

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

Agenda

Friday, 6 October 2017
11.00 am

5th Floor Board Room, 5th Floor (North side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

To: Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for members and visitors Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Welcome!

Layden House is located directly opposite the Turnmill Street entrance to Farringdon station, which is served by the Circle, Hammersmith & City, and Metropolitan lines as well as the Thameslink national rail route.

Security

Layden House has a swipe card access system meaning that a swipe enabled security passes will be required to access the lifts and floors 1-5.

Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor** of Layden House which is open access and therefore does not require a swipe enabled security pass. **Access** to the rest of the building (floors 1-5) is via swipe enabled security passes.

When you visit Layden House, **please show your Local Government House security pass to reception** and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1-5 if required. **Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

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DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.
DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Soft Seating Area

There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

Toilets

There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

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If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Parking is available at the rear of the building for Blue Badge holders, accessed via the Turks Head Yard, North underpass. Disabled WCs are situated on the ground and 4th floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5th floor conference venue. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Guest WiFi in Layden House

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Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for twelve months and we expect to be back in LGH by October 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
6 October 2017

There will be a meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board at **11.00 am on Friday, 6 October 2017** 5th Floor Board Room, 5th Floor (North side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available after the meeting.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Layden House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Alexander Saul
0207 664 3232 / alexander.saul@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.50 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Alistair Auty	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lynne Duffy	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Colin Davie	Lincolnshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Judith Blake CBE (Vice-Chair)	Leeds City Council
Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
Cllr Rachel Blake	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
Cllr Michael Mordey	Sunderland City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jon Clempner	Harlow District Council
Cllr James Robbins	Swindon Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Adele Morris (Deputy Chair)	Southwark Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	Cumbria County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Rachel Eburne (Deputy Chair)	Mid Suffolk District Council
Cllr Linda Gillham	Runnymede Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council

Agenda

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

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5th Floor Board Room, 5th Floor (North side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 14 December 2017, 2.00 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

DCLG Consultation on ‘Planning for the right homes in the right places’

Purpose

For discussion and direction

Summary

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a consultation ‘Planning for the right homes in the right places’ on 14 September 2017. This sets out proposals to take forward a number of measures set out in the government’s housing white paper to boost housing supply in England. This report provides a summary of the consultation proposals and sets out potential issues for members to consider and discuss. A representative from the Department of Communities and Local Government is scheduled to attend the Board meeting to discuss proposals with Members.

Recommendation

That the EEHT Board discuss the proposals within the consultation and provides a steer on the LGA’s response.

Action

As directed by Members.

Contact officer: Jo Allchurch
Position: Adviser
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Email: jo.allchurch@local.gov.uk

DCLG Consultation on ‘Planning for the right homes in the right places’

Background

1. The DCLG consultation ‘Planning for the right homes in the right places’ includes a number of proposals which seek to take forward specific measures outlined in the housing White Paper published in February 2017.
2. The full consultation [document](#) is available on the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) website. This is accompanied by a housing need consultation data table and a document listing areas where the government intends to prioritise the registration of ownership of all publicly held land.
3. The main proposals of interest to the Board include:
 - 3.1. A standard method for calculating local authorities’ housing need;
 - 3.2. A statement of common ground to assist local authorities in working together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries;
 - 3.3. Making the use of viability assessment simpler, quicker and more transparent; and
 - 3.4. Increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need.
4. These proposals are described in more detail below.

Standard method for calculating the local housing need

5. The government first mooted the proposal for a standard approach to assessing local housing need in the Housing White Paper. It argued that such an approach would be simpler, quicker and more transparent and would speed up the time taken to prepare Local Plans.
6. In the LGA’s response¹ to the Housing White Paper consultation we pointed out that standardised assessment models can bring value by reducing uncertainty and increasing data transparency. However, any standardised approach to assessing housing requirements needs to genuinely reflect local conditions, capture the complexities of

¹ [LGA response to Housing White Paper consultation](#) – May 2017

different housing markets and not set national housing targets on councils and local communities.

7. Our press release² in response to the publication of the consultation stated that “there could be benefits to having a standard approach to assessing the need for housing, but a formula drawn up in Whitehall can never fully understand the complexity and unique needs of local housing markets, which vary significantly from place to place.”

The methodology

8. The proposed standard methodology for calculating local housing need, which does not take into account anticipated employment growth, will consist of three components.
 - 8.1. This will include starting with a demographic baseline based on projections of household growth over a 10 year period.
 - 8.2. The demographic baseline can then be modified to account for house prices using median affordability ratios published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The second part of the methodology therefore would include a multiplier for less affordable areas. This means in areas where house prices are more than four times average earning, the multiplier would increase.
 - 8.3. The third component will see the methodology include a cap on the level of any increase. For any local authority which has adopted their local plan in the last five years, the new annual local housing need figure will be capped at 40 per cent above the annual requirement within the local plan.
9. If the local planning authority does not have an up-to-date local plan (i.e. adopted over five years ago) then the government will cap any local housing need at 40 per cent above whichever is higher of the projected household growth for their area over the plan period or the annual housing requirement set out in their local plan. Information on the housing need numbers for each local authority using the proposed methodology is [here](#).
10. It is also proposed to amend national planning policy so that having a robust method for assessing local housing need becomes part of the tests that plans are assessed against.
11. The consultation acknowledges that the final housing figure in a local plan or spatial development strategy may differ from the local housing need figure from the new methodology, after taking account of issues raised during the examination, constraints (for example Green Belt) and the duty to co-operate.

² [LGA responds to Government announcement on housing need](#) – 14 September 2017

12. The consultation also seeks views on whether a local plan should set out the housing need for designated neighbourhood planning areas and parished areas.

Deviation from the proposed methodology

- 13. The government’s expectation is that the proposed method is adopted by local authorities when assessing housing need.
- 14. Where an alternative method is adopted that results in a lower need than the government methodology this will be tested rigorously through examination of the plan.
- 15. Where a local authority puts forward proposals that give a local housing need figure higher than that through the proposed approach, Planning Inspectors will be advised to work on an assumption that the approach taken is sound.

Implications of the standardised approach for calculating the five-year supply of housing and the government’s proposed Housing Delivery Test

- 16. The Housing White Paper states that in the absence of an up-to-date local or strategic plan, the new method for calculating the local housing need would apply as a baseline for assessing five year housing land supply from 31 March 2018. This means that those local authorities affected would not be able to factor land constraints into the baseline for establishing their five year land supply. This would also have implications should the government implement the Housing Delivery Test, which would introduce new measures to force local authorities to take action on under-delivery including a potential requirement to identify even more land for housing.
- 17. The LGA has been clear that house building is complex and risky involving a wide range of partners. Whilst councils are committed to building homes where they are needed they do not have all the planning powers to actually ensure it happens once planning permission has been granted.
- 18. On that basis, we have recently commissioned two pieces of work to support our ongoing improvement support and lobbying work. The first will capture and present learning from councils finding new ways to incentivise and support the timely build out of high quality development. The second is a research piece looking at unimplemented planning permissions and build out rates of completed developments.

