

# Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

Agenda

Friday, 23 February 2018  
11.00 am

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith  
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

## **Guidance notes for members and visitors**

### **18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

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

#### **Welcome!**

18 Smith Square is located in the heart of Westminster, and is nearest to the Westminster, Pimlico, Vauxhall and St James's Park Underground stations, and also Victoria, Vauxhall and Charing Cross railway stations. A map is available on the back page of this agenda.

#### **Security**

All visitors (who do not have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be given a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

18 Smith Square has a swipe card access system meaning that security passes will be required to access all floors. Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor, 7<sup>th</sup> floor and 8<sup>th</sup> floor** of 18 Smith Square.

**Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

#### **Fire instructions**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.



#### **Open Council**

Open Council, on the 7th floor of 18 Smith Square, provides informal meeting space and refreshments for local authority members and officers who are in London.

#### **Toilets**

Unisex toilet facilities are available on every floor of 18 Smith Square. Accessible toilets are also available on all floors.

#### **Accessibility**

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.

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

#### **Guest WiFi in 18 Smith Square**

WiFi is available in 18 Smith Square for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register, either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

**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](http://www.local.gov.uk)

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board  
23 February 2018

---

There will be a meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board at **11.00 am on Friday, 23 February 2018** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Harry Parker  
0207 664 3007/ [harry.parker@local.gov.uk](mailto:harry.parker@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
<b>Conservative ( 8)</b>	
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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
<b>Labour ( 7)</b>	
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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Cllr James Robbins	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2)</b>	
Cllr Adele Morris (Deputy Chair)	Southwark Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	Cumbria County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
<b>Independent ( 2)</b>	
Cllr Rachel Eburne (Deputy Chair)	Mid Suffolk District Council
Cllr Linda Gillham	Runnymede Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council

## LGA Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board Attendance 2017-2018

Councillors	6/10/17	14/12/17	23/02/18
<b>Conservative Group</b>			
Cllr Martin Tett	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Alistair Auty	Yes	No	
Cllr Simon Cooke	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Lynne Duffy	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Blake Pain	No	Yes	
Cllr David Renard	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Colin Davie	Yes	Yes	
<b>Labour Group</b>			
Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Tony Newman	No	Yes	
Cllr Helen Holland	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Ed Turner	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Rachel Blake	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Gillian Campbell	Yes	No	
Cllr Michael Mordey	Yes	Yes	
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>			
Cllr Adele Morris	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Peter Thornton	Yes	Yes	
<b>Independent</b>			
Cllr Rachel Eburne	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Linda Gillham	Yes	Yes	
<b>Substitutes/Observers</b>			
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Yes	Yes	
Cllr Stephen Parker	Yes	No	
Cllr Jon Clempner	Yes	Yes	

## Agenda

---

### Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Friday 23 February 2018

11.00 am

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

---

Item	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
2. Flood risk management	1 - 4
3. Waste and Recycling update	5 - 18
4. Housing, planning and infrastructure	19 - 26
5. General Board Update	27 - 30
6. Minutes of the previous meeting	31 - 37
7. Any other business	

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 23 May 2018, 11.00 am, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ





## **Flood risk management**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

The EEHT Board has received regular updates on flooding when there have been major developments. Board Members indicated that it would be useful to discuss flooding at a time which would enable the development of a longer term strategic approach. DEFRA has announced a review of flood defence funding post 2021. In addition the 25 Year Environment Plan has also highlighted that there will be an update of the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy in 2019 looking to strengthen joint delivery across organisations.

The Board has therefore taken the opportunity to invite two speakers along to the meeting to provide a national and local perspective on flooding. Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the specialist speakers and to review the LGA's key lobbying lines on flooding to ensure that we can effectively impact both the funding review and the 25 Year Environment Plan.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Members give direction for LGA engagement with government on future flooding policy and funding.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed by members.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Jo Allchurch / Sonika Sidhu
<b>Position:</b>	Adviser / Senior Adviser
<b>Phone no:</b>	07900 931045 / 0207 664 3076
<b>Email:</b>	jo.allchurch@local.gov.uk / sonika.sidhu@local.gov.uk

## **Flood risk management**

### **Background**

1. Around 5.4 million properties in England are at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, surface water or both. Annual flood damage costs for the whole of the UK are estimated to be in the region of £1.1 billion. It is not possible to prevent all flooding or coastal erosion, but the impacts on communities can be reduced with effective flood and coastal erosion risk management.
2. The Government committed to investing £2.5 billion in capital funding for flood defences for the period 2015-16 to 2020-21, stating that the six year investment would protect a further 300,000 properties and reduce flood risk by five per cent. Previously funding was allocated on an annual basis only. Revenue funding is allocated for a one-year period only, however maintenance funding was protected by the 2015 Government in real terms at the 2015/16 level (£171 million) and budgets were allocated for each year up to 2019/20, totalling about £1 billion.
3. The majority of the funding for flood and coastal erosion management is through grants from DEFRA to the Environment Agency (EA). The EA maintains existing infrastructure relating to "main rivers" and tidal defenses, invests in new and improved risk management infrastructure and administers a linked capital grant allocations procedure to local authorities and internal drainage boards (IDBs).

### **Issues**

4. Flooding is a major issue for many local authorities across the country. As Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA's) county councils and unitary authorities have to lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses). This includes ensuring co-operation between the Risk Management Authorities in their area and taking the key leadership role. However, they do not have direct control over the funding the Government provides and are hampered by additional responsibilities which are not fully funded.
5. The LGA regularly lobbies on a number of flooding issues. The key issue is for capital and revenue funding for flood defence projects to be devolved into a single, place-based pot to allow local areas to support a more diverse set of outcomes. DEFRA has suggested that decisions on which flood defence projects go ahead and when, is already partially 'devolved' to Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCCs). However, allocations are still made according to a number of defined national criteria which focus primarily on protecting people and residential property. Devolving funding could enable local areas to allocate funding for example, to protecting businesses or high value agricultural land which could be vital to support local economic growth ambitions.

