

[You simply cannot empower local government if you impoverish it – Pearce](#)

Commenting on the LGA's warning that local authorities face a £5.8 billion funding black hole by 2020, Teresa Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, said:

"The £5.8 billion funding gap facing local councils is a damning indictment of this Government's indifference to the fate of communities across the country. Year after year, councils have warned that the sheer scale of cuts they have been dealt will lead to a tipping point. Now, we are at that tipping point, and the Government is simply not listening.

"The scale of funding cuts that local government has endured – predicted by the IFS to be a 79% cut in direct funding by 2020 – will leave them able to only offer a threadbare service, such as the minimum statutory services in adult social care and child protection, and little else. The libraries and museums have already been closed, youth services have been cut back and all viable efficiency savings have been made.

"There is an unprecedented crisis in social care, with care providers handing contracts back to councils, 1.2 million elderly people living without the care they need and bed-blocking in the NHS at an all-time high. Yet the Government failed to provide a penny extra for social care in the Local Government Finance Settlement. The Prime Minister's claims of "new funding for social care" amount to nothing more than pushing the numbers around in existing budgets.

"Councils, such as Surrey County Council, have been forced into the unwelcome position of holding a referendum on steep council tax rises in an attempt to plug the funding gap. But council tax rises are a short-term sticking plaster for a problem that needs long-term solutions.

"Local councils play an invaluable role in society – caring for our elderly, looking after the disabled and supporting our young people. It is local services that support, shape and enrich the communities we live in. You simply cannot empower local government if you impoverish it."

[News story: Accelerator face-to-face](#)

meetings

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An opportunity to book a meeting with the Defence and Security Accelerator team to discuss your research idea.

The Accelerator is holding a series of 30-minute face-to-face meetings across the UK to give you the opportunity to discuss your innovative research idea in private.

Meeting slots will be announced for Newcastle shortly, while other meetings will be arranged at different locations across the year.

The Accelerator focuses on innovations which can provide advantage to defence and national security to protect the UK from its adversaries. It funds the development of suppliers' innovative ideas and provides support through to potential application. This is through [the enduring competition or specific themed competitions](#).

Before you come to your meeting please prepare by thinking about:

- what is your research idea?
- what do you think is the military benefit? will it save time/costs, improve capability/performance/reliability? why should MOD invest in this work?
- what will your approach be? how will you structure your research?
- what will you deliver? what evidence will you produce?
- what will the impact of your research be? how will you demonstrate progress towards the claimed benefit?

The main purpose of this meeting is for you to ask questions, and most importantly, receive advice from the team, so please leave time for this during your 30 minutes.

Spaces will be on a first-come, first-served basis and an organisation should only register once.

[Sports Minister Vijay Goel](#)

reconstitutes committee to identify athletes under TOP Scheme

The Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sport Shri Vijay Goel has reconstituted

Clarifications on implementation of GAAR provisions under the Income Tax Act, 1961

The General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) provisions shall be effective from the Assessment Year 2018-19 onwards, i.e. Financial Year 2017-18 onwards. The necessary procedures for application of

Press Communique

The President has accepted the resignation of Shri V. Shanmuganathan, as Governor of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.