Transitional arrangements

19. The following table is taken directly from the DCLG consultation document

Plan stage	Proposed transitional arrangement
No plan, or plan adopted more than five years ago and has not yet reached publication stage	The new standardised method should be used, unless the plan will be submitted for examination on or before 31 March

	2018, or before the revised Framework is published (whichever is later).
Plan has been published, but not yet submitted	If the plan will be submitted for examination on or before 31 March 2018 or before the revised Framework is published (whichever is later), continue with the current plan preparation – otherwise, use the new standardised method.
Plan is at examination stage	Progress with the examination using the current approach.
Plan adopted in the last five years	Use the new standardised method when next reviewing or updating the plan.

Potential issues for consideration

20. The proposed standardised methodology will likely affect councils in different ways.
21. For some it may mean housing need numbers that are higher than they were planning for. This may create challenges in identifying land supply and therefore greater need for local partnerships.
22. For others it will mean housing need numbers much lower than they were planning for, which may not support local plans for economic growth. Whilst the consultation is clear that councils are free to plan for higher numbers, there is a risk that higher local numbers will be subject to further challenge, and create tensions that could slow down progress of getting new or updated local plans in place.
23. For others the new standardised approach might not raise any concerns if the proposed numbers are not much different from the existing numbers or if it resolves existing challenges in setting numbers locally.
24. Using ONS household creation projections is likely to mean that areas that have built more recently will have higher projections, whereas those that have had few homes built will have low numbers. There is a risk that this does not accurately reflect the actual need/demand for houses on the ground in those areas.
25. Transitional arrangements are important to ensure that progress in getting up-to-date local plans in place is not delayed.

Statement of common ground and the duty to cooperate

26. The Housing White Paper set out a plan for more effective joint working where planning issues cut across local authority boundaries, through a statement of common ground and the consultation fleshes this proposal out in more detail.
27. It is proposed that all local planning authorities should produce a statement of common ground setting out cross-boundary matters, including the housing need for the area, distribution and proposals for meeting any shortfalls and record where agreement has, and has not been reached. This will provide evidence as to how a local planning authority has met the duty to co-operate with a view to enabling examination of local plans to progress more quickly.
28. The LGA has previously suggested that where strategic planning across boundaries breaks down, that sector led support to help unblock barriers should always be the default first response.
29. The LGA has also called for consideration to be given to further good practice guidance of how councils can demonstrate the efforts it has made to cooperate and any outcomes achieved.
30. The consultation also seeks views on the most effective way of introducing the statement of common ground in areas with Mayors with strategic plan-making powers (to whom the duty to cooperate does not currently apply).
31. It is proposed that all local planning authorities (regardless of where they are in the plan-making cycle) should have a statement of common ground in place within twelve months following publication of the revised NPPF and an outline statement in place within six months.
32. Alongside the duty to co-operate, the Planning Inspectorate also currently assesses whether a local plan is 'sound' at examination based on 'tests of soundness' outlined in national policy. The consultation proposes amending these tests to encourage local planning authorities to plan for the wider housing need, including unmet need and ensure the statement of common ground is produced.

Potential issues for consideration

33. Whilst measures supporting wider strategic planning are encouraging, it is important that the proposal for the Statement of Common Ground add value, that they are proportionate, and that they fit within the wider planning system. It will also be important for councils to have sufficient time to prepare and implement.

34. A sector-led approach which seeks to unblock barriers to strategic planning could provide a more proportionate approach than universal application of the proposed statement of common ground.

Viability assessments

35. The LGA has called for local and national government to work together to establish a clear, robust and transparent viability procedure to help manage down the escalation of land values and ensure the delivery of affordable housing and infrastructure that communities need to support development.
36. The consultation proposes a number of changes with a view to improving certainty and transparency in the assessment of viability for plan-making and decision-taking, through amendments to policy and guidance.
37. This includes seeking views on how national guidance could be updated to encourage viability assessments to be simpler, quicker and more transparent, for example through a standardised report.
38. The consultation also proposes a requirement that local plans should identify the infrastructure and affordable housing needed, how these will be funded and the contribution developers will be expected to make.
39. In addition it proposes to make clear in the NPPF that where policy requirements have been tested for their viability, that the issue should not usually need to be tested again at the planning application stage.
40. Finally the consultation proposes to amend national planning policy so that local planning authorities (and elected Mayors) should set out in their plans how they will monitor, report on and publicise funding secured through section 106 agreements, and how it is spent, following an open data approach

Potential issues for consideration

41. Councils have repeatedly raised concerns that the plan-led system is being undermined by the use of viability arguments from developers to avoid the need to meet local plan policy requirements including affordable housing and infrastructure contributions.
42. There is evidence to suggest that the use of viability arguments by developers to negotiate down contributions has become a default position rather than a tool to be used in exceptional circumstances.
43. Making viability assessments public would improve transparency and help to improve public attitudes to developments.

Planning application fees

44. The LGA has repeatedly called for locally-set planning fees to enable local planning authorities to recover the full cost of processing planning application fees.
45. Our recent press release³ pointed out that taxpayers will subsidise planning applications costs by £1 billion over the next five years because nationally set planning fees do not cover the costs of processing planning applications.
46. We called on the government to urgently bring forward the Housing White Paper commitment to allow councils to increase planning fees, as well as commit to testing a fair and transparent scheme of local fee setting.
47. The consultation confirms that it will bring forward regulations at the earliest opportunity to enable local authorities to increase planning application fees by 20 per cent, to honour the commitment in the Housing White Paper.
48. The consultation also seeks views on additional criteria that local authorities could be required to meet to allow them to increase fees by a further 20 per cent.
49. The housing White Paper suggested that this could be applied to those authorities who are delivering the homes their communities need.

Potential issues for consideration

50. The lack of resources of planning departments continues to be a concern raised regularly by both councils and developers.
51. Councils need to be able to recover the actual cost of processing applications so they can maintain high-quality planning decisions, and improve the ability of councils to speed up the planning application process.
52. Any increase in fees should be applied universally, not according to a set of national performance indicators.