6. DEFRA will shortly be undertaking a review to look at how flood defence funding is structured post-2021 (after the current six year £2.6 billion flood defence programme ends). We are lobbying for local government to be a key stakeholder in this review. We must also use this opportunity to explore how we might increase flexibility in the approach to funding for flood defences up to 2021.
7. Land drainage consent fees remain an issue for the sector. Currently the nationally set £50 fee does not cover processing costs. LGA/ADEPT commissioned research shows that the mean cost to process a single land drainage consent application is £250. This means that local taxpayers are subsidising 80 per cent of the cost. The Environment Agency have increased the fees for the land drainage consent fees they process which sets an important precedent. Land drainage fees need to be set locally by Lead Local Flood Authorities.
8. Councils have a new statutory consultee role for surface water drainage. As of April 2015, all major planning applications have to demonstrate the use of sustainable drainage as part of their development. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, many councils are now a statutory consultee on these planning applications. ADEPT commissioned research showed that the average cost of delivering this role is £65,000 for each Lead Local Flood Authority and the new burdens funding from Defra was approximately £13,000. This new statutory consultee role for councils needs to be fully funded.
9. The Chancellor announced in the Autumn Budget 2017 that an additional £76 million will be spent on flood and coastal defence schemes over the next three years. This funding will better protect 7,500 households and boost flood defence investment to over £2.6 billion between 2015/16 and 2020/21. Of this, £40 million will be focussed on deprived communities at high flood risk, boosting local regeneration. This announcement provided clarity on how a proportion of the £700 million additional funding for flood defences announced at Autumn Budget 2016 will be allocated. Further clarity is needed on how the remaining funding will be spent.
10. The 25 Year Environment Plan has suggested some key areas of focus around flooding. It has committed to:
  - 10..1. a 2019 update of the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy
  - 10..2. a review of funding needs beyond 2021 (seeking more non-public sector investment)
  - 10..3. the Environment Agency ensuring new developments are flood resilient

- 10..4. and an additional focus on greater use of natural flood management solutions, an increase of uptake in sustainable drainage systems and improved resilience of properties at risk of flooding.
11. Members have the opportunity to discuss these issues with the two speakers who have been invited to the Board meeting.
- 11..1. Alison Baptiste is the Director of Strategy and Investment in flood and coastal risk management at the Environment Agency. She will provide a national overview/perspective of flood risk management.
- 11..2. Jonathan Moxon is flood risk manager at Leeds City Council providing a local perspective on how councils practically deal with flooding.

#### **Implications for Wales**

12. Flooding is a policy area which is devolved to the Welsh Assembly. We are in close contact with the WLGA environment team to share policy positions on this issue.

#### **Financial Implications**

13. None.

#### **Next steps**

14. To be suggested by the EEHT Board.

## **Waste and Recycling Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

The EEHT Board has recently been considering how EU exit will impact on waste and recycling policy, and how the LGA can be best placed to lobby on this. The Board's focus on waste and recycling policy has been timely as the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) recently launched its 25 Year Environment Plan. This report confirms the work the Board has been doing to review different methods for measuring waste and recycling in the future. It also summarises the waste and recycling elements of the 25 Year Environment Plan and gives Members the opportunity to discuss which aspects of waste and recycling our lobbying work should focus on (other elements of the 25 year Environmental Plan will be raised at future meetings of the Board). The report also contains an update on a recent Ministerial meeting.

### **Recommendation**

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Members are asked to formally agree the recommendations in section 8 and 11 of the report.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed by members.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Sonika Sidhu
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Adviser
<b>Phone no:</b>	0207 664 3076
<b>Email:</b>	Sonika.sidhu@local.gov.uk

## **Waste and Recycling Update**

### **Background**

1. The UK's exit from the EU will have a significant impact at local authority level, creating opportunities to do things differently and challenges that will need to be addressed. The LGA has identified priorities which it will be focussing on in order to ensure that powers repatriated from the EU do not stop at Whitehall, Stormont, Cardiff Bay and Holyrood. The environment has been identified as one of these key priorities.
2. The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill will ensure that the body of existing EU law, including environmental law, continues to hold sway in the UK. Key underlying principles of existing policy, such as the 'polluter pays' principle and the precautionary principle, are reflected in this legislation and in the historic judgements of the European Court, also covered by the Bill.
3. At previous meetings the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board has recognised that there is currently an opportunity to influence DEFRA's thinking about how it will deal with waste and recycling once we have exited the EU. In preparation for this the EEHT Board commissioned work on waste and recycling targets and has been considering how a framework for measuring these services could operate in the future.

### **Issues**

#### **Framework for measuring waste and recycling targets**

4. At the December meeting of the EEHT Board there was a detailed discussion about the measurement of waste and recycling targets. The Board was presented with a piece of work it had commissioned from Eunomia Research and Consulting, looking at the options for measuring waste and recycling targets in the future. Eunomia suggested a framework built around residual waste arising (kg per person per year) and GHG emissions (kg avoided CO2 equivalent emissions per person per year).
5. Members had a wide ranging discussion. There was general agreement around the fact that greater focus around waste minimisation was needed. Members recognised that recycling rates have their limitations. This includes no incentive to minimise waste arisings and a bias towards rural and suburban areas which can benefit from targeting large quantities of garden waste. Plastics was also recognised as an area around which local government would like to deliver more on (this issue is discussed further on in this report).
6. Members felt it was important to understand where waste and recycling technology is heading and to have a broader environmental framework in which these issues can be addressed. Some form of dashboard of indicators was suggested which could incorporate residual waste as a primary indicator but also offer carbon emissions as part

of the future picture. It was also recognised that waste and recycling needs are different across the country and so a nationally set framework which could be implemented locally according to local needs would be welcome.

7. A question was raised about the impact on families of any new set of targets and those on low incomes. Eunomia highlighted that the per person measurement of targets delivered greater “environmental justice” as waste is addressed according to individual output rather than household size. Further work by Eunomia also suggests that there is no correlation between residual arisings and deprivation levels.
8. The Board is asked to formally agree:
  - 8.1. Support for the LGA to propose a review of the waste and recycling measurement framework for local government post EU Exit
  - 8.2. A national framework within which there would be freedom for councils to decide how to locally deliver on objectives
  - 8.3. Key metrics measuring the environmental performance of local authority waste by residual waste arisings (kg residual waste per person per year), with a longer term focus towards moving to GHG emissions (kg avoided CO2 equivalent emissions per person per year)
  - 8.4. Suggesting a dashboard approach incorporating several measures. This could incentivise waste management approaches which could reflect different objectives that address local needs. For example, a dashboard could contain measures such as recycling rate, residual waste per person, and GHG emissions avoided through recycling per person, but allow councils to focus on one indicator in particular.
  - 8.5. Officers working with the media team to develop an approach for communicating key lines from this work.

