

Note of last City Regions Board meeting

Title: City Regions Board
Date: Friday 5 October 2018
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including a roundup of authorities and organisations members and officers were representing. Apologies were noted. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Membership and Terms of Reference for 2018/19 Benn Cain, Member Services Officer, introduced the item. Benn stated that the first part of the paper details the Boards Membership, and that the second part of the paper lays out the terms of reference of the City Regions Board, which includes the political composition. Benn went on to explain that the third part of the paper makes reference to outside bodies the City Regions Board. Currently, the City Regions Board doesn't have any outside body appointments, however, if any are made throughout the 2018/19 political year, this report will need to be updated. This appointment will also need to be agreed by lead members of the board and the group political offices. Members will then have to agree nominations to outside bodies at the beginning of next year's cycle (2019/20).	
	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members noted the report.	
3	Draft Board Work Programme 2018/19 Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the next item. Philip stated that the report sets out a draft work programme for the	

2018/19 political cycle, from September 2018 to July 2019. Philip gave an overview of the boards work-streams, and asked members to consider the draft programme. These work-streams include the governments Industrial Strategy, Local Industrial Strategies, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review, Brexit's impact on capacity of government, devolution for local areas, urban leadership and the skills agenda.

The Chair welcomed members to comment:

- Members of the board requested that Wales is included and referenced in all work, and made particular reference to paragraph 20.3.
- The Chair requested officers to further investigate public service reform, ensuring that work is being done through one of the LGA's governance structures. This led to a discussion amongst members around residents currently out of work – particularly in the 50-64 year old category. Members agreed that a joined-up approach in areas such as skills, health, adult social care and education need to be used to tackle this issue.
- Members discussed the devolution agenda, and requested the LGA start giving the government deadlines to roll-out devolution packages. Members agreed that the stall in devolution is costing local areas money.

Action and Decision

- Members noted the report, and agreed that it be confirmed as the City Regions Board's work programme for 2018/19.

4 Urban Leadership

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced item 4.

Philip stated that the report advances the proposal set out in the City Regions Draft Work Programme 2018/19 to assemble a coalition of interested parties and representative bodies and make the distinct case for urban authorities on the national stage. Philip then went on to outline the four options laid-out in the paper.

The Chair stated that this work has arisen out of numerous conversations from a number of organisations representing urban voices. To ensure that calls and lobbying does not become fragmented, this item will ensure we are collectively making a coherent message.

Members then commented on the following:

- Members held discussions over the four different options. It was agreed that the first two (outlined in paragraph 10.1 and 10.2) have been researched extensively, and agreed to share any best practices out of this.
- Members discussed the merits of making arguments that benefit both local and central government, in order to work cohesively.
- Members also requested that any devolution work taken forward

also include Wales. The Chair stated that the lack of devolution is a nationwide problem, due to a very centralised government.

- Members agreed that coordinating calls, lobbying and messages is vital.
- Members discussed the upcoming Spending Review, and discussions turned to timescales of this work. Officers confirmed that work on this work will be undertaken straight away and that other organisations are in agreement with this.

Action

- Members agreed to look at option 10.4, and then 10.3 in the first instance.

5 Industrial Strategy Update

Daniel Gardiner, Adviser, introduce item five.

Daniel stated that the paper provides an update on recent developments with the Government's Industrial Strategy and outlines proposed next steps relating to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy:

- the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships;
- the development of Local Industrial Strategies; and
- the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Given the pace of developments across these three areas of policy, officers will provide a verbal update on any further developments at the Board. Officers concluded that LEP geography is playing a big part of the review.

Putting on pressure to emerge LEPS - push back across the country - document handed out

Following on from this, members discussed the following:

- The differences in merging and overlapping LEP's, including the advantages and disadvantages of both.
- Members stated that the government has ignored some parts of the country that has huge economic value and potential, using boundaries formulated in medieval times.
- Members discussed how devolution to formulate their own LEP boundaries.
- It was discussed how LEP's need more flexibility, particularly around membership. However, members agreed LEP's need further transparency and local accountability.
- Further discussions were held over LEP's membership. Officers updated members that the government section of a LEP Network is made up of no more than a third. Discussions were also held

between members and officers around the absolute minimum size of a LEP network, and how conversations around this may be happening at central government level.