Implications for Wales

53. None – the consultation relates to planning in England only.

³ [LGA press release: planning application fees – August 2017](#)

Financial Implications

54. None.

Next steps

55. Members are asked to consider and discuss the key proposals within the consultation and provide a steer on the LGA's response

Grenfell Tower and fire safety in high rise buildings

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This paper provides an update on the work of the LGA following the Grenfell Tower tragedy on 14 June and actions taken by central and local government in response to the fire to ensure that buildings are safe.

Recommendations

That EEHT members:

1. Note the LGA's work to address the issues for local authorities arising from the Grenfell Tower fire.
2. Consider and comment on the actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres.
3. Comment on the initial draft of the LGA's submission to the call for evidence from Dame Judith Hackitt's review of building regulations and fire safety attached to this report.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

Contact officer: Eamon Lally
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Grenfell Tower and fire safety in high rise buildings

Background

1. In the early hours of the morning of 14 June a fire broke out in the early hours of the morning of 14 June at Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Although firefighters from London Fire Brigade were at the tower block within minutes of the alarm being sounded the fire rapidly spread throughout the tower block. The Metropolitan Police estimate that 80 died in the fire.

Investigations and Inquiries

2. The cause of the fire and the reason it spread so quickly through the tower block is still the subject of an on-going criminal investigation matter by the Metropolitan Police. In addition the Prime Minister announced on 14 June 2017 that there would be a Public Inquiry into the fire. The Inquiry is chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick QC, a former Court of Appeal judge. Following a short consultation the terms of reference for the Inquiry were announced on 15 August.
3. The Inquiry will consider the immediate cause of the fire; the design and construction of the building and the decisions relating to its refurbishment; the scope and adequacy of building and fire regulations and other legislation; whether they were complied with at Grenfell Tower, and the fire safety measures on place; the fire prevention and fire safety measures in place on 14 June; and the response of central and local government in the days immediately after the fire. The Inquiry held its first preliminary hearing on 14 September, and the aim is to produce an initial report covering the cause of the fire and means by which it spread by Easter 2018.
4. The Westminster coroner has opened and adjourned her inquiries into the deaths of the victims who have so far been identified to await the conclusions of the police investigation and public inquiry

Implications for other high rise residential buildings

5. Much of the early reporting following the fire focused on the possibility that the external cladding applied to the building had caused the fire to spread rapidly. Given these and other public concerns about the safety of other tower blocks, councils reviewed fire safety assessments, relevant documentation relating to any refurbishments work, took the advice of their fire and rescue services, and contacted residents to reassure them.
6. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) also surveyed councils to identify the number of tower blocks that might have similar cladding to that on Grenfell Tower and therefore be at risk, while the LGA wrote to council leaders and chief executives about the steps being taken by the sector to reassure residents and themselves that a similar fire could not occur in their own tower blocks.
7. The possible involvement of cladding in the spread of the fire at Grenfell Tower led to a series of actions to test the cladding on other buildings with a floor over 18 metres.

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DCLG wrote to all stock holding councils and registered social landlords outlining the arrangements it has put in place to enable aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding on buildings with a floor over 18 metres to be tested and its type identified. Of those tested all were found to be of two types; ACM polyethylene (PE) and ACM fire retardant polyethylene (FR). Using this information councils engaged with their local fire and rescue service to review fire safety in relevant blocks and to seek advice on the requirement for additional fire safety measures.

8. Following representation from the Local Government Association and others and the advice of the Independent Expert Panel on Safety, established by DCLG, further testing was conducted during July and August to help landlords to ensure the safety of their buildings. These large scale tests aimed to establish how different types of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels in combination with different types of insulation behaved in a fire, and whether they were compliant with building regulations.
9. A total of 7 combinations of ACM cladding and insulation were tested by Building Research Establishment (BRE) at DCLG's request, with the following results:
 - 9.1. Test 1 - ACM PE + foam insulation – fail
 - 9.2. Test 2 - ACM PE + mineral wool insulation – fail
 - 9.3. Test 3 - ACM FR + foam insulation – fail
 - 9.4. Test 4 - ACM FR + mineral wool – pass
 - 9.5. Test 5 - ACM A2 + foam insulation pass
 - 9.6. Test 6 - ACM A2 + mineral wool – pass
 - 9.7. Test 7 - ACM FR + phenolic foam – fail

Council tower blocks

10. Fifteen councils were found to own tower blocks with combinations of ACM cladding and insulation that failed the BRE tests. DCLG have been liaising closely with affected councils. Now that councils are aware that they have to replace the cladding on their buildings plans are being put in place to do this, where the process has not already started.
11. Councils (and others) are of course keen to understand what they can replace the failed cladding with. DCLG issued consolidated guidance on 8 September based on the test results and other work such as advice from the expert panel so far. But they have not set a timetable for further guidance or changes in the building regulations so landlords will have to make judgments based on the best information available at the time.
12. DCLG are also considering the need for further tests on other cladding materials, and there have been media reports that BRE will publish further test results for cladding material that have passed fire safety tests. While this would provide greater clarity on what can be used to replace failed combinations of cladding and insulation, it raises the possibility that the number of buildings found to require remedial work could be widened.

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Private sector blocks

13. Now that all the social housing residential high rise blocks with failed combinations of ACM cladding and insulation have been identified, DCLG's attention has turned to the private sector. The Department is currently considering what it can do to ensure that private owners of buildings check whether they have dangerous cladding and, if they do have it, inform residents, take remedial steps and remove it.
14. Councils are seen as key to the process. The Secretary of State has already written to councils to remind them of their responsibilities under the Housing Act 2004 for the condition of housing in their area. DCLG officials are now considering how councils can help them identify all residential buildings over 18 metres in height, and establish which of these have combinations of cladding and insulation that have failed the BRE tests.
15. The correspondence from DCLG has raised questions over the resources that will be required to gather an accurate list of private sector residential high rise blocks when some areas have tens of blocks if not hundreds. In particular it may not be possible to identify what sort of cladding a building has from planning or building control documents, and there are indications that the existing data DCLG has may significantly underestimate the number of residential high rise buildings.
16. In the event a private landlord is not cooperative about sending samples of cladding to be tested by BRE, there is some uncertainty over the legal powers councils have in these circumstances.