### **Waste and recycling - 25 Year Environment Plan**

9. On 11 January 2018 the Government published its 25 Year Environment Plan. The Plan was launched by the Prime Minister and is a significant document as it sets the policy direction for the next 25 years – well beyond EU exit. The document acknowledges that there is a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to influence the environmental policy framework because we are leaving the EU. The Plan has provided a renewed sense of direction for DEFRA and we need to use this opportunity to lobby on waste and recycling policy in preparation for EU exit.

10. A summary of the 25 Year Environment Plan can be found in **Appendix 1**. A copy of the LGA press release issued in response to the Plan can be found in **Appendix 2**. Due to the wide ranging scope of the Plan it is suggested that this Board meeting focuses on the elements of the plan addressing waste and recycling. Future Board meetings can return to the Plan in greater detail if Members wish. Table 1 considers the key elements of the 25 Year Plan which impact on the Boards work around waste and recycling. The LGA's lobbying lines on each issue are presented for agreement.

11. The Board is asked to:

- 11.1. Note the key policy objectives of the Government with regards to waste and recycling
- 11.2. Note the LGA's lobbying positions and indicate to officers where positions may need updating
- 11.3. Identify any aspects of the Plan our lobbying work should specifically focus on
- 11.4. Indicate support for officers to lobby DEFRA and other partners on the basis of the agreed lobbying positions.



Table 1: Mapping key waste and recycling objectives from 25 Year Environment Plan against EEHT lobbying positions

25 Year Plan	LGA lobbying position
<p><b>1.Achieving zero avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042</b></p> <p><u>Production stage</u> Looking across the whole lifecycle, launching a call for evidence in 2018 seeking views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the amount of single use plastics waste.</p> <p>Working with industry to rationalise packaging formats and materials formats to make sure that more plastics can be easily recycled and the quality of collected recycled plastics is improved.</p> <p>Reforming the Producer Responsibility systems (including packaging waste regulations) to incentivise producers to take</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGA supports the ambition to achieve zero avoidable plastic waste by end of 2042.</li> <li>• 98% of councils offer some form of plastic recycling. Limitations in recycling are due to the fact that producers use a range of different quality plastics and councils are only able to deal with the plastics that their contractor has the facilities to recycle.</li> <li>• Councils also have to consider locally what the financial case is for recycling plastic</li> </ul> <p><u>Production stage</u> LGA will work with Treasury on the call for evidence on how the tax system/charges could reduce the amount of single use plastics waste.</p> <p>It is essential that industry rationalises packaging formats and uses plastics which are easy to process at the reprocessing stage and maintain a value on secondary markets. Local government would like to work with Government on a communications campaign around improving the quality of recycled material. This will help to ensure that recycling is of greater value than incineration.</p> <p>Reform of the producer responsibility system would be welcomed. Currently, the UK raises the lowest level of contribution from</p>

greater responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products. This will include exploring extending producer responsibility requirements to plastic products not currently covered by our existing regimes to create a better market for recycled plastic.

#### Consumption stage

Removing all consumer single use plastics from the central government estate offices.

Extending uptake of the 5p plastic bag charge to small retailers  
Supporting water companies, high street retailers, coffee shops and transport hubs to offer new refill points for people to top-up water bottles for free in every major city and town in England.

The water industry plans to create a nationwide network of refill points, and an app to help people find the nearest place to refill their bottles with water free of charge.

Working with retailers and WRAP to explore introducing plastic-free supermarket aisles in which all the food is loose.

#### End of use stage

Continuing to support the industry lead on-pack recycling labelling system and encourage all brands and retailers to use this systems to provide information to householders.

Continuing to implement the Litter Strategy to reduce plastic litter and littering behaviour.

Implementing voluntary and regulatory interventions that can cut the amount of commonly littered items, and improve recycling and packaging reuse. This includes considering advice from the Voluntary & Economic Incentives Working group (set up under the

producers amongst all EU member states. Any new scheme must ensure that producers take greater responsibility for the life cycle of the waste they create. This burden is currently predominantly placed on council tax payers. Local government would like involvement in how any additional funding raised from producers is spent.

#### Consumption stage

The LGA supports councils in volunteering to commit to removing all single use plastics from their estate offices.

The LGA supports councils offering more refill points for people to top up water bottles

LGA to showcase Plymouth Plastic Free task force

#### End of use stage

The LGA supports clearer labelling of all items to provide householders with information about how to recycle products. Greater focus is needed on the products which are difficult to recycle and may require industry to offer take back schemes ie mattresses

The LGA recognises the impact on local communities of litter and littering. The LGA took part in the Litter Strategy taskforce. The

Litter Strategy), which is currently looking at measures to reduce littering and promote recycling of drinks containers.

End of life/waste management stage

Through the Framework for Greater Consistency, WRAP is working with industry and local authorities to ensure that a consistent set of materials are collected by all local authorities. Accelerate this shift to consistency in the materials collected. Working with the waste management industry and re-processors to significantly increase the proportion of plastic packaging that is collected and recycled.

Work with the Research Councils to help develop a standard for biodegradable plastic bags as part of emerging work on a national Bioeconomy Strategy (while also recognising the need to avoid microplastics pollution).

WRAP is working to develop a new cross-sector (business, government and NGOs) commitment to tackle plastic waste. This will align with the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's New Plastic Economy and have an initial focus on plastic packaging.

implementation of any specialist schemes to tackle specific litter streams needs to take into consideration the impact of single item withdrawal on the viability of overall local waste and recycling schemes.

End of life/Waste management stage

Consistency remains a key area of debate. This is a problem which begins at the production stage where producers are not using consistent materials in the products/packaging they produce. If producers were consistent in this initial phase, local government would have a more consistent set of materials to collect and pass on to re-processors. Re-processors need to be able to accept a range of materials. This currently isn't the case as it is dependent on the market available for these materials.

