

People & Places Board

Agenda

Tuesday, 12 June 2018
1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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People & Places Board
12 June 2018

There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **1.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 June 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm

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.

Pre-meeting for Board Lead members:

This will take place from **Time Not Specified** in Smith Square Rooms 3&4 (Ground Floor).

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place from 10.00 -11.00am. 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 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Benn Cain
Benn.cain@local.gov.uk | 020 7072 7420

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The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgapp

People & Places Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (14)	
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE (Chairman)	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Gillian Brown (Vice Chairman)	Arun District Council
Cllr Ralph Bagge	South Bucks District Council
Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (4)	
Cllr Anne Western CBE (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Azhar Ali	Lancashire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Bob Jennings (Deputy Chair)	Epping Forest District Council
Cllr Helen Grant	North Yorkshire County Council
Substitutes	

LGA People and Places Board – Attendance 2017-2018

Councillors	21/9/17	28/11/17	30/1/18	22/3/18
Conservative Group				
Mark Hawthorne MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gillian Brown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ralph Bagge	Yes	No	No	No
Derek Bastiman	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Deborah Croney	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Tom Fitzpatrick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Keith Glazier	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ian Hudspeth	Yes	No	Yes	No
Daniel Humphreys	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peter Jackson	No	Yes	Yes	No
Harvey Siggs	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rob Waltham MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Steve Count	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Labour Group				
Anne Western CBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vince Maple	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leigh Redman	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Azhar Ali	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Lib Dem Group				
Heather Kidd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sarah Osborne	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Independent				
Bob Jennings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Helen Grant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substitutes/Observers				
Adrian Hardman		Yes		
Kenneth Meeson		Yes		
Lesley Williams			Yes	Yes

Agenda

People & Places Board

Tuesday 12 June 2018

1.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 21 September 2018, 1.00 pm, Smith Square
3&4, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Devolution Improvement Support Offer

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides members with an overview of the LGA's devolution support offer in light of the current devolution policy landscape and asks members to consider how this might best meet the needs of rural and non-metropolitan authorities. It also provides an update on the support provided to combined authorities and the LGA's engagement with the seven combined authority mayors.

Recommendations

That the People and Places Board:

1. **Consider** the LGA's devolution support offer for the coming year against the needs of non-metropolitan authorities.
2. **Note** the support provided to Combined Authorities and the LGA's engagement with the seven combined authority mayors.

Action

Subject to Members comments, continue to deliver the LGAs devolution support offer, reflecting the current national emphasis on mayoral combined authorities.

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Devolution Improvement Support Offer

Overview

1. This report provides an overview of the current devolution policy landscape and describes how this has influenced the direction of the LGA's devolution support offer for the coming year.
2. Members of the People and Places Board are asked to consider this overview and reflect on how the LGA might best meet the devolution improvement and support needs of rural and non-metropolitan authorities.

Devolution

3. The UK is one of the most centralised democracies in the world. Within this context devolution presents one of the most fundamental changes to the way decisions are made for local areas and how public services are funded.
4. Since 2014, devolution in some parts of England has meant a transfer of power and funding from national to local government. In line with the Government's preferred model for devolved governance, in all but two areas, Cornwall and London, this transfer of powers has been contingent on the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority.
5. There are now seven Mayoral Combined Authorities across England. These are mostly concentrated in urban areas. The eighth Mayoral Election will take place in North of Tyne in May 2019.
6. While the 2017 Conservative Manifesto proposed a new devolution framework, widely interpreted as a mechanism for securing devolution outside the combined authority governance model, recent intelligence has suggested that the Government is likely to focus its efforts principally on consolidating the position of the mayoral combined authorities rather than seeking to roll out the devolution deal model to a number of new areas.
7. Reflecting this context, the main focus of the LGA's devolution improvement and support offer this year will be to provide support to established combined authorities. An update on this support and the engagement with the seven combined authority mayors as part of the LGA's mayoral support offer is attached for information as **Appendix A**.
8. Without further devolution, decisions will continue to be made in Westminster, removed from communities that they affect. The LGA will therefore continue to pursue this agenda, pushing the Government for further detail on a framework for devolution suitable for the whole country.
9. The LGA also remains keen to work with and hear from areas that are looking to propose devolution deals and requests outside of the combined authority model. We also wish to support those areas minded to join existing combined authorities either as full or associate members. If and when the devolution framework emerges we will also provide support for those areas seeking to secure additional powers and resources through it.



