?

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## Even under financial pressure, councils have continued to deliver for their residents. What legislation and policy announcements are needed to help councils deliver even more for their communities?

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Councils support local communities to thrive by building homes, creating jobs and school places, providing dignified care for older and disabled people, protecting and enhancing our environment and boosting economic growth. Our research shows that three quarters of council services have improved in the last 10 years and people trust their council and councillors to make the right decisions for them and their families. Giving councils the right powers and control over their finances would enable them to do much more.

This debate is an opportunity to discuss the measures needed in a Queen's Speech to deliver this new localism settlement for local government. We will explore ideas for a new legislative agenda that resets the conversation on public service reform, thereby ensuring councils can continue to deliver for their communities and residents. The debate will also be an opportunity to discuss our priorities from our #CouncilsCan campaign and local government's positive agenda for the future.

Find more about our #CouncilsCan campaign and report [www.local.gov.uk/councils-can](http://www.local.gov.uk/councils-can)