Councils can only vary their current collections when contracts come up for renewal or by paying a penalty clause. Government needs to indicate if it would be willing to pay to deliver greater consistency in a shorter timeframe.

The consistency debate needs to be considered in the round and not just by focussing on the middle part of the cycle which local government delivers.

<p><b>2. Reducing food supply chain emissions and waste</b></p> <p>Continuing to work closely with WRAP, food businesses, local authorities and other organisations to meet Courtauld 2025.</p> <p>Work towards no food waste entering landfill by 2030. Many local authorities have introduced separate collection of food waste and we will work to support an increase in numbers so that the amount of food waste sent to landfill continues to decline.</p> <p>Ensuring that as food and catering contracts come up for renewal, central government departments and their agencies adopt the balanced scorecard approach to deliver benefits to the environment, consumers and businesses alike.</p>	<p>Many councils would like to be able to introduce food waste collection services. However, the business case for getting more councils to introduce food waste collections is marginal. This is because adopting a separate food waste collection can have significant upfront costs</p> <p>The Government should consider broadening the current producer contribution regime to include a food waste element to better share the burden of additional collections for councils.</p> <p>Further help is also needed from the Government to help create greater demand for household food waste as a product. Anaerobic digestion plants are one of the main consumers of food waste. Future expansion of these plants is uncertain due to changes in government subsidies for renewable energy. Government needs to provide clearer direction for the future of anaerobic digestion. Other options for using food waste could be to require a proportion of recycled compost to be included in non-recycled compost products, or in agricultural products.</p>
<p><b>3. Reducing litter and littering</b></p> <p>Continue to implement the Government's Litter Strategy for England, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Introducing new regulations to improve local authorities' enforcement powers, supported by new guidance on its proportionate use.</li> </ul>	<p>The LGA took part in developing the Government's Litter Strategy. Councils have been given greater enforcement powers which in many cases will be welcomed. However, some councils have fed back that they do not have the resources to run enforcement activity. Others have flagged up that enforcement legal action can in some cases become protracted and costly for a council. Expectation around</p>

<p>-Developing a national anti-littering campaign, led by the government and funded by the private sector.</p> <p>-Distributing a £450,000 Litter Innovation Fund to pilot, implement and evaluate small scale local research projects that could be replicated more widely.</p>	<p>enforcement activity needs to be realistic. We will continue to lobby on how these powers can be made more useful for local government.</p> <p>The LGA would support any national anti-littering campaign and supports the aims of the Litter Innovation Fund.</p>
<p><b>4.Improving management of residual waste</b></p> <p>Exploring different infrastructure options for managing residual waste beyond electricity, including the production of biofuels for transport and emerging innovative technologies.</p> <p>Looking at ways to increase the use of heat produced at waste facilities through better connections to heat networks. The facilities will become more efficient and emit less carbon dioxide. Investigating ways to cut carbon dioxide emissions from Energy from Waste facilities</p>	<p>The LGA is keen to talk to the Government about residual waste. We are interested in understanding the potential for residual waste to provide a new framework for measuring waste along with carbon emissions. We would like to understand how we could fit into the overall process of managing residual waste and the potential this could offer for alternative energy outcomes.</p> <p>There should be a clear role in this work for councils which are already involved in Energy from Waste facilities.</p>
<p><b>5.Cracking down on fly tippers and waste criminals</b></p> <p>Seeking to eliminate waste crime and illegal waste sites over the lifetime of the Plan, prioritising those of highest risk.</p> <p>Working with industry to explore options to introduce electronic tracking of waste.</p> <p>As part of the Resources and Waste Strategy, to be published in 2018, developing a new strategic approach to prevent, detect and deter waste crime.</p> <p>Taking a partnership approach to deal with the issue with industry, regulators and local authorities.</p>	<p>The LGA called for councils to be able to apply Fixed Penalty Notices for small scale fly-tipping and welcomed the introduction of this new power.</p> <p>When they take offenders to court, councils need a faster and more effective legal system which means fly-tippers are given hard-hitting fines for more serious offences.</p> <p>Manufacturers also need to provide more take-back services so people can hand in old furniture and mattresses when they buy new ones.</p>

	The LGA would like to be closely involved in the development of the Resources and Waste Strategy.
--	---

### **Ministerial Meeting**

12. The Chair of the EEHT Board met with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment Therese Coffey MP, on 23 January 2018. This was a useful meeting where a number of issues were discussed. On food waste the Minister flagged up that the EU Trilogue has mandated separate bio waste collections (not necessarily kerbside collections). The Minister is interested to hear from local government how we avoid sending food waste to landfill.
13. At the time of the meeting the Minister indicated that the impact of the China import ban was still being established. DEFRA are aware that different markets are being used to deal with plastics. Paper was flagged up as a greater concern. The Environment Agency is alert to the risk that any stock piled waste may present. The situation is being kept under review. The Minister stressed that the upcoming Waste and Resources Strategy would look at how to address longer term issues with markets. She indicated that the LGA should be involved in the development of the strategy.

### **Implications for Wales**

14. We are working closely with the WLGA's environment team and will be sharing our lobbying approach with them.

### **Financial Implications**

15. None.

### **Next steps**

16. Members are asked to formally agree the recommendations in section 8 and 11.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Summary of the 25 Year Environment Strategy**

17. The 25 Year Environment Plan – A Green Future, ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/673203/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)) is an ambitious plan which seeks to provide a comprehensive and long term approach to the environment which extends across a quarter of a century. The key ambition of the plan is “to leave our environment in a better state than we found it”. The document recognises that there is clear momentum for positive change within Government and also in society. The ambitions for the plan are wide ranging within the UK but also identify a desire for us to be an international leader on the world environmental stage.
18. The plan has 10 goals:
- 18.1. Clean air
  - 18.2. Clean and plentiful water
  - 18.3. Thriving plants and wildlife
  - 18.4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
  - 18.5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
  - 18.6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
  - 18.7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change
  - 18.8. Minimising waste
  - 18.9. Managing exposure to chemicals
  - 18.10. Enhancing biosecurity
19. The Government’s actions will be focussed around six key areas:
- 19.1. Using and managing land sustainably
  - 19.2. Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
  - 19.3. Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
  - 19.4. Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
  - 19.5. Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
  - 19.6. Protecting and improving the global environment
20. The plan will be reported on annually and refreshed at least every five years to ensure it is kept up to date. It sits alongside the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy both of which are referred to throughout the plan. The Government will work with leading scientists, economists and environmentalists, to develop a set of metrics to chart progress by the end of 2018.