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10. Separately, it has been suggested that Local Industrial Strategies may provide a parallel mechanism for the devolution of powers and resources related to productivity and inclusive growth. In line with commitment above we will continue to explore the potential of this approach both within and outside the structure of a mayoral combined authority.
11. Given this context **members are asked to offer their thoughts on where the LGA's devolution support offer might be tailored to better meet the particular needs of rural and non-metropolitan authorities.**

Appendix A – Support to Combined Authorities (CAs)

1. The LGA has continued to develop and deliver a bespoke offer of support for existing and prospective combined authorities. This support is financed by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments' funding to the LGA. The deliverables and expectations aligned to this funding are set out in the recently agreed memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the LGA and MHCLG, and are based on a continuation of our work programme.
2. The nature of the support provided varies in response to the needs of individual areas. However key elements of the support provided to date include:
 - 2.1. **CA Chief Executive Network** - chaired by Eammon Boylan, Chief Executive of Greater Manchester CA, the network continues to provide an opportunity for chief executives and chief officers to share learning and experiences, have space to discuss practical challenges and focus collectively on some of the key areas of policy development emerging within CAs.
 - 2.2. **Officer Networks-** After discussion with the CA Chief Executives network a number of policy area officer networks have been set up and are supported by the LGA. Three networks, each of which have already met at least twice, are organised by the LGA and are focused on the following policy areas:
 - 2.2.1 Finance.
 - 2.2.2 Employment & Skills
 - 2.2.3 Housing & Planning¹
 - 2.3 These meetings are for officers from both current and aspiring CAs. A small budget has been earmarked for each network for improvement support purposes.
 - 2.4 At the CA Chief Executives meeting in March it was agreed that potentially three further networks would be set up:
 - 2.4.1 Governance/Scrutiny.
 - 2.4.2 Communications – the first meeting has taken place
 - 2.4.3 Economic Development
 - 2.3. **The Finance group has commissioned some work on fiscal devolution** - this work assesses the extent and nature of financial freedoms that have been provided to Combined Authorities and whether and how these have been used in practice. This report is due to be published in the coming months.
 - 2.4. **CA peer support** – it was recognised that the sector needs a process through which it can reflect upon progress to date, consider areas for improvement, prepare for

¹ A fourth network focused on transport issues is supported by ADEPT, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

government reviews and identify where external support would be helpful. Therefore, following a meeting of the Chief Executive Network, it was agreed that a peer support tool be scoped with input from the CAs.

2.5. Initial thoughts around this tool are that it should include:

2.5.1. sector led support;

2.5.2. external input – e.g. private and other sector challenge; and

2.5.3. help to prepare for Gateway or government reviews.

2.6 The timing of the tool's use needs to be appropriate for the CA in question. This tool will be developed over the coming year.

2.7 **Bespoke support to CAs** – a range of financial, communication and in-kind support has been provided to existing and prospective CAs. The Principal Policy Adviser and Senior Adviser have recently met with the majority of the Mayoral CA Chief Executives to discuss their ongoing support needs and to understand the issues faced in year one. Examples of this include:

2.7.1 policy support;

2.7.2 preparing for a Mayoral Election;

2.7.3 implementation of communication recommendations; and

2.7.4 leadership support

Support to elected CA mayors

3 As of the 3 May 2018, there are now seven elected mayors across the following areas: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the Sheffield City Region, the Tees Valley, the West of England and the West Midlands.

4 Following on from the 2017 elections the LGA offered support and a 'home' for the new directly elected mayors. This included developing a package of support for mayors both as individuals and as a collective. As Chairs of their CA, it was agreed Mayors would automatically become members of the LGA.

5 During the first year, the LGA took steps to engage with the new mayors and the Mayoral CAs this has been replicated for the 2018 Mayoral election including;

5.6 Telephone calls to CA Mayors by Group Leaders during the weekend following the elections.

5.7 A letter sent from the Chairman to CA Mayors congratulating them on their election, welcoming them to the LGA, outlining our support offer and highlighting the programme of key mayoral events.

