

12 October 2018

Board priorities and work programme

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out draft priorities for the Board together with a draft work programme for the period to July 2019. A draft work programme is set out in **Appendix A**.

Recommendation

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

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

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

12 October 2018

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 2017/18 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:
 - 4.1. Consider and agree a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme.

¹<https://www.local.gov.uk/business-plan-201718>

12 October 2018

Appendix A Work Programme

EEHT Broad objectives 2018/19	Actions	Timelines
<p><i>Housing and planning</i></p> <p>Deliver more homes: ensuring that councils have the full range of powers and funding freedoms to deliver homes that meet needs and are affordable to communities (responding to the Government's social housing green paper, continuing to lobby on Right to Buy and rent setting, and working on the implementation of the lifting of financial restrictions.</p>	<p>Influence government proposals in the Social housing Green Paper on tenant involvement, regulation and the safety and quality of councils owned housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to consultation • Developing good practice on tenant involvement <p>Making the case for investment in genuinely affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into the evidence of savings to the public purse from investment in genuinely affordable housing <p>Continue to work with government and local authorities on implementing the removal of restrictions on council housing finance</p> <p>Continue to build partnerships with Homes England and others to support capacity building and investment enabling the delivery of affordable homes as part of wider strategies to create inclusive growth, jobs and well-being. And to make the case for long-term certainty on rents and reforms to Right to Buy</p>	<p>November 2018 October 2018</p> <p>December 2018</p> <p>December to March 2019</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Private rented sector</p>	<p>Make case for councils to have the resources and powers to ensure an effective private rented sector meeting the diverse</p>	<p>To July 2019</p>

12 October 2018

	<p>local housing needs;</p> <p>Investigate, capture and present good practice and policy recommendations from councils that are working positively with private landlords to provide secure affordable housing to low-income families; recognising the importance of the private rented sector to addressing homelessness.</p>	
<p>Build prosperous places well supported by services and infrastructure, (taking into account the new NPPF and the Letwin review on build out rates).</p>	<p>Lobby for effective resourcing of planning departments via the localisation of planning fees</p> <p>Influence development of NPPF guidance to support locally led planning</p> <p>Continue to influence the Letwin review of build out rates</p> <p>Deliver a project investigating, capturing and presenting good practice learning from councils that have had success in viability negotiations, developing a resource and events to share the learning across the sector.</p> <p>Explore routes for capturing greater proportions of land value uplifts resulting from planning permission in order to finance infrastructure for homes including reform of the 1961 Land Compensation Act</p>	<p>Autumn Budget 2018</p>
<p>Reduce homelessness by continuing to work with councils and government to ensure that the implementation of the Homelessness Act is effective and sustainable; continue to lobby government for reforms reducing homelessness and the pressure on councils and their provision of TA, including adapting welfare reforms to reduce likelihood of homelessness; and</p>	<p>Influence policy on homelessness and rough sleeping, with a continued focus on prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into the evidence for a prevention-focused, council-led homelessness strategy • Influence next steps on rough sleeping strategy 	<p>September 2018 – June 2019</p> <p>September – December 2019</p>

12 October 2018

<p>influence policy on rough sleeping, particularly in terms of prevention.</p>	<p>Supporting councils to ensure the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act is effective; influence the upcoming review of the Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey research into councils' experience of the Act • Research and best practice on the Duty to Refer <p>Support councils to alleviate pressures around provision of TA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on out of area placements 	<p>September-November 2018 September-November 2018 October-December 2018</p>
<p><i>Inclusive Growth</i></p>		
<p>Ensure Inclusive Growth through the implementation of local industrial strategies and, in addition, by giving attention to the crisis in our Town Centres.</p>	<p>Share good practice via case studies on online town centre resource as the nature of retail and high streets continues to evolve.</p> <p>A series of masterclasses to support council leadership on their town centre intervention work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place leadership/ branding • Those councils than own/ plan to own shopping centres <p>Continued engagement and support to Government as appropriate – including Future High Streets Forum and High Street Expert Panel</p> <p>Work with People and Places and City Regions Boards to ensure that councils can play a full role on Local Industrial Strategies. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of an improvement offer; • Further engagement with the LEP Network following the publication of the LEP Review 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>By March 2019</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2019</p>

12 October 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing future funding, including the UKSPF and successor to Local Growth Fund 	
Transport		
Consider future national and local policy on transport and infrastructure, including emerging legislation in relation to Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and on-going concerns around air quality.	<p>Continue to influence Government on key LGA asks in relation to transport and infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined funding – MRN, Roads Funding and reduced fragmented funding <p>Submitting written/ oral evidence to select committee inquiries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus markets Active travel State of local roads (maintenance) <p>Influencing the Environment Protection Bill/ Act</p> <p>Continue to support councils to make the most of opportunities to shape the future of transport connectivity for their areas and communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Transport Conference Practical guides (e.g. on-demand transport, station-free bike sharing, promoting electric infrastructure charging etc.) 	<p>Ongoing/ Spending Review</p> <p>September/ October 2018</p> <p>November 2018</p> <p>20th November Autumn 2018 – March 2019</p>
Environment		
Understand the impact of exiting the EU on	To review the soon to be published Waste and Resources	Oct 2018-Jan 2019

12 October 2018

<p>environmental policy, including waste and recycling, and to help shape the new policy framework which will be set out in the upcoming Resource and Waste Strategy, with a focus on the implications of increased producer responsibility and the ban by China on the import of certain categories of waste material.</p>	<p>strategy.</p> <p>Establish broader impact of strategy on current lobbying positions, and determine if any new lines need to be developed.</p> <p>Develop lobbying approach on EPR and DRS including responding to DEFRA consultations, undertaking survey work, media work and maintaining relationships with key lobbying partners.</p> <p>Fully engaging with any environmental measures Treasury may propose in Autumn statement and beyond.</p> <p>Ensure councils are fully engaged with our lobbying work.</p>	<p>Until Jan 2019</p> <p>Now to July 19</p> <p>Now to July 19</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Flooding</i></p>		
<p>To work with our members and government to ensure that policy infrastructure funding on flood defences meets the needs of communities.</p>	<p>We will continue discussions with government through the Budget and upcoming spending review to seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>November 2018 and to July 2019</p>