21. There are two further significant points for members to note. Firstly the plan indicates that the Government will be setting up a new independent environmental body to hold it to account. There will also be the development of a policy statement on environmental principles to underpin policy-making post-EU Exit. This will provide maximum certainty about environmental regulations as we leave the EU.
22. Secondly the concept of Natural Capital is a key feature of the plan. Natural capital is the sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, our air and our seas. These are all elements of nature that either directly or indirectly bring value to people and the country at large. As signalled in the Industrial Strategy, over the coming years the UK intends to use a 'natural capital' approach as a tool to help make key choices and long-term decisions.
23. DEFRA wants to support strong local leadership and delivery through the plan. The larger environmental delivery bodies in the Defra Group, have therefore aligned around a common geography of 14 areas. Each has its own Area Integrated Plan (effectively, a joint statement of intent between the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission) that propose to develop into natural capital plans. These will be aligned with the 25 Year Environment Plan (ensuring a clear line of sight to national government) but be particularly relevant to the local area or geographies within them.

## **Appendix 2**

### **LGA Press release issued in response to the 25 Year Environment Plan**

#### **LGA RESPONDS TO GOVERNMENT'S 25-YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN**

Responding to the launch of the Government's 25-year Environment Plan, Cllr Martin Tett, the Local Government Association's Environment spokesman, said:

"We support the Government's ambition to tackle the scourge of unnecessary plastic waste.

"Councils have asked repeatedly for manufacturers and retailers, who both choose to produce and stock packaging which isn't easily recyclable, to get around a table with us and work together to explore solutions to this problem.

"What we need is packaging that is easily recyclable – this would not only make waste disposal easier for our residents, but save considerable amounts of money and energy, whilst protecting our environment.

"Producers need to switch to recyclable items so that plastic clogging up our environment becomes a thing of the past.

"We want to work with supermarkets and manufacturers so that we avoid having unrecyclable waste in the first place, and would urge them to switch to recyclable packaging where possible."

## **Housing, planning and infrastructure**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

At the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board members agreed to discuss the housing and planning implications of the Budget 2017, the LGA's priorities in responding to them, and in putting forward its own agenda.

This paper summarises some of the key elements of the Budget 2017 proposals, how they fit with the Government's wider agenda, and seeks member steer on the priority work areas for the LGA moving forward.

### **Recommendation**

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board members consider and the questions on future LGA activity set out in paragraphs 14, 19, and 24.

### **Action**

To be taken forward as directed by members.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Nick Porter
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Adviser – Housing and Planning
<b>Phone no:</b>	0207 664 3113
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:nick.porter@local.gov.uk">nick.porter@local.gov.uk</a>

## **Housing, planning and infrastructure**

### **Background**

1. At the last Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board members agreed to discuss the housing and planning implications of the Budget 2017, and the LGA's priorities in responding to them and in putting forward its own agenda.
2. This paper summarises some of the key elements of the Budget 2017 proposals, how they fit with the Government's wider agenda, and seeks member steer on priority work areas for the LGA moving forward.

### **Planning policy and the forthcoming review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

3. The Board has had some lobbying success on planning policy over the last year, for instance the Government has increased national planning fees, dropped starter home requirements and plans to introduce competition into the planning system, and increased its focus on ensuring homes with planning permission are built out.
4. It has achieved this through advancing the discussion with Ministers and Civil Servants and developing a robust evidence to reinforce the sector's case on priority issues. For instance recent work includes research on the scale of permitted development, on the true number of unimplemented permissions, and on the funding gap within planning departments.
5. However, there are a range of further planning reforms introduced by the Budget 2017, and the Housing White Paper before it, on which the Board may want to further advance the sector's case for a locally-led planning system with the powers and resources to deliver for local communities.
6. It is likely that many of the Government's proposals will be included in the revised NPPF which is due to be published for consultation this year. Proposed planning reforms within the Budget include:
  - 6.1. Strengthening the housing delivery test, with tougher consequences where planned homes are not being built, by setting the threshold at which the presumption in favour of development applies at 75 per cent of housing delivery by 2020.
  - 6.2. Expecting local planning authorities to bring forward 20 per cent of their housing supply as small sites.

- 6.3. Strengthening policy to be clear that allocated land should be taken out of a plan if there is no prospect of a planning application being made.
  - 6.4. A new policy whereby local planning authorities will be expected to permission land outside their plan on the condition that a high proportion of the homes are offered for discounted sale for first-time buyers, or for affordable rent. This will exclude land in the Green Belt.
  - 6.5. Minimum densities for housing development in city centres and around transport hubs, with greater support for the use of compulsory purchase powers for site assembly.
7. With regards conversions the Government will consult on:
- 7.1. Policy changes to support the conversion of empty space above high street shops.
  - 7.2. Policy changes to make it easier to convert retail and employment land into housing.
  - 7.3. A permitted development right to allow commercial buildings to be demolished and replaced with homes.
8. With regards developer contributions the Government will consult on:
- 8.1. Remove restriction of Section 106 pooling towards a single piece of infrastructure where the local planning authority has adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
  - 8.2. Speed up the process of setting and revising CIL and allowing authorities to set rates which better reflect the uplift in land values between a proposed and existing use.
  - 8.3. Changing indexation of CIL rates to house price inflation rather than build costs.
  - 8.4. Give Combined Authorities and joint planning committees with statutory plan-making functions the option to levy a Strategic Infrastructure Tariff.
9. With regards build out rates the Government announced:
- 9.1. A review led by Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP, to look at the significant gap between housing completions and the amount of land allocated or permissioned for development, and to make recommendations for closing it.

