



*The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (Outside London)*

## Consultation on the transitional arrangements for the 2017 business rates revaluation SIGOMA response

### **1. About SIGOMA**

- 1.1. SIGOMA is one of the largest special interest groups within the LGA. It comprises 46 local authorities in the northern, midland and south-coast regions of England, consisting of 32 metropolitan districts and 14 major unitary authorities, covering key urban areas.
- 1.2. All SIGOMA members are billing authorities and so have a dual interest in business rates. Like all authorities, they depend upon business rate income as a major source of finance but they also have administrative duties in relation to billing, collection, accounting and distribution of business rates.
- 1.3. Many ratepayers in SIGOMA authorities feel they have borne a disproportionate burden of business rates since the last revaluation, over 7 years ago, and would welcome an early transition to the lower rate levels suggested by the 2017 valuations.

### **2. Response to the consultation**

- 2.1. Our view of the two options is that option 2 is the preferred option since it brings an earlier transition to reduced rate costs for ratepayers who have seen property values decrease. Many of the affected businesses are in the more economically depressed parts of the country.

