

General Assembly Motions - Guidance for Authorities

Introduction

1. The LGA is the membership organisation of local authorities in England and Wales. The Association is there to support Authorities who can at any time seek advice or raise any matter of concern. Where appropriate, such matters will be put before the relevant Executive.
2. The General Assembly is the only LGA decision making forum which all authorities in membership are eligible to attend and to vote. As all principal local authorities in England and Wales are in fact in membership, the General Assembly is the one gathering of the whole of local government in England and Wales and the one opportunity for the membership at large to determine LGA policy. The Assembly meets twice yearly. The role of the General Assembly is to consider **strategic policy of national significance to local government**.
3. The LGA Executive is responsible for selecting motions which are debated at the Assembly.
4. The number of motions submitted by authorities always exceeds the time available at the General Assembly to enable a proper debate of all the issues raised. The Executive must decide which motions are most relevant for the membership as a whole to debate.

Criteria for Selecting Motions

5. Only motions which meet the under-mentioned criteria will be considered by the Executive for debate at the General Assembly: -

(A) The motion **calls upon the Association to change its own Constitution** or the way it relates to and provides services to its membership;

or

(B) The motion raises **issues of national importance to local government -**

- (i) on which the **Association does not have a policy** and is not already taking action in accordance with that policy; and
- (ii) **asks the Association to pursue a course of action** rather than just express a view on an issue.

Those motions which have **already received the support of several local authorities** e.g. have been agreed by a regional grouping are the most likely to be selected.

6. Authorities requiring any advice regarding the suitability of a motion for the General Assembly should consult the LGA Secretariat.