Large Panel System-built blocks

17. Due to concerns about building safety after the fire at Grenfell Tower another safety issue has been identified following an inspection of tower blocks in Southwark. The four blocks of the Ledbury Estate were inspected by Arup following residents' concerns at gaps between wall/floor panels that compromised fire safety. The blocks do not have cladding.
18. The blocks were built shortly after the Ronan Point Collapse in 1968, by the same company (Taylor Woodrow Anglia) using the same system of factory-built panels fitted together on site. At Ronan Point a gas explosion caused part of the block to collapse and building regulations were later rewritten to strengthen the requirements for such blocks to withstand explosive force. Arup raised concerns that the strengthening work following Ronan Point may not have been sufficient and Southwark took the decision to turn off the gas supply to the blocks pending further investigations.
19. Southwark made their report public and it was shared in LGA bulletins to all councils on 11 August in the following terms:

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You may have seen the announcement from Southwark Council regarding safety concerns at its tower blocks on the Ledbury Estate. The blocks were constructed between 1968 and 1970 using a method called the large panel system, in which large concrete sections were bolted together on site. The same technique was used at Ronan Point, a tower block in east London which partly collapsed in 1968 following a gas explosion. Engineers working on behalf of Southwark have raised concerns about whether safety work required after the disaster was properly carried out. The council is investigating further.

We have been in touch with other councils we know may have blocks constructed around this time using the same system. These councils will be double-checking that post-Ronan Point safety work was carried out and remains appropriate. If you have blocks in your council area of this type but have not heard from us, please do contact your Principal Advisor and also make DCLG aware using this email address: towercaseworkteam@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

20. Arup is undertaking a further review to establish whether the necessary strengthening has taken place and is expected to report to DCLG shortly.

Additional fire safety measures including fire suppression systems

21. As stated, councils have been working with local fire and rescue services to assess the need for additional fire safety measures in tall blocks. A number of councils have already taken the decision to enhance fire safety measures including retro-fitting sprinkler systems, and installing smoke detectors and fire alarms.
22. The LGA approach to the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems or other fire suppression methods was discussed at a joint meeting of the lead members of this Board, the Fire Services Management Committee, the Safer and the Stronger Communities Board at the start of August. At the end of the meeting it was noted that across the three boards:
- 22.1. There were strong views in support of sprinklers being installed in new buildings, and that there should be risk assessed retro-fitting of sprinklers or other fire suppression systems in existing buildings;
- 22.2. The height of the building was less important as a risk factor than the resident's vulnerability and the characteristics of the building; and
- 22.3. Residents in some areas had expressed concerns about the retro-fitting of sprinklers and there were also issues associated with costs, skills and timescales to do the work. It should be a matter for local decision as to what buildings were retro-fitted.
23. During the discussions it had also been noted that the effectiveness of retro-fitting sprinklers was dependent on them being installed in large proportion of the flats in a block, and the presence of a large number of leaseholders due to right-to-buy sales

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could impact on any retro-fitting programme as leaseholders could not be compelled to have sprinklers fitted in their properties.

Building Regulations and fire safety

24. What has become apparent during the LGA's work on building safety in high rise residential buildings after the fire at Grenfell Tower is how complicated and confusing the guidance published to support the building regulations is. This is not the first time this issue has been raised. After the 2009 Lakanal House fire Inquest, which reported in 2013, the Coroner stated that Approved Document B (which covers fire safety in high rise buildings) "is a most difficult document to use".
25. The Coroner recommended that it be reviewed to ensure that it "provides clear guidance in relation to Regulation B4 of the Building Regulations, with particular regard to the spread of fire over the external envelope of the building". However this review has not yet taken place, so the LGA pressed for an urgent review of the building regulations.
26. DCLG announced on 28 July that there would be a review of the building regulations and fire safety chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt, former chair of the Health and Safety Executive.
27. After the review was announced the LGA wrote to Dame Judith to ask she consider the need to clarify building regulations (including Approved Document B); the ability for such regulations and guidance to be implemented effectively by those who need to use them, for example in the construction and manufacturing industries; and the roles and responsibilities for fire safety.
28. The terms of reference for the review were published on 30 August:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-publication-of-terms-of-reference>
29. The review will assess the effectiveness of current building and fire safety regulations and related compliance and enforcement issues, with a focus on multi occupancy high rise residential buildings. The review's two key priorities are to develop a more robust regulatory system for the future and provide further assurance to residents that the buildings they live in are safe and remain safe. While the review will cover the regulatory system for all buildings, it will have a specific focus on multi occupancy high rise residential buildings. An interim report will be submitted in autumn 2017 and a final report submitted in spring 2018. A call for evidence was made by the Review on 12 September.
30. An initial draft LGA submission to the Review's call for evidence will be circulated separately from the agenda. Members are asked to provide comments on this draft to inform the decisions of the Grenfell Task and Finish Group and the LGA's Leadership Board.

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LGA work

31. The LGA has worked to support councils and fire and rescue authorities in the wake of the fire to ensure that our member councils are equipped with the information they need to act swiftly, including seconding staff in to DCLG to provide direct support to councils as part of the national team dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. The LGA's Chairman, Lord Porter or our Chief Executive have been attending the Building Safety Ministerial Group which has been meeting almost weekly since the fire.
32. The LGA has provided regular communications with Chief Executives, Chief Fire Officers and council leaders and created a Frequently Asked Questions page on our website (based on questions from councils) with links to relevant guidance, DCLG information and factual information about what we know so far. This has been regularly updated and can be found on the LGA's website: www.local.gov.uk/grenfell-tower-frequently-asked-questions-local-authorities
33. The LGA has led the national media's agenda to promote the response of councils and fire and rescue authorities to the Grenfell Tower fire. Lord Porter raised concerns about the initial fire safety tests and called for an urgent review of building regulations in a range of high-profile LGA media interviews on the BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, Radio 4 You and Yours and Sky News. His appearance on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire show was the longest interview by any guest in the history of the programme. He has also called for previous fire test results on cladding systems to be published on BBC Newsnight. In total, the LGA has featured in 90 episodes of national media coverage.
34. During our work we have raised concerns from councils with officials and the Ministerial Group, most recently in relation to the proposed work to identify private sector tower blocks that might have combinations of ACM cladding and insulation that failed the BRE tests. Whilst councils share the Government's wish to ensure that all residents are safe, whoever owns the building they live in this work could add a significant resource burden, both to do the data collection – which we have argued should be seen as a new burden – and also wider costs to councils in undertaking this work.
35. Member councils have also been raising consistent concerns about the resources needed to undertake remedial work in relation to cladding, as well as putting in place temporary fire safety measures while this work is done, which in some areas is likely to cost tens of millions of pounds. The Government has stressed that the responsibility for making buildings safe rests with landlords, and councils have not delayed work because of lack of funds, but it is not yet clear what funding DCLG will make available to support councils with the work. Work to quantify the costs – both of remedial work to council-owned tower blocks, and of wider work in relation to other buildings – is ongoing and will be an important strand of LGA work in the coming weeks.