5.8 Meetings between LGA representatives and selected CA mayors.

Mayoral Support

- 6. Support to coordinate joint Mayors and CA work:** In parallel to the support provided to CAs through the Chief Executive Network, we have established a Mayoral forum. The Mayors have currently met twice in this format. The first event was hosted in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum in London. This event brought the new mayors together for the first time and introduced the Mayors to the LGA support offer. The second forum was hosted in partnership with the University of Birmingham and the WMCA. This event was attended by seven government departments. Future mayoral forums will involve relevant Ministers as well as senior officials and will be focused on one or two key topics.
- 7. Bespoke political support:** available through the LGA group offices.
- 8. Leadership development and top team support:** the transition to a Mayoral CA has required new ways of working for mayors, council leaders, frontline councillors and partners. The LGA is working with combined authorities and LGA Principal Advisers on support in this area for some CAs. LCR are working with the LGA on a leadership support offer which involves a member conference for all councillors within the CA area. We hope to share the principles and learning of this approach with other CAs.
- 9. Members are asked to note the support provided to combined authorities and to elected mayors.**

Trade and Investment Update

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Following discussion with members at the last Board meeting this paper sets out the headline elements of a survey of council trade and investment activity and asks Members to agree next steps regarding timing and outputs.

Recommendations

Members of the People and Places Board are asked to:

1. **Note** the context for the LGA's work relating to trade and investment – **paragraphs 1- 4.**
2. **Consider and comment** on the focus and timing of the proposed survey of council trade and investment activity – **paragraphs 5 - 6.**

Action

Subject to the comments of Members and the comments of Members from the City Regions Board, officers will undertake a survey of the LGA's membership regarding council led trade and investment activity and report back to the next board meeting.

Contact Officer: Philip Clifford
Position: Senior Adviser
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Trade and Investment Update

Overview

1. The Draft Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union, endorsed in part by the leaders of the EU 27 on 23 March, sets out arrangements for a transition period of 21 months following the UK's departure from the EU on 29 March 2019.
2. As it stands, the UK will be able to negotiate and ratify new trade agreements during the transition period, but these cannot be implemented until 2021. Furthermore, notwithstanding the parameters of the trade deal the UK strikes with the EU 27, it has been estimated that the government may need to conclude at least 56 free trade agreements (FTAs) with countries across the world in order to maintain the status quo as achieved through EU membership.
3. It is currently anticipated that formal agreement on the terms of the UK's withdrawal will emerge at the meeting of EU leaders in October. However, the UK Government has indicated it intends to publish a detailed and wide ranging policy paper in advance of a similar meeting in late June, which may significantly alter the timing and parameters of the withdrawal negotiation.
4. Nevertheless, in anticipation of an eventual shift in national focus from negotiating the UK's withdrawal to developing Britain's future trading relationship with the rest of the world, at the last meeting of the People and Places Board members proposed that a survey be carried out across the LGA's membership to highlight the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of sub-national government in future trade and investment activity.
5. Following a subsequent discussion with Lead Members a survey has been drafted with a view to exploring three aspects of this issue:

5.1 Economic profile of local trade and investment activity:

- 5.1.1 What are the key export sectors in the local area and which markets do they export to?
- 5.1.2 Are there any examples of significant foreign direct investment where the council has played a key role in facilitating this?
- 5.1.3 Has there been any local evidence to suggest that either trade or investment activity is likely to alter as a result of the UK's departure from the EU?

5.2 Local institutional arrangements:

- 5.2.1 Which institution takes the lead for promoting trade and investment locally?
- 5.2.2 Does the council have a specific resource dedicated to trade and investment activity?
- 5.2.3 Do these local activities form part of a wider sub-national partnership?

5.2.4 Does your area have an Enterprise Zone, with a specific focus on attracting international investment?

5.2.5 Has your area developed a Joint Export Plan or similar with the Department of International Trade as part of a devolution deal?

5.3 Strategic international links:

5.3.1 How and with which countries have local institutions developed international links?

5.3.2 Has the council established an overseas 'international office' for the purposes of trade and investment?

5.3.3 Have there been any council led trade missions recently?

6 Work has now begun on the detailed commissioning of the survey using the LGA's research and information service. It is proposed that data collection and analysis will take place over the summer, with a view to presenting the findings at the first board meeting of the next political cycle.

7 Members are asked to note the context set out above and consider the proposal for a survey to be undertaken as described with a report brought to the next board meeting.



The Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group Update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper outlines the priorities and planned activity of the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group and updates members on its work to date.

Recommendations

Members are invited to **note**:

1. Recent progress against the priorities agreed by the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group (**paragraph 4**).
2. That members will receive an update on this work at the first Board of the next political cycle in September and have the opportunity to review current working arrangements in accordance with the Working Group's Terms of Reference (**paragraph 5**).

Action

Subject to member comment, ADEPT and LGA officers will continue to support the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group on meeting its outlined priorities.

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Position: Adviser
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The Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group Update

Background

1. The People and Places Board has led the Local Government Association's work on digital connectivity and helped establish local government as a credible and respected voice in the field. While members were keen to build on this position, the wide-ranging scope of the Board's current work programme and the limited capacity of LGA officers led the Board to establish a Working Group to allow members to continue to contribute to the LGA's work on digital connectivity within these constraints.
2. In order to secure extra officer capacity, it was agreed that the Working Group would be supported by an Officers' Group led by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT).
3. This paper sets out the agreed priorities of the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group and updates members on the work undertaken to date in support of these priorities.

The focus and recent activity of the Rural Digital Connectivity Working Group

4. The Working Group's Terms of Reference give it full discretion to determine its remit within the framework of the Board's key priorities on digital connectivity. In line with this steer the Group has undertaken the following work since its inception:
 - 4.1. **Lobbying for better fixed line broadband connectivity for rural residents:** at the time of writing, the Working Group are due to meet Ofcom officials to discuss a range of issues related to digital connectivity including the Broadband USO. Officers will update members on these conversations at the Board.
 - 4.2. **Ensuring fast and reliable digital connectivity is provided to new builds:** officers have conducted an assessment of the current connectivity provided to new builds, in partnership with ThinkBroadband.com. This found that one in five rural homes built in the last three years is still not connected to superfast broadband and one in 10 is unable to achieve the USO minimum speeds. Following this assessment, officers have held early conversations with Government, broadband providers and the British Standards Institute to explore the potential of developing a digital connectivity Kitemark to make it clear to the public whether or not their new home will have a fully future-proofed internet connection. The conversations are expected to progress over the summer and members will be updated on progress at the next Board in the autumn.
 - 4.3. **Lobbying for ubiquitous 4G coverage in non-metropolitan areas:** officers submitted to the recent Ofcom consultation on a new set of mobile coverage obligations it plans to place on mobile operators who purchase the newly released

700Mhz spectrum (i.e. the old frequency used by digital terrestrial TV which has been cleared for mobile use.)¹

4.3.1. The LGA submission recommended that:

4.3.1.1. the 700Mhz spectrum presents Ofcom with an opportunity to be more ambitious with its coverage obligations. At the very least, Ofcom's proposed obligations requiring mobile operators to cover 92 per cent of UK landmass by 2022 should be brought in line with the Government's pledge to extend mobile coverage to 95 per cent of the UK landmass by the same date.

4.3.1.2. Ofcom should adopt a sub-regional model of coverage obligation, which requires operators to achieve an agreed level of coverage over a local area, similar to the approach adopted by Government for the Superfast Broadband Programme, to ensure greater fairness in coverage levels across the country.

4.3.1.3. mobile operators should be encouraged to share their roll out plans with councils up to six months before submitting an application in order to give councils the time to consider what policy or practical interventions they can make to support greater expansion of mobile connectivity in their local area.

Upcoming activity and the future of the Working Group

5. With the ADEPT Officers' Group formally established, there is now more capacity available to progress the Working Group's priorities at a faster pace over the coming months. It is suggested officers update members at the September Board on progress that has been made over the summer. The first Board of the political cycle will also provide Board members with the opportunity to review and amend the current working arrangements if necessary as outlined in the Working Group's Terms of Reference.

Next steps

6. **Members will receive an update on this work at the first Board of the next political cycle in September and have the opportunity to review current working arrangements in accordance with the Working Group's Terms of Reference.**

¹ The 700Mhz spectrum is an important part of securing better mobile connectivity for rural residents as its characteristics support better coverage across wider areas. The obligations that Ofcom place on purchasing a licence to use the 700Mhz spectrum will determine how far the purchasing mobile operators must extend their coverage.

LGA location map

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 Website: 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.

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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

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Central London Congestion Charging Zone

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Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking



