

6 October 2017

Board priorities and work programme

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

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

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

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Board priorities and work programme

Background

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

Draft priorities and work programme

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

Next steps

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

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

Appendix A

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

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

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