

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title: People & Places Board
Date: Thursday 22 March 2018
Venue: Smith Square 3&4, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
34	Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chairman noted apologies. No declarations of interest were made.	
35	Trade and International Update The Chairman invited Philip Clifford, Senior Policy Advisor, to introduce the paper. Philip proceeded to give an overview of the paper, and updated Members on the current status of this work. Philip made particular reference to how Members agreed it was important for the Board to build a relationship with the Department of International Trade (DIT), although so far this has been a slow process and become somewhat challenging to get on the Departments radar. The Chairman thanked Philip for his update, and noted that this was extremely important policy. In particular, the Chairman noted three areas of conversation that needed to continue: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Circulating a survey with all local governments, to ascertain what councils are doing, including any best practice examples; and identify any barriers local government are facing.2. Engage the LEPs network on this issue, given the importance Government has placed on them since the release of the Industrial Strategy.3. Identify future propositions that place local governments on the map. The Chairman invited Members to comment, where the following was discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members commented that views amongst different local	

governments regarding trade will range significantly given the different business sectors across the country.

- Members commented that the DIT has always found it hard to delegate trade deals with local areas.
- Members commented on the need to explore how businesses are planning to expand post-Brexit, as well as explore new emerging markets in the UK.
- Members commented on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) currently seeking trading opportunities with China, and to ensure SMEs are engaged with this work.

The Chairman noted that:

- SMEs are missing out on big opportunities in trading negotiations;
- Up to 80 per cent funding streams are not being utilised; and
- Big companies know and are being invited to engage with the DIT.

Action

1. Members agreed for surveys to be circulated amongst local governments to explore any best practice examples; and identify any barriers local government are facing.

36 Post-Brexit England Commission

The Chairman invited Daniel Shamplin-Hall, Adviser, to introduce the paper. Daniel updated Members with a summary of the discussions that took place at the launch event of the Post-Brexit England Commission, as well as updating Members on the Commission's overall work plan, which included an update on the formal calls for evidence, non-metropolitan devolution messaging research and regional roadshows.

The Chairman thanked Daniel for the update and invited Members to comment, where the following was discussed:

- A significant part of the discussion was given to housing by Members, making particular reference to
 - Developers building one/two bedroom apartments, and not three/four bedroom houses.
 - Members also discussed the idea of hearing more from the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board (EEHT), around their work in relation to housing.
 - Members discussed the need for mandatory fibre-optic, high speed broadband should be included in all new-builds, given the recent reports of how much poor digital connectivity affects the UK economy. Members agreed that digital connectivity should be thought of as a utility.
- Members agreed that the more information around lobbying work should be highlighted.
- Members discussed the Commission and its many possible uses,

- including the push for more devolution.
- Members discussed further issues pertaining to skills shortages and health care.
- Members paid compliments to officers for the organisation of the launch.

The Chairman concluded the item, making particular reference to:

- The Commissions future roadshows.
- Engaging stakeholders who could not attend the event.
- To further look at the LGA calls for fiscal devolution, and to 'sharpen up' this messaging.

Action

- The Post-Brexit England Commission's Interim report to be submitted to the next Lead Members and Board, ahead of its publication for the LGA 2018 Conference.

37 Industrial Strategy Update

The Chairman invited Daniel Gardiner, Adviser, to introduce the paper. Daniel updated Members on the recent work relating to the Government's Industrial Strategy, as well as an update regarding the LEP review being led by Jake Berry MP. Daniel invited Lead Member Cllr Western, who sits on the review as representative of non-metropolitan areas, to update Members on the most recent meeting:

- The LEPs relationship with the MCA.
- Some discussions were had regarding performance analyst.
- Geographical issues of the LEP network was discussed again, which has been a common theme throughout the review.
- Expectations, direction and focus of the LEP network.
- Peer review, accountability and oversight of the LEP network.
- The relationship between the LEP network and local government.

The Chairman and Members requested more information regarding the geographical issues pertaining to the LEP network and what is being done to resolve this. Lead Member Cllr Western stated that specific resolutions were not given during the review. The review was just used as a discussion group. Cllr Western went on to specify that a consultation with the wider sector may be going ahead in the coming months.

Daniel continued on to further update Members on a roundtable event, hosted by the LGA and attended by the LEP network and the Chairman, as well as other Members from the EEHT and City Regions Board. This roundtable led to:

- A joint press release published by the LGA and the LEP network that outlined a commitment to joint working; and
- A letter to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Greg Clark MP.

The Chairman updated Members on the meeting, making the following comments:

- The letter was signed off, line-by-line by both Members and representatives from the LEP network.
- Both sides agreed to a future joint working initiatives, including LEPs engagement in:
 - Discussions with the DIT.
 - The Work Local Campaign.
 - The Post-Brexit England Commission.
- The LEP network discussed it's lack of resources.
- Both sides agreed to regular meetings.

With this in mind, members discussed the following:

- The potential of LEPs if it was fully resourced and funded.
- The differences between local government and the LEPs network.
- The importance the LEP network has been given in the Industrial Strategy.
- How the LEP network is a new organisation and the level of inconsistency around the country.

Daniel went on to update Members on the upcoming major event taking place on 28 march, in partnership with the Higher education Funding Council for England, Universities UK and the NHS Confederation. The event – due to be attended by 200 delegates – will mark the conclusion of Leading Places Phase Two and the first phase of the Local Government Academy. Members noted the update.

Daniel concluded with updating Members on the Local Industrial Strategies, their development and timeline. Members noted the update.

Action

Invitation to the next Board in June to be extended to Alexandra Jones, Director of Industrial Strategy, BEIS.

38 Letter to Jake Berry MP regarding the review of Local Enterprise Partnerships

39 Employment and Skills Update

The Chairman invited Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, to introduce the paper. Jasbir updated Members with the current work taking place, in light of the recent meeting with the Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships, Anne Milton MP. Jasbir also updated Members that a meeting will be taking place the following week with the Department of Work and Pensions, as

well as the current progress of the Skills Taskforce.

The Chairman (who was in attendance with the Skills Minister), remarked on how positive the meeting went, and how keen the Minister is to engage with the Work Local Campaign. The chairman then invited Members to comment:

- Members discussed the need for the taskforce to engage with industry training providers.
- Members also discussed the lack of clarity around the Apprenticeship Levy and the drop in Apprenticeships being taken up.
- Members discussed the need to ensure children in care and care leavers were at the forefront of this work, as so many face barriers when looking for work, therefore increasing their vulnerability.
- Members requested future roundtables with stakeholders and the Skills taskforce.
- Members agreed the importance of the LEP network engaging with this campaign, opening up a platform to further discuss skills gaps and issues effecting the economy.
- Members also discussed career breaks, gap years, and returning to work from the home environment (including maternity and paternity leave).
- Members also discussed further emphasis on people with learning disabilities, and:
 - The need to push more work for these people in the jobs market; and
 - Relevant job support.

Jasbir thanks Members for the comments, and ensured that Work Local will link with the Bright Futures campaign, as well as inviting a Member from the Children and Young People Board (CYP), to join the Skills Taskforce.

Action

- The Board agreed to the principles set-out for the Skills Taskforce in paragraph seven.
- The Bright Futures Campaign to be circulated to Board Members, after the Local Elections.

40 Letter to Anne Milton MP

41 Note of last People and Places Board meeting

Members agreed to the Notes from the previous People and Places Board.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role

Councillor

Authority

Chairman	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Members	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Wokingham Borough Council
	Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Azhar Ali	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
	Cllr Helen Grant	North Yorkshire County Council
Apologies	Cllr Ralph Bagge	South Bucks District Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		