

## Note of Meeting 30 May 2013

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**Title:** Economy and Transport Board  
**Date and time:** 30 May 2013, 11.00am  
**Venue:** Local Government House

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Political Group	Council
<b>Chairman</b>	Peter Box CBE	Labour	Wakefield MDC
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Tony Ball	Conservative	Basildon DC
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Roger Symonds	Liberal Democrat	Bath and North East Somerset
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mike Haines	Independent	Teignbridge DC
<b>Members</b>	Andrew Carter	Conservative	Leeds City
	Martin Tett	Conservative	Buckinghamshire CC
	Philip Atkins	Conservative	Staffordshire
	Ann Steward	Conservative	Norfolk CC
	Gillian Brown	Conservative	Arun DC
	Barrie Grunewald	Labour	St Helens MBC
	Joan Dixon	Labour	Derbyshire CC
	Tony Page	Labour	Reading Council
	David Wood	Labour	Tyne & Wear ITA
	Colin Rosenstiel	Liberal Democrat	Cambridge City
	Heather Kidd	Liberal Democrat	Shropshire Council
<b>Apologies</b>	Mike Whitby	Conservative	Birmingham City
	Chris Roberts	Labour	Greenwich LB
	Claire Kober	Labour	Haringey LB

**In attendance:** Ian Hughes; Kamal Panchal; Piali Das Gupta; Rachael Donaldson; Charles Loft; Nick Porter; Virginia Ponton (LGA); Judith Armit (Local Partnerships); Matthew Lugg (Leicestershire CC).

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

**1 Notes of the previous meeting**

***Decision***

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**2 Chair's Report**

The Chair recorded the Board's thanks for Nick Clarke's work. Cllr Tony Ball echoed that he had done good work in a short amount of time.

The Chair noted that Cllr Ball had attended the ALARM conference, which Cllr Ball said was important and interesting due to its independent report on the state of roads. Under Secretary of State for Transport, Norman Baker MP, also attended the event.

The Chair outlined the Wave 2 City Deals meeting, which highlighted difficulties working with Government and the civil service. Members were frustrated with lack of engagement from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Cllr Roger Symonds informed members that the Cycling APPG had published their report, which amongst other recommendations, called for the implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act.

Cllr Tony Page said that the British Parking Association meeting in July would provide a further opportunity to keep the pressure up on Norman Baker MP.

The Chair said that a Hidden Talents lead member meeting had also taken place and a further report would go to a future Board.

**Actions**

- Hidden Talents report to go to a future Board.

**Ian Hughes /  
Virginia Ponton**

**3 Emerging practice on regeneration**

Kamal Panchal introduced the paper and welcomed Judith Armit, Chief Executive of Local Partnerships (LP).

Judith Armit outlined the role and work of LP, which is a joint venture by the LGA and HM Treasury. She highlighted concerns about the scale of the single pot coming from Government to LEPs and local authorities, the capacity available and how geared up the system will be to spend when the funding arrives. There are many examples of local authorities doing good work and LP is offering help with capacity building.

Members discussed with Judith Armit::

- how LP works with LEPs.
- concern that the single pot will include already-devolved funding.
- the need for a decent-sized pot to enable local growth.
- highlighting Item 8, members wanted restrictions on local government to be lifted and consideration of how local

government can contribute to the national picture.

- Members saw importance in engaging with LEPs and ensuring elected members are aware of this engagement. Members were also keen to continue sharing best practice through case studies, first magazine and weblinks.

Judith Armitth understood members' concerns and was mindful that Lord Heseltine is pushing hard for the pot to be significant, though she expected a large proportion of the pot to be competitive. LP are taking the initiative to build relationships with and presence at LEPs and are looking to help them increase their capability.

The Chair thanked Judith Armitth and said that members' details would be sent to her.

#### **Action**

- Officers to pull together case studies on work being done by local authorities and on the emerging picture, particularly around increasing cross-sector engagement including the business sector.
- Member's details to be sent to Judith Armitth.

**Officers**

**Virginia Ponton**

#### **4 Streetworks**

Cllr Ball said that the first meeting of the Streetworks Task Force, which took place in March, was a positive meeting and acknowledged that relationships between all partners could be strengthened and that both partners can improve and work better together.

Cllr Mike Haines echoed this and welcomed members to join the next meeting.

Ian Hughes welcomed Matthew Lugg, Director of Environment and Transport, Leicestershire CC, to speak about the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) and how it can support councils' work.

Matthew Lugg outlined the HMEP initiative, which provides scope for highways efficiencies through new ways of working, collaboration across geographic areas, asset management, shared services and procurement standardisation. The programme is sector-led and supported by the industry. Matthew Lugg welcomed the Board's Streetworks evidence and campaign and said that he working to develop a delivery network of champions to promote the programme and extend it wider than the South East of England.

Members discussed:

- the wider context than poor utilities reinstatements; local authority resources are already over-stretched to manage general and weather-related maintenance.
- the need for more practical solutions than road closures for streetworks.
- the importance of sharing case studies and good practice.
- stronger communication to the public is needed.
- concern that subcontracting can result in poor streetworks and reduced accountability for such works.
- how paragraph 5.7, on ensuring poor contractors are not used,

- could be delivered.
- the need for engagement with cable companies.

The Chair thanked Matthew Lugg.

## **5 Local Audit and Accountability Bill: Council Tax Referendums**

Ian Hughes introduced the item on the Local Audit and Accountability Bill, which is being led by the LGA Finance Panel.

Board member and Chair of the Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs), Cllr David Wood, outlined how an amendment to the Bill would impact on transport. He hoped that the consequences were unintended and urged the LGA to press for the removal of clause 39 (15) from the Bill.

## **6 LGA Annual Conference and development of the New Model of Local Government**

Ian Hughes highlighted the growth and transport areas of the LGA's Annual Conference programme.

Members noted the report.

## **7 LGA submission to Spending Round 2013**

Members discussed the detail of the LGA submission to the Spending Round.

It was highlighted that the Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) draft annual report was due to be published and this was suggested as an item for a future Board.

### **Action**

Detailed figures on skills mismatch to be sent to members.

The Chair thanked all for attending.

**Nick Porter /  
Virginia Ponton**