- Members agreed that the board needs to take an active, watching brief on this work, as there will be a danger that if local government doesn't push government towards their calls, LEP's will fail to meet local economic needs.
- The discussion between officers and members turned to LEP's accountability, with Alex Thomson, Principal Policy Adviser, stating that the LEP review is now holding discussions over the LEP Chair giving evidence at full council meetings and council committees.

Daniel Gardiner, Adviser, then updated members regarding Local Industrial Strategies (LIS). Daniel stated that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have confirmed that every area in England will get a LIS by early 2020 (further details can be found in paragraph 19-20 in the report). Daniel also advised members that LIS policy has now been published, including for the West Midlands LIS.

Alex Thomson stated that MHCLG has advised him that LIS submissions should be completed by the first quarter next year. Daniel drew attention to paragraphs 20-21 in the report, and asked members if they agreed with these proposals.

The members went on to discuss the following:

- The Chair stated that this was a significant win for the LGA.
- Members noted the tight timeframe to submit LIS proposals.
- Members discussed the capacity of government in relation to the roll-out of LIS.

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, then updated members on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), drawing members attention to paragraphs 23 – 31 set out in the report. Jasbir stated that this is what the LGA understands government is currently deliberating on UKSPF proposals. Jasbir also made reference to the LGA's report *Brexit: Moving the conversation on*, where the LGA clearly outlines it's wants.

- Members discussed how different Whitehall departments are holding different conversations over the structure and distribution of the UKSPF – whether this will be centralised or localised approached.
- Members agreed that LEP's will play a vital role in the UKSPF, further enhancing calls for more democratic control and accountability.
- Members also agreed that the UKSPF needs to at least match, if not provide more funds to local government, given the uncertain economy.
- Members discussed how the UKSPF should not be ring fenced funding.
- Members stated it was vital for there to be more transparency of the criteria of distribution of the UKSPF.
- Member held discussions over the year 2020, and how many different funding streams will be coming to an end.
- Members then discussed the inequalities of cities in England and

Wales, and agreed that the UKSPF needs to address these inequalities.

The Chair thanked members for their input and the officers for their updates.

Action and Decisions

- Members agreed to paragraph 21 outlined in the report.
- Members noted the updates.

6 Skills Taskforce - Verbal Update

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced item six.

Jasbir updated members on the Work Local Campaign, and how work continues to push the campaigns key outputs. Jasbir also updated members on the Skills Taskforce – its inaugural planning meeting taking place mid-October, as well as future roundtable meetings taking place through 2018/19. Jasbir concluded with the planned invites to stakeholders throughout the year to the roundtables, in order to discuss challenges and best practices.

- Members agreed how comprehensive and compelling the campaign plan is.
- Members stated that this issue needs to be at the forefront of the LGA's primary messaging, and requested if this could be discussed the LGA Executive meeting and the 2019's Conference.

Action

- Members noted the update.

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

Notes of the previous City Regions Board on 18 June 2018 were agreed by members.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
	Cllr Clarence Barrett	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Tim Warren	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council

Cllr Martin Gannon
Mayor Marvin Rees
Cllr Timothy Swift MBE
Cllr Debbie Wilcox
Cllr Sue Jeffrey
Cllr Roger Lawrence

Gateshead Council
Bristol City Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Newport City Council
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
City of Wolverhampton Council

Apologies

Mayor Joe Anderson OBE
Cllr Jon Collins
Cllr Peter John OBE
Cllr Julie Dore
Cllr Linda Thomas
Cllr Paul Crossley

Liverpool City Council
Nottingham City Council
Southwark Council
Sheffield City Council
Bolton Council
Bath & North East Somerset Council

In Attendance

LGA Officers