



Independent Group Priorities

Strategic Focus for 2026

Children and Young People



Reducing Child Poverty

Campaigning to scrap the two-child benefit cap and promote family-friendly policies.



Youth Voice and Participation

Launching a Youth Local Democracy Week at the LGA to engage young people in civic life.



Corporate Parenting

Strengthening councillors' statutory responsibilities and accountability as corporate parents.



Democratic Empowerment



Electoral Reform

Advocating for fairer voting systems and increased democratic participation.



Councillor Empowerment

Developing a "Be a Councillor" toolkit and a peer-support platform.



Growing Representation

Expanding the Independent Group's footprint within the LGA and beyond.

Migration and Inclusion



Asylum Seekers' Right to Work

Supporting policy change to allow asylum seekers to contribute economically and socially.

Humane Principles

Embedding safeguarding and humane values into the LGA's asylum policy framework.

Fiscal Innovation and Local Revenue



Tourism Tax

Exploring local taxation models to support public services and infrastructure.



Strategic Partnerships and Thought Leadership

Engaging think tanks to co-develop innovative solutions and widening membership engagement.

Quick Wins: Immediate Actions



Launch Youth Local Democracy Week



Develop "Be A Councillor" Toolkit and Peer Support Platform



Influence asylum policy language at LGA level

Big Wins: Long-Term Impact



**Electoral Reform
Campaign**






**Curriculum Revision &
Civic Education**



**Local Bill of Rights
Proposal**

Red Lines

What We Will Not Accept

-  Centralisation of powers away from local authorities
-  Policies that undermine transparency, evidence, or community voice
-  Technocratic reforms that ignore lived experience or local context

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Our Commitment

The Independent Group is uniquely positioned to lead on issues of local democracy, inclusive policy-making, and evidence-led governance. By championing these priorities, we will continue to deliver meaningful change for our communities.