Lobbying priorities

36. Immediately after the fire the LGA identified three key lobbying priorities for our work going forward. The LGA Leadership Board considered these at their meeting on 21 July 2017 and reiterated these priorities, which are to ensure that:

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- 36.1. National action focuses on what needs to happen to make buildings safe.
 - 36.2. Government agrees to find the necessary resources for any required changes, both for remedial work and for any new tighter requirements.
 - 36.3. A review of building regulations and fire safety guidance and systems is undertaken.
37. With the announcement of the terms of reference for both the Public Inquiry and the review of building regulations and fire safety the last of these priorities will now focus on submitting evidence to them.
38. Overall responsibility for the LGA's Grenfell Tower response resides with the Leadership Board, with the Chairman and Group Leaders having responsibility for directing activity. In order to coordinate the LGA's work in this complex area a Task and Finish Group has been established, with individual boards and committees continuing to provide input to the detail of policy as it relates to their specific areas of responsibility.

Implications for Wales

39. The issues set out in this document are being addressed by the devolved administration and local authorities in Wales.

Financial Implications

40. The LGA's work in response to Grenfell Tower has been intensive; however it has been met so far from existing resources.

Next steps

41. Members are asked to:
- 41.1. Note the LGA's work to address the issues for local authorities arising from the Grenfell Tower fire.
 - 41.2. Consider and comment on the actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres.
 - 41.3. Comment on the initial draft of the LGA's submission to the call for evidence from Dame Judith Hackitt's review of building regulations and fire safety, which will circulated separately to the agenda.

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board 2017/18: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

For information and approval.

Summary

This report sets out how the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to note the Board's membership and agree their Terms of Reference and nominations to Outside Bodies for the 2017/18 year.

Recommendations

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:

1. agrees note its Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**);
2. formally notes the membership for 2017/18 (**Appendix B**);
3. note the Board meeting dates for 2017/18 (**Appendix C**); and
4. agrees the Board's nominations to outside bodies (**Appendix D**).

Action

As directed by Members.

Contact officer: Alexander Saul
Position: Member Services Officer
Phone no: 020 7664 3232
E-mail: Alexander.Saul@local.gov.uk

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board 2017/18: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

2017/18 Terms of reference and membership

3. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board's Terms of Reference and Membership are set out at **Appendix A** and **B** for agreement and noting respectively.
4. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Boards meeting dates for 2017/18 are also found at **Appendix C** for noting.

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Lead Members

5. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
6. The Lead Members for 2017/18 are:
 - 6.1 Cllr Martin Tett, Chairman (Conservative)
 - 6.2 Cllr Judith Blake CBE, Vice-Chair (Labour)
 - 6.3 Cllr Adele Morris, Deputy Chair (Liberal Democrat)
 - 6.4 Cllr Rachel Eburne, Deputy Chair (Independents)

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport team

7. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with Policy colleagues and designated Member Services Officer, being those which you are likely to have regular contact with.
8. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities relating to Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport, and also a number of other discrete issues which are within the Board's remit. The team

works with Board Members, the LGA press office and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport issues in the media, directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.

9. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance if each engagement.
10. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

Communications and Events

11. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
12. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board outside body appointments

13. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all Boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA. A database for centrally recording all the information relating to appointments is held by the Member Services team.
14. A list of the organisations to which the Board will appoint member representatives for the 2017/18 meeting cycle is attached at **Appendix D**. Members are asked to agree to their respective political groups nominating representatives. Nominations are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA.
15. Political groups will be asked to **re-appoint** those councillors who are remaining in post. This is;
 - 15.1 HS2 Environmental Forum – Cllr Martin Tett (Con)
 - 15.2 Planning Advisory Service Board – Cllr Adele Morris (Lib Dem)
 - 15.3 Planning Advisory Service Board – Cllr Stephen Parker (Con)
 - 15.4 Planning Advisory Service Board – Cllr Jon Clempner (Lab)

16. Political groups are asked to **appoint** councillors to current vacancies. These include;

- 16.1 HS2 Environmental Forum – the 2016/17 representative Cllr James Lewis (Lab) is no longer a member of the Board.



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- 16.2 Planning Advisory Service Board – the 2016/17 representative Cllr Mike Haines (Ind) is no longer a member of the Board.
 - 16.3 National Fly-tipping Prevention Group – the 2016/17 representative Cllr Catherine Rankin (Con) is no longer a member of the Board.
 - 16.4 Canal & River Trust Council – the 2016/17 representative Cllr Simon Greaves (Lab) is no longer a member of the Board.
17. The Board is also asked to note the removal of the HCA Rural Housing Advisory Board and the Climate Local Steering Group as they are no longer a functioning organisations.

Appendix A

Terms of Reference: Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board

The purpose of the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board is to provide strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to the economy and environment, including transport, economic development and business support, housing, planning, waste and climate change, in line with the LGA priorities and any specific regulatory and LGA European lobbying priorities as they relate to this activity.

Boards should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement) operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The responsibilities of the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board include:

1. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
2. Developing a work programme to deliver the business plan priorities relevant to their brief, covering lobbying, campaigns, research, improvement support and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
3. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
4. Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA including making public statements on its areas of responsibility.
5. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
6. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
6. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.

The Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board may:

1. Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
2. Appoint member champions from the Board to lead on key issues.



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Quorum

One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

Political Composition

Conservative group:	8 members
Labour group:	7 members
Independent group:	2 members
Liberal Democrat group:	2 members

Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

Frequency per year

Meetings to be held five times per annum.

Reporting Accountabilities

The LGA Executive provides oversight of the Board. The Board may report periodically to the LGA Executive as required, and will submit an annual report to the Executive's July meeting.

