

Conservative Group amendment to motion about LGA withdrawal:

This Council Resolves:

That it has considered the Administration's policy to withdraw Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council from membership of the Local Government Association.

Council Notes:

1. The publicly stated desire of the Leader of the Council to withdraw Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council from membership of the Local Government Association (LGA).
2. That councillors from across the political spectrum on the Council have benefited from training & development provided by the Local Government Association, including members who have also served as Staffordshire County Councillors since May 2025.
3. That membership of the Local Government Association is supported by all major political parties, including the Conservative Party, Labour Party, Lib Democrats and Reform UK, all of which maintain political group offices within the LGA's Smith Square headquarters.
4. That, in response to comments made by the Leader of the Council regarding the LGA's headquarters, the Local Government Association has stated that there is no "roof-top bar" at its Smith Square headquarters, contrary to assertions contained within the Council press statement issued on 29 May 2026.*
5. That a report regarding the Council's membership of the Local Government Association is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in August 2026.
6. That Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will remain a member of the Local Government Association until at least March 2028.

Council Further Resolves:

1. To request that the Chief Executive's report to Cabinet includes a full assessment of:
 - the costs of LGA membership;
 - the benefits derived from membership;
 - services received from the LGA;
 - the policy influence available through membership; and
 - the financial, operational and strategic implications of withdrawal from the Local Government Association.
2. To continue to support councillors and officers in attending appropriate Local Government Association training, events and engagement activities, and to contribute to LGA consultations and policy development for the benefit of Newcastle-under-Lyme residents whilst the Council remains a member.

3. To request that the Chief Executive reviews, and where necessary clarifies or amends, the statement published on the Council's website relating to the existence of a "roof-top bar" at the Local Government Association headquarters in order to ensure the accuracy of information issued by the Council.
4. To request that the Leader of the Council publishes the recent letter sent by Richard Tice MP, Deputy Leader of Reform UK, to Reform UK Council Leaders regarding their continued membership of the Local Government Association, in the interests of transparency and informed decision-making.

Proposed by: Councillor Simon Tagg

Seconded by: Councillor Joan Whieldon

[*https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news/article/527/council-plans-withdrawal-from-local-government-association](https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news/article/527/council-plans-withdrawal-from-local-government-association)

LGA response:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-statement-membership>