- 9.2. It will develop a central register of residential planning permissions from local planning authorities to improve information on where permissions are held and progress towards them being built out.
10. At the Budget the Government also announced plans to consider intervention in 15 areas where the local planning authority has not put an up-to-date plan in place. It is not yet clear what action the Government will take.
11. Since the Budget the Secretary of State has also announced plans to amend the NPPF to promote upward extensions.
12. The announcements within the Budget are set alongside other planning reforms being taken forward from the Housing White Paper on which the Board has developed policy positions, predominantly through consultation responses, including on:
- 12.1. Introducing the new standardised national methodology for determining local housing need
  - 12.2. Giving local planning authorities the opportunity to have their housing land supply agreed on an annual basis and fixed for a one year period
  - 12.3. Proposed approaches to viability, including transparency
  - 12.4. Statement of Common Ground
  - 12.5. Introducing an uplift in national planning fees of 20 per cent, and consultation on potential for increases of a further 20 per cent.
  - 12.6. Planning for Build to Rent
  - 12.7. Enabling councils to establish local development corporations to bring forward new settlements
  - 12.8. Enabling Spatial Development Strategies to be developed by Combined Authorities or Mayors to allocate strategic sites for development.
13. As previously directed by the Board, the LGA is undertaking a range of activity focusing on ensuring homes with planning permission are built out, on permitted development, on resourcing, and looking at how councils and developers can work positively together to build homes and prosperous places.
- 14. The Board's views and agreement are now sought on the proposal that:**

- 14.1. The LGA continue its discussion with councils and the Government to influence the range of different planning policy proposals in advance of the draft NPPF, and in ways that make the proactive case for a locally-led, stable and sufficiently resourced planning system.
- 14.2. The LGA make the case for councils to have the levers necessary to meet accountabilities set out in the delivery test, including giving councils the powers to ensure developers build homes with planning permission within a reasonable timeframe, and in acknowledging wider economic impacts on developers and housing markets.
- 14.3. The LGA further build the case for ending the use of permitted development rights, including through gaining greater evidence on the unintended consequences for local communities and economies.
- 14.4. The LGA focus on building the case for reviewing the viability system to ensure that councils have the tools to ensure new development includes the necessary levels of affordable housing, infrastructure and investment in services, and is good quality and sustainable.
- 14.5. The LGA continue to call for a further uplift in national planning fees and for allowing councils to set planning fees locally in order to achieve full cost recovery.

### **Investment in housing and infrastructure**

15. The Board led the LGA Housing Commission which made a number of recommendations on the need for greater up-front investment into infrastructure and house building, with greater focus on social rent.
16. As part of the Budget the Chancellor summarised a range of funding programmes available to support councils and partners to build homes, and announced some additional funding. This includes:
  - 16.1. A further £2.7 billion to the competitively allocated Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) in England, taking the total investment in local authority projects from the HIF to £5 billion.
  - 16.2. The provision of £1.1 billion for a new Land Assembly Fund, focused on enabling Homes England to work alongside private developers to develop strategic sites, including new settlements and urban regeneration schemes.
  - 16.3. The provision of £630 million to accelerate the building of homes on small stalled sites, by funding on-site infrastructure and land remediation.

- 16.4. A further £1.5 billion for the Home Building Fund, providing loans specifically targeted at supporting SMEs who struggle to access finance to build.
  - 16.5. Confirmation of the further £2 billion of funding for affordable housing announced in October, including funding for social rented homes.
  - 16.6. £400 million of loan funding for estate regeneration to transform neighbourhoods and provide new homes in high-demand areas.
17. As previously directed by the Board, the LGA continues to work with councils, the Government and partners to explore how, through housing and devolution policy, councils and local partners can be enabled to make best use of the Government's capital investment.
18. To note, the LGA People and Places Board continues to advance the case for ensuring areas have fast and reliable broadband and mobile connectivity. It has recently established a digital connectivity working group to address the area. Amongst the issues it will explore is the provision of fixed line connectivity to new builds.
- 19. The Board's views and agreement are now sought on the proposal that:**
- 19.1. The LGA work with Homes England to develop the case for all councils to have the powers to access and combine funding in different ways that best deliver homes, jobs and growth, and seek greater clarity from the Government on its plans for housing deals.
  - 19.2. The LGA call for additional flexibilities to use grant investment in housebuilding and infrastructure to deliver products where there is unmet local housing need, for instance social rent, older people's housing, new models of affordable housing.
  - 19.3. The LGA work with councils to explore other financial flexibilities that allow councils to leverage investment into infrastructure, for instance models for land value capture, or the flexibility to borrow against CIL income.

### **Council housebuilding through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

20. The Board has helped shape a national public narrative that better appreciates the need for council house building. It has had some lobbying success including the Government's decision to drop the Pay to Stay policy, to continue to defer plans to force the sale of higher value council homes, to provide some social rent certainty from 2020-25, and to not apply the Local Housing Allowance to social rents from 2020.



21. Furthermore in the Budget 2017 the Chancellor announced a lifting of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing caps for councils in areas of high affordability pressure so they can build more council homes. Local authorities will be invited to bid for increases in their caps from 2019/20, up to a total of £1 billion by the end of 2021/22. The Government also confirmed it will monitor how authorities respond to this opportunity and consider whether further action is needed.
22. However, there remains significant challenges for councils wanting to build homes through their Housing Revenue Account, including the sustainability of Right to Buy and rules around receipt retention, restrictions on the use of receipt and requirements on the use of the receipt within three years, and on the size of the discount, the overall borrowing restrictions, rental uncertainty after 2025 and within Universal Credit, and the remaining possibility of the forced sale of higher value council home sales.
23. As previously directed by the Board, the LGA is working with councils and the Government to continue explore these issues and new routes for enabling councils to build more homes through their Housing Revenue Account, as well as outside the HRA.
24. **The Board's views and agreement are now sought on the proposal that:**
  - 24.1. The LGA seek to ensure that all councils have maximum opportunity to seek available HRA headroom with no conditions, that they can to use it with grant and Right to Buy receipts, and that they can have additional flexibilities that enable delivery. And that the Government move quickly to provide councils with this opportunity.
  - 24.2. The LGA further establish and advance the case for enabling all councils to build additional homes through the Housing Revenue Account, including looking at borrowing, rents and continuing to explore how Right to Buy can be put on a more sustainable footing to deliver genuine one for one replacement.
  - 24.3. The LGA deliver a project building the wider economic, social and public service case for enabling councils to build more homes that are affordable and additional to delivery by the private and housing association sectors.

