

## Note of last People & Places Board meeting

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**Title:** People & Places Board  
**Date:** Thursday 15 November 2018  
**Venue:** Smith Square 3&4, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest

The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Apologies listed at Appendix A were noted.

#### 2 Industrial Strategy Update

Phillip Clifford introduced this item and provided an update on recent developments with the Industrial Strategy before introducing Tony Bray (TB) from the Cities and Local Growth Unit.

TB went through the three key place-based components of the Industrial Strategy - the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), the development of Local Industrial Strategies and the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). TB then made the following comments:

- The LEP review highlighted a number of Local Enterprise Partnerships with geographic overlaps. The Government believes LEP overlaps reduce accountability and has asked that these be removed through the process of agreeing LEP geography locally.
- Representatives of Higher Education and Further Education Institutions on LEP boards are not classified as 'public sector' for the purposes of representation.
- All Local Industrial Strategies will need to be agreed by 2020.

Members made the following comments:

- Rural LEPs are in danger of losing influence over housing and two tier areas are finding it hard to get representation on this issue.
- Accountability in the makeup of LEPs is more important than ever and the LGA must continue to make the most robust case for local democratic accountability.
- If a LEP produces a local industrial strategy and the local authority does not agree with the priorities, what would the impact be?

TB and officers responded

- Building better relationships locally can lead to greater scrutiny

from public sector on LEPs in areas like housing.

- Local industrial strategies need to be distinctive. Each area needs to work out how to maximise opportunities and overcome barriers.
- The machinery of the LEP Boards needs to reflect what the local area needs and allow for a local government scrutiny role.
- Collaboration between LEPs will be key in development of local economies.
- The UKSPF is being designed to ensure no area is disadvantaged due to the timeline of the LEP review and the development of Local Industrial Strategies.

Philip Clifford then introduced Phil Swann from Shared Intelligence, the provider appointed through a competitive procurement process to assist in the development and delivery of the LGA's improvement and support offer.

Phil briefly outlined his experience and expertise in working with councils in this area and highlighted his desire to ensure councils were able to fully play their part in the oversight and development of ambitious and distinctive local industrial strategies.

**Decision:** Members agreed the next steps for the LGA's engagement on the Industrial Strategy

**Action:** Officers to proceed with next steps

### 3 Devolution Framework Update

Ami Beeton introduced the paper and updated the board on LGA's involvement with the devolution process so far.

Members made the following comments

- Devolution has been a long discussion between national and local government and it is time for LGA to remind the government of its manifesto commitment on this. Brexit is an opportunity for a fresh look at devolution.
- With over 30 per cent of local government having a devolution deal agreed following the then Government's offer in 2015 it was ever more important that more rural areas without devolved powers aren't left behind.
- Areas without devolved powers should aspire to the same level of devolution as current deals. Every area should have access to full devolution options.

**Decision:** Members noted the LGA's work on the Devolution Framework.

**Action:** Officers to write to Ministers asking them to commit to the Government's manifesto pledge asking for parity with existing devolution deals.

### 4 Fiscal Devolution Update

Philip Clifford highlighted the two pieces of research that had been commissioned by the City Regions Board and supported by the People and Places Board. These were fiscal devolution modelling and fiscal devolution messaging.

Philip asked for member comments on proposed work plan for fiscal devolution.

Members made the following comments

- There is an appetite for exploring the potential for a tourism levy
- Cornwall Council have done important work on fiscal freedoms and should be seen as good practice

**Decision:** Members agreed to support the proposed work plan.

**Action:** Officers to incorporate members' comments into future work.

## 5 **Brexit Update**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Taskforce.

Cllr Bentley set out the Taskforce's priorities, detailed engagement with Whitehall – including the MHCLG-led Brexit Delivery Board and underlined the importance of local government in preparing for a 'no deal' scenario.

Cllr Bentley highlighted the wins the LGA has secured for local government within Brexit planning:

- Lobbying for structural funds to be underwritten till 2020.
- EU Nationals will still be able to take part in the political process until 2020, including current councillors who are EU nationals.
- The consideration of arrangements to replicate the functions of the EU Committee of the Regions in the UK post-Brexit

Members made the following comments

- Trading standards has been hard hit by funding issues, but will see an increased workload after Brexit.
- Increased demand on ports around the country will need local plans that draw on the expertise of councils.
- Any 'Brexit dividend