

### WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR

We launched two major themes in 2017. For "A Sense of Place", we explored what place-based approaches mean when we are talking about regeneration and new developments, healthy places and community engagement. In "Reshaping Education" we looked at the Scottish Government's new reforms, and at the role local authorities can play in closing the attainment gap.

We have been in regular contact with policy teams at our member local authorities, and have visited councils up and down the country, getting to know our members and finding out how we can best meet their needs.

New for 2017 were our Swift Reads - shorter, more concise policy briefings that we introduced both to save you time reading, and to allow us to cover a wider range of policy topics. We also launched Blast From The Past in our weekly roundup, highlighting briefings from our extensive archive that are either relevant to current events, or complement our new materials. Both pilots have proved to be popular, and we'll be continuing them in 2018.

The feedback from this year's annual survey was a welcome reminder of how valued our service is (see stats below), while also letting us know what our readers find most useful, and how we might build on our 2017 work to improve our service in the year ahead.

### WE SENT YOU

- 101 policy briefings
- 52 blog updates
- 361 Daily News editions

### WE NOW HAVE

- 4876 subscribers •
- 46 member organisations •
- 27 councils in membership •

### OUR READERS SAID



## BRIEFINGS

We published over a hundred briefings for our members last year, covering a wide range of topics from business rates to burials to Brexit, reflecting the broad mandate of Scottish local government and the diverse interests of our readers.

Our most popular briefing in 2017 was the coverage of the manifestos for the local elections. This was closely followed by our briefing on how to create walking cities, and one exploring how to transition from a Welfare State to one focused on enabling.

We've also been responding to specific member suggestions for briefings. In 2017 we covered more mental health, the broadcasting of council meetings, and produced a series on local government finance for beginners - all at the request of our members.

## What do you want to read about?

Get in touch and we will do our best to give you the briefing you need

## A LOOK TO 2018

We already have a number of briefings lined up for 2018 - covering finance, social work, recycling, integrated joint boards, the sharing economy, sustainable tourism, benchmarking, and more.

Our themes over the next twelve months will include: "inequality of inputs and outcomes", in sectors such as education and health; "local governance", looking specifically at rurality, islands, community empowerment and women in local government; and "young people", in line with 2018 being year of the young person.

2018 will also bring with it a specific focus on the sharing of good local government practice. We'll be looking at successful innovative programmes from councils in Scotland, and sharing them with all of our members. We're also going to be looking outside Scotland, to local authorities in Ireland, England and beyond.

Following last year's education theme, and with our continued work in this area, we'll bring you an in-depth education guide, pulling all the information together, supplemented by new content, into one published document to be circulated early in the year.

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LGiU Scotland is a not for profit organisation dedicated to supporting local government and others across Scotland. We welcome councils and other organisations committed to public sector innovation as members  
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