**Next steps**

25. To be taken forward as directed.



## General Board Update

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

Updates to the Board on activity in relation to transport and planning since the last Board meeting.

### Recommendation

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board note the updates detailed in the report.

### Action

Officers to action as directed

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Kamal Panchal
<b>Position:</b>	Senior Adviser
<b>Phone no:</b>	0207 664 3174
<b>Email:</b>	kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk

## General Board Update

### Interim National Infrastructure Assessment consultation

1. In October 2017 the National Infrastructure Commission launched its interim National Infrastructure Assessment, titled 'Congestion, Capacity, Carbon: Priorities for national infrastructure'. The report examines seven key areas, and sets out the vision and priorities for helping meet the country's needs up to 2050. Those seven areas are:
  - 1.1. Building a digital society
  - 1.2. Connected, liveable city-regions
  - 1.3. Infrastructure to support housing
  - 1.4. Eliminating carbon emissions from energy and waste
  - 1.5. A revolution in road transport
  - 1.6. Reducing the risk of drought and flooding
  - 1.7. Financing and funding infrastructure in efficient ways
2. [In response](#) to the wide-ranging list of consultation questions the LGA highlighted issues relating to the future of EU funding, fragmentation of national funding for local infrastructure, the role of Government, the planning regime, streetworks, capture of land-value uplift, energy, waste infrastructure, electric charging infrastructure, autonomous vehicles, water supply and demand and flood risk management.

### Clean air fund submission

3. The LGA [responded](#) to the Government's consultation on the Clean Air Fund. Our response welcomed the creation of the Clean Air Fund and the changes to tax treatment for new diesel vehicles as a step in the right direction. However, we feel that the Government could go further using its fiscal levers to hasten the transition to low emission vehicles as well as giving councils more funding certainty and powers to manage traffic. We continue to be concerned about the reliance of government funding on competitive bidding. This adds costs, time and uncertainty onto any project that it funds and we hope that the process for allocating the air quality fund will be as simple as possible.

### Meeting with Jesse Norman MP

4. The Chair of the EEHT Board, Cllr Martin Tett, met with Jesse Norman MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, on 23 January. There was constructive discussion on a range of issues including funding, tackling congestion and electric charging infrastructure. In a follow up letter an offer was made to the Minister to work together with councils and the LGA to co-design national schemes of support and investment for local areas as the LGA felt that such an approach would help the Government to be better able to deliver its priorities as well as serving local people more effectively. The letter identified three areas where such an approach should be made:

- 4.1. Streamlining the nature of future central government funding for local roads and transport
- 4.2. Tackling growing levels of congestion, in particular a way forward to implement London style powers for enforcement of moving traffic offences
- 4.3. Support to incentivise local investment and efforts on electric vehicle charging infrastructure

### **Strategic Roads Network (SRN) consultation response**

5. The LGA responded to the Department for Transport's consultation on the proposals for the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and its current and future needs. In order to set investment in the SRN, which is operated by Highways England, the government publishes a multi-year 'Road investment strategy' (RIS). The second RIS (RIS2) will cover the financial years 2020/21 to 2024/25. Our response acknowledged the benefits of long term funding certainty and sustained investment for the strategic network. However, the LGA also noted with concern the large disparity in funding by central Government between the local and strategic networks. We also stated that there is a need for this investment and long term approach to be replicated with long term funding certainty for local networks to ensure investments on both networks can complement each other and the schemes planned in RIS period 2 achieve the best possible value. Much of the language of the Strategic Route Network proposal shows Highways England has listened to the local government sector on areas of its work that could be improved. This included firm commitments to local partnerships, working on integration between different networks, recognising the different groups impacted by the MRN and the greater cost benefits of smaller schemes. Whilst we welcomed these high level strategic commitments it is important that these are translated to delivery on the ground.

### **Future transport**

6. Following on from the 14 December Future Transport seminar to the EEHT Board, a [feature](#) was published in First magazine from the Chair of the EEHT Board that highlighted the potential risks and benefits to the public services that councils provide, and for the residents they serve from driverless, electric and connected vehicles. A more detailed publication, incorporating the views of those organisations who presented at the seminar is being drafted by officers for launch in late March. A workshop at the LGA Annual Conference (3- 6 July) on the future transport agenda has also been secured.

### **LGA Town Centre conference – 14 May**

7. Building on the LGA's town centre improvement work a conference is being organised for the 14 May 2018 at 18 Smith Square. The conference programme will include a Minister along with case studies and regeneration and town centre experts. For further details and to book a place please go [here](#). Further information will also be announced

on the LGA's work on a town centre on-line toolkit and good practice guidance for councils and elected members.

#### **Lane Rentals announcement**

8. The EEHT Board has successfully led repeated calls by the LGA for the Government to roll out Lane Rental schemes to all areas of the country. The Government announced, on 16 February, that Lane Rental schemes, where utility companies are charged by the day for digging up the busiest roads at peak times, could now be adopted by councils nationwide after successful pilots in the Kent and London. The scheme incentivises firms to minimise the period of time occupying roads and instead focus their works outside of rush hour, or to collaborate with other companies to prevent roads being dug up multiple times. The announcement follows a DfT consultation which the LGA [responded](#) to. DfT have said they will produce guidance in the autumn to help councils develop lane rental schemes for Secretary of State approval and that the first schemes could start by the end of 2019. LGA officers will continue to liaise with DfT to ensure that the guidance is as helpful and flexible as possible to help councils manage traffic and the process for seeking DfT approval is kept to a minimum.

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

---

<b>Title:</b>	Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 14 December 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

---

### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
------	-----------------------

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>
----------	---

Apologies were received from Cllr Alistair Auty.

Cllr Philip Broadhead attended as substitute.

<b>2</b>	<b>Waste and Recycling Policy</b>
----------	-----------------------------------

The Chairman welcomed Dominic Hogg and Eric Bridgwater from Eunomia who attended as guest speakers and delivered their presentation on the measuring of waste management. This follows from a decision made at the July Board meeting to invite specialist speakers to present to members with alternative options for how waste could be measured in the future.

Dominic and Eric focused on a brief indication on the future of waste management, an analysis of the current framework and provided an options appraisal of the alternative frameworks of waste measurement.