Appendix B

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Alistair Auty	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lynne Duffy	Wychavon District Council
Cllr Blake Pain	Harborough District Council
Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Colin Davie	Lincolnshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Judith Blake CBE (Vice-Chair)	Leeds City Council
Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
Cllr Rachel Blake	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
Cllr Michael Mordey	Sunderland City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jon Clempner	Harlow District Council
Cllr James Robbins	Swindon Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Adele Morris (Deputy Chair)	Southwark Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	Cumbria County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Rachel Eburne (Deputy Chair)	Mid Suffolk District Council
Cllr Linda Gillham	Runnymede Borough Council



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<i>Substitutes</i>	
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council



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Appendix C

Meeting Dates 2017/18

DAY	DATE	TIME	Room
Friday	6 October 2017	11.00 – 13.00	5 th Floor, Layden House
Thursday	14 December 2017	14:00 – 16:00	Westminster Suite, Local Government House
Friday	23 February 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Rathbone 1 & 2, Local Government House
Wednesday	23 May 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Rathbone 1 & 2, Local Government House
Thursday	12 July 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport: Outside Bodies
Appointments to LGA bodies

Appendix D

Organisation / contact details	Background	Representatives	LGA Contact Officer
<p>HS2 Environmental Forum</p> <p>Contact: Helen Smart Email: Helen.Smart@dft.gsi.gov.uk</p>	<p>Forum for Government departments and statutory bodies to advise on environmental policy for the HS2 project. Meets quarterly.</p>	<p>2 positions</p> <p>Cllr Martin Tett (Con) Buckinghamshire County Council</p> <p>Cllr James Lewis (Lab) Leeds City Council</p>	<p>Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser Kamal.Panchal@local.gov.uk</p>
<p>Planning Advisory Service Board</p>	<p>The PAS Governance Board was set up to provide sector leadership to ensure the support offered by PAS is responsive to councils' needs and supports exchange of good practice. The aim is to support on-going improvement in plan making and decision taking including helping councils to avoid designation on performance on major applications. The Board consists of the LGA, DCLG Directors and representatives of SOLACE, ADEPT and the Planning Officers Society. Meets quarterly.</p>	<p>4 representatives</p> <p>Cllr Stephen Parker (Con) Hart District Council</p> <p>Cllr Jon Clempner (Lab) Harlow District Council</p> <p>Cllr Adele Morris (LD) Southwark Council</p> <p>Cllr Mike Haines (Ind) Teignbridge District Council</p>	<p>Alice Lester (PAS) alice.lester@local.gov.uk</p>

<p>Canal & River Trust Council</p> <p>Contact: council@canalrivertrust.org.uk</p>	<p>Canals and rivers managed by British Waterways in England and Wales, transferred to a charitable trust - now named Canal & River Trust - in April 2012. Within the governance structure of the Trust, a Council has a remit to safeguard the long-term values and purposes of the Trust. The Council helps to shape policy, raise and debate issues, and provide guidance, perspective and a sounding board for Trustees. The full Council will meet two times a year.</p>	<p>1 representative</p> <p>Cllr Simon Greaves (Lab)</p> <p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	
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Proportionality Figures 2017/18

Members are asked to ensure that appointments for 2017/18 are in broad proportionality with the 19 Member political group makeup of the Board, which is as follows:

8 Conservative, 7 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat , 2 Independent.



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Board priorities and work programme

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out a draft list of priorities for the Board together with a draft work programme for the period to July 2018. A draft work programme is set out in **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

That the EEHT Board considers and agrees a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

Contact officer: Eamon Lally
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 02076643132/07799768570
Email: Eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

Board priorities and work programme

Background

1. The EEHT Board in liaison with the LGA's Leadership Board is responsible for establishing LGA policy and lobbying positions in relation to the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport. This is a very wide brief and members have found it helpful to prioritise their work to be effective and achieve the best outcomes for the local government sector.

Draft priorities and work programme

2. In prioritising, the Board will want to be aware of the issues that are being raised by councils, which have informed the LGA's business plan priorities¹ and the government's own priorities. The Board will also want to make a judgement on where it can make the most significant contribution.
3. A draft work programme is set out in **appendix A**.

Next steps

4. Members are asked to consider and agree a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme.

¹ <https://www.local.gov.uk/business-plan-december-2016november-2017>

Appendix A

EEHT Draft work programme 2017/18			
Priority	Key outcomes	Board Activity	Timescales
Housing and Planning	Council role in building more homes recognised in government policy	Continue to influence government policy as it seeks to implement aspects of the White Paper through secondary legislation and changes to guidance. Sponsor improvement work in this area Responding to government's social housing green paper	July 2018
	A better funded, proactive planning system delivering homes that communities need	To continue to press government for local determination of planning fees. Pursuing mechanisms for capturing uplift in land values for investment in infrastructure. Responding to the government's consultation on the determination of local housing need.	Dec 2017
	Achieve a greater focus on preventing homelessness and improving the way vulnerable people and those in crisis are housed	Work with government and councils to ensure that the measures in the Homelessness Recognition Act are implemented appropriately and that in a way that best meets the need of the homeless. To continue to lobby for additional measures to address homelessness such as adapting welfare reforms by lifting the Local Housing Allowance freeze and re-linking it to rents (see LGA Growing places, June 2017).	April 2018

	Deliver a housing improvement programme	EEHT to sponsor improvement work in this area	July 2018
	Grenfell: the building regulations review leads to improvement in the building regulations' guidance to improve fire safety	The Board to continue to inform the broader LGA position.	July 2018
Brexit	Under the principle of subsidiarity, the government is working with local government on a new legal framework for services and responsibilities which are currently based on EU law. These include waste, environmental protection and state aid.	The Board to continue to inform the broader LGA position and to lobby relevant Ministers in advance of negotiations with the EU on its key positions.	ongoing
Waste and recycling	Local authorities have the freedom to collect and dispose of waste in the way that is best suited to their residents.	Following on from the review of waste and recycling to develop and agree an approach to addressing the challenges in the current system, reflecting on the changes that might be possible as a result of Brexit. [Board session on waste options February 2018]	Dec 2017
Transport	Managing local pressures: Councils are properly supported to deliver better air quality in line with the Government's air quality plan (recognising links to sustainable growth). New work on promoting sustainable travel Roadworks	Board to continue to lobby government on these issues	July 2018
	Major Roads Network: Councils have the biggest say on what that network will look like, that the proportion of Roads Fund made available to local roads is fair and that funding is as certain as possible.	Board to continue to lobby government on these issues	July 2018
	Future transport: That councils both understand the implications, and are able to	[Board session on the implications for councils of the electrification and autonomous vehicles	July 2018

	shape outcomes and take advantage of the opportunities.	December 2017]	
Economy	Ensuring that Government's Industrial Strategy response is backed up by funding and devolution commitments That plans to give councils formal recognition of their role in driving economic growth (as stated by Greg Clark, SOS BEIS) is a positive one, builds on existing strengths and is not prescriptive.	Continue to refine the LGA's position on the industrial strategy and to work with Ministers in securing an effective outcome for local areas	December 2017
	Town centres: Alongside the above, the LGA will be working with DCLG on an information and best practice forum.	Provide leadership in the development and presentation of good practice to the sector.	July 2018
	Inclusive Growth we will continue our partnership with the BPF on public/ private collaboration and share lessons and recommendations wider afield, including through the new town centre forum	Looking at the issue of SME's in the economy [Board session on the future of town centres May 2018]	July 2018
Flooding	We continue to seek: Greater local flexibility of how flood risk management funding is spent, to better reflect local needs. Full cost-recovery of statutory duties through local fee setting. The ability for areas to use precepts to provide additional funding, where there is local agreement.	Achieved through continuing discussions with government through the Autumn Budget and beyond. [Board session to look into the potential alternative solutions to flooding February 2018].	July 2018

Note of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

Title:	Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Date:	Wednesday 19 July 2017
Venue:	Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Declarations of Interest
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There were no declarations of interest.

