

Responding to today's Spending Review announcement, Cllr Marianne Overton MBE, Leader of the LGA Independent Group says:

'Our Independent Group members have been very clear in what was needed from the Spending Review, starting with certainty. The Chancellor's statement of only one year falls short.

'Announcements on homelessness, the towns fund, supporting victims of domestic abuse and additional support for Councils are welcome, but is not all new money and does not go anything like far enough. The increased "spending power" promised to councils of 4.5% by 2021/22, will only be achieved by Councils raising their taxes, neither certain or sustainable, and the 'Levelling-up' should not be a bidding process or require MP sign-off.

'Our council staff have worked to keep the country running and should have been properly recognised, they are now "thanked" with a standstill income.

'The Chancellor also missed an opportunity to recommit to the green agenda, which has to be more than words on the page. Conflicting with recently announced plans for the environment is the continuing policy of "build, build build" and an insistence of pushing a planning policy that creates a developers' charter. Our world deserves better.