Sonika Sidhu, Senior Adviser, introduced the report and outlined its timely nature as we anticipate the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) 25 year environmental strategy and an accompanying waste and resource strategy in the New Year. Additionally, the UK's exit from the EU will have a significant impact at local authority level, creating opportunities to do things differently and challenges that will need to be addressed.

Sonika stressed waste and recycling is one area that the LGA would be prioritising in its discussions with Government as this is a service which should be subject to local determination.

### Discussion

In the discussion which followed, these points were made;

- There was general agreement from the Board that incremental waste and recycling

targets should be set, outlining a clear path to the final target.

- The Board also highlighted the salience of plastic minimisation with the current media attention this issue is getting. Particular issue raised was that plastic, being a light object, does not appear too highly on waste reduction reporting. The Board requested LGA officers dedicate some work on specific plastic reduction.
- The Chairman requested for a future Board meeting officers to develop a strategy for how the Board can better work with government to reduce the amount of plastic use.
- Members stressed the difficulty of a national strategy due to the variance in waste and recycling levels between urban and rural areas.

### **Decision**

Members supported focussing on broadening out the approach to waste management beyond recycling targets to residual waste arising and measuring this per capita.

Members expressed an interest in the possibility of a dashboard approach which also looks at income.

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board agreed to move towards a recycling residual waste rising target rate per individual and to move away from recycling rate.

### **Action**

The Board requested officers work and bring to a future Board meeting an analysis on current issues and work on plastic reduction.

## **3 Private Rented Sector Housing**

Hilary Tanner, Adviser, introduced this item and provided the Board with information on some of the challenges for councils and summarised recent changes to rented housing regulation.

Hilary mentioned the strong anecdotal evidence which suggested an increase in the number of houses subdivided to maximise rental income and noted the significant impact this is having on councils in relation to increased flytipping and antisocial behaviour.

It was also reported that the private rented sector has the largest proportion of non-decent homes and the highest number of older properties compared to other tenures. The estimated cost of bringing all privately rented homes up to standard is £8 billion (on average £7,700 per property). The Board noted the fear of making the improvements compulsory was that landlords would simply stop renting the property.

Hilary stressed that a source of frustration for council enforcement officers is that they cannot easily identify the landlord of a rented property. A national register of landlords has been proposed by many organisations and exists in Scotland. The Board requested that officers undertake a review of Scotland's national register of landlords and bring this to a



future Board meeting.

### **Discussion**

In the discussion which followed, these points were made:

- Members raised the issue of the lack of implementation of The Housing and Planning Act 2016, especially the power for councils to seek a banning order for landlords and letting agents. Hilary informed the Board that the LGA expects the implementation of banning orders to happen by April 2018.
- The Board expressed interest in the work the Scottish Government has done in implementing policies regarding the security of tenure for private rented housing. The Board requested officers provide a review of the Scottish policy.
- Members noted that distinct areas within the private rented sector such as student housing and retirement living link with other forms of social policy.

### **Decision**

Officers to undertake a review of Scotland's national register of landlords and bring findings to a future Board meeting.

Officers to undertake a review of Scotland's security of tenure policy for private tenants.

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board agreed to support the proposals in the report.

## **4 Fire safety in high rise buildings update**

The Chairman reminded the Board that today was the six month anniversary of the Grenfell fire.

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced this report which provided the Board with an update on the work of central and local government to ensure that high rise buildings are safe.

### **Discussion**

In the discussion which followed, these points were made:

- Members expressed their disappointment regarding the decision of no additional funding for local authorities to fund making high rise buildings fire safety compliant. Members requested clarity on whether greater flexibility would be granted to allow for borrowing to fund the improvements. Eamon responded that through conversations held with Department for Communities and Local Government officials he expects local authorities will be granted greater flexibility to borrow from their Housing Revenue Account.

### **Decision**

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:

- Noted the ongoing work at a national and local level to improve fire safety in high rise buildings; and
- Noted the LGA's submission to the Building Regulations and Fire Safety Review.

## **5 Industrial Strategy**

Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser, introduced this report which updated members on the publication of the Industrial Strategy White Paper and the LGA's headline response from the LGA briefing for member councils.

Two particular areas of development from the Industrial Strategy were explained:

1. The creation of a new £1.7 billion Transformational Cities Fund, which is for projects that improve connectivity, reduce congestion and utilise new mobility services and technology. Half of this funding will be allocated through a competition for transport projects in cities, with the remainder allocated to the six combined authorities with elected metro mayors.
2. There will be a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships, covering roles and responsibilities and will bring forward reforms to leadership, governance, accountability, financial reporting and geographic boundaries.

### **Discussion**

In the discussion which followed, these points were made:

- Members expressed their concern of half of the funding being allocated to the six combined authorities with elected metro mayors, an unrepresentative allocation of the money.
- Members noted the variability of quality of LEPs with some being very responsible and accountable whereas others being very problematic.

### **Decision**

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board noted the publication of the Industrial Strategy White Paper, the LGA's response and the key developments highlighted for the Board.

## **6 The Autumn Budget 2017**

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced this item and provided the Board with a commentary on the measures set out in the Autumn Budget Statement by the Chancellor on 22 November 2017.

**Decision**

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board examined and noted the implications of the Budget Statement for local government.

**7 General Board Update**

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced this report which provided the Board with a general update on activity in relation to transport and economy since the last Board meeting.

**Decision**

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board noted the updates detailed in the report.

**8 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**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 Adele Morris	Southwark Council
	Cllr Rachel Eburne	Mid Suffolk District Council
Members	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
	Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth Borough 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 Michael Mordey	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Peter Thornton	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Linda Gillham	Runnymede Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Alistair Auty	Wokingham Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers	Eamon Lally	Principal Policy Adviser
	Sonika Sidhu	Senior Adviser
	Kamal Panchal	Senior Advisor
	Hilary Tanner	Adviser
	Andrew Jones	Adviser
	Harry Parker	Member Services Officer



# LGA location map

## Local Government Association

18 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

## Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

**St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

**507** Waterloo - Victoria

**C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

**88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

## Bus routes – Millbank

**87** Wandsworth - Aldwych

**3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

## Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