The Board agreed that item 4, on Grenfell Tower, was moved to follow after item 2, the End of Year report, on the agenda.

The Chairman gave thanks to Cllr Keith House for his long standing role as a Deputy Chair of the Board and for his valuable expertise.

2	Post EU Exit - Waste and Recycling Policy
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Sonika Sidhu, Adviser, introduced this report with the aim of Members giving consideration to the challenges facing councils around providing effective waste and recycling services. To assist Members to have a complete picture about the future of waste and recycling three external speakers presented their views and experience to the board.

Jacob Hayler, Environmental Services Association, explained to the Board that his organisations view was that current waste and recycling targets being discussed by Europe will not get transposed onto the UK. Regarding recycling he expressed a view that it would require far greater investment or structural change going forwards. He informed the Board that in future the UK should move away from weight based targets. He emphasised that the targets currently being discussed are municipal waste as opposed to domestic waste. He also emphasised the opportunity to reform regulation around producer responsibility and that after the British exit of the EU the Environment Agency will have to completely review their policies.

The second speaker, Alison Ellison of the British Retail Consortium, gave particular emphasis to the importance of a circular economy and need for a long term vision.

She supported Jacob in his view that weight based recycling should not continue. She also expressed a view that a consistent policy direction would continue to increase the quality and quantity of recycling and that retailers will continue to simplify packaging. Alison raised her concern around the risk of not having long term vision for the future and businesses having to deal with different policies for each country of the UK.

Andrew Pau, the Strategic Manager of Waste at Oxfordshire County Council, spoke to the Board as the final external speaker. He expressed his support for the concept of a circular economy and a view that Councils could see as a great opportunity to create jobs. He also raised concerns as to the recent stagnation of recycling and that the current target of 65% would be unattainable. He informed the Board that Councils need to change their focus from recycling and focus on waste minimisation and managing landfill. Lastly he expressed a view that local decision making powers within a national framework would be the best way forwards.

In the discussion that followed Members raised the following points;

- Views were expressed in support of ascertaining a new way in which we measure recycling.
- Members also showed support for favouring waste minimisation going forwards.
- A view was expressed that Councils would need clear and consistent recycling targets.
- A view was expressed that recycling and waste minimisation need to be included in the Government's energy strategy.
- Members were of the view that the LGA should continue to lobby for greater producer and manufacturer responsibility.
- A concern was raised that Local Government would need to be careful if focusing more on waste minimisation to not be viewed as reducing their ambition regarding recycling.

Decision

The Chairman summarised the Board's views on the questions that were raised by the report and explored in the Board discussion as follows.

Regarding whether recycling had naturally plateaued the Board agreed that discussion around recycling needed to move beyond the national targets and consider the broader concept of waste minimisation and how this could be delivered. Members saw the recycling market as being unpredictable and wanted to further understand the potential for the reuse and recovery of energy. There was clear agreement that the LGA continues to lobby for greater producer responsibility and the overall reduction of packaging.

Regarding models of more efficient waste and recycling services for the future, the Board agreed there wasn't any single best model. Council's value having local flexibility so that they can deliver the right kind of service. In many cases this means working with neighbouring authorities. Post Britain leaving the EU councils want local control over how they collect and dispose of waste. A prescriptive national model was not seen as the answer. A discussion about pay as you throw should be considered

for a future meeting.

In regards to the medium to long term risks for waste and recycling services the Board were of the view that these were unclear as the Government is yet to articulate its 25 year Environment Plan and still needs to develop a Resource Management strategy. It was agreed that it would be unhelpful if the 4 nations started developing their own strategies as it would be important for there to be synergy across any long term policies. It was recognised that some form of targets would be useful to drive continuous improvement, but that these shouldn't be so directive that they stifle the performance of councils. The EU target needed to be replaced with something that fits local needs. It was also suggested that the food waste bill needs further consideration.

Regarding the post EU Exit aspiration for this service area and what the balance between a national policy and local flexibility should be the Chairman stated that until the current rules are repatriated this would remain an open question. Some Members highlighted that our exiting of the EU offers up the opportunity to redefine the target framework for waste and recycling services. Members asked officers to look at alternative methods for measuring recycling and looking at what waste minimisation would mean in practise.

Action

Officers will incorporate the Boards views into our EU exit lobby position.

3 Grenfell Tower

The Chairman introduced the paper informing on the work that central and local government have been doing following the Grenfell Tower Fire. In particular the report asked the Board to consider actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres following the Grenfell Tower Fire. The report also asked Members to consider the role of the Board in lobbying for an urgent review of the Building Regulations' guidance and how best to use a meeting and potential working group drawn from the Fire Services Management Committee, Safer Stronger Communities Board, EEHT and the National Fire Chiefs Council.

In the following discussion Members raised the following points;

- Views were expressed that local government would need to know the full results of cladding tests before ascertaining how best to progress.
- Views were expressed that the LGA need to develop a stronger narrative in approaching is, in particular in future discussion with central government.
- Members raised concerns that councils needed clarity from central government as to the actions they needed to take, and how this will be funded.
- Members asked that a note be circulated to LGA Boards detailing their specific remit and role on the work that central and local government have been doing following the Grenfell Tower Fire.

- Cllr Blake also raised concerns from Leeds City Council where they have 116 tower blocks, of which it would cost 240 thousand for each to be retrofitted with sprinklers and that Leeds currently lacked the capacity to retrofit these tower blocks in the near future.
- Members expressed views that building regulations needed an urgent review, in particular where permitted developments are concerned.

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, explained regarding communications to Board Members that the Chief Executive and Chairman's Bulletins had been used to keep LGA Members informed.

It was suggested that the Board send a letter to the LGA's Executive expressing the Board's concerns, and asking they push for urgency from central government in providing clarity to local government as to how they should progress in ensuring fire safety in tower blocks. Also, that this letter brings to the LGA Executive's attention the Board's request for clarity regarding the issue of permitted development rights and an urgent review of current building regulations.

Decisions

The Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board;

1. Discussed and provided feedback on the actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres following the Grenfell Tower Fire.
2. Discussed the role of the EEHT board in lobbying for an urgent review of the Building Regulations' guidance.
3. Agreed that a letter be sent to the LGA Executive expressing their concerns regarding fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres following the Grenfell Tower Fire as well as their support for an urgent review of the Building Regulations' guidance.
4. Discussed how best to use a meeting and potential working group drawn from the Fire Services Management Committee, Safer Stronger Communities Board, EEHT and the National Fire Chiefs Council.

Actions

Officers to draft a letter for the LGA Executive expressing the views of the Board and this letter to be sent to the following LGA Executive meeting with all Lead Members agreement, to ensure a cross party consensus.

4 **End of Year Report**

The Chairman brought Members attention to the end of year report which provides the Board with an overview of the issues and work the Board has overseen during last year, as well as setting out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the EEHT Board in 2016/2017, and looks forward to next year's priorities.

Members expressed views that the Boards priorities should expand on inclusive growth and circular economy. A view was also expressed that energy efficiency in housing should be a priority.

Decision

Members agreed the End of Year report.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members views into future priorities of the Board, to be agreed at the first meeting of the Board in the 2017/18 political cycle.

5 **Transport and Growth Update**

Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser, gave an update to Board members regarding three recent policy and LGA developments; The Government's Transport Investment Strategy and the Major Roads Network, Town Centre Regeneration and Economic Growth landscape.

In the discussion which followed members raised the following points;

- A view was expressed that there would be a need for greater accountability in Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) should the government go through with their manifesto commitment to give LEPs greater weight in law.
- A concern was raised that devolution should perhaps not be addressed as if it confirmed that the government is going through with devolving powers.
- A Member also asked that going forwards we consider how local authorities will deliver the Industrial Strategy, in particular once laws and powers are repatriated.

Decision

Members noted the update.

Action

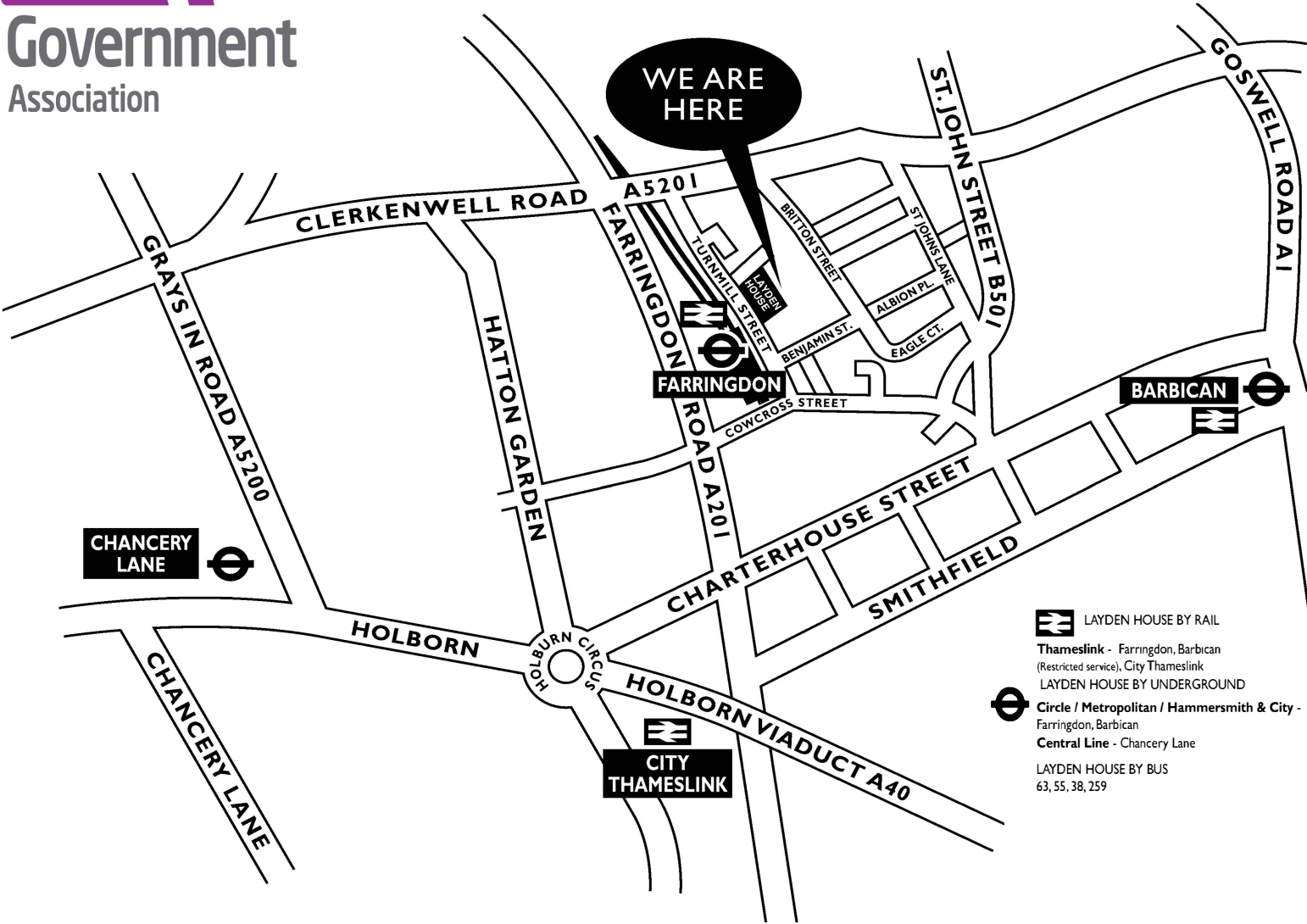
Officers to incorporate Members views into future policy work in transport and growth.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting

Members agreed the minutes.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
Members	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
	Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
	Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Alyson Barnes	Rosendale Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Rachel Eburne	Mid Suffolk District Council
Apologies	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr David Westley	West Lancashire Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw District Council
	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Hugh Evans OBE	Denbighshire County Council
	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council



-  LAYDEN HOUSE BY RAIL
- Thameslink** - Farringdon, Barbican (Restricted service), City Thameslink
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY UNDERGROUND**
-  **Circle / Metropolitan / Hammersmith & City** - Farringdon, Barbican
- Central Line** - Chancery Lane
- LAYDEN HOUSE BY BUS**
63, 55, 38, 259

Layden House

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**The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

Public Transport

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

Bus routes - Farringdon Station

- 63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
- 55 - Oxford Circus -High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
- 243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

Cycling Facilities

The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.
 For more information please go to www.tfl.gov.uk

Car Parks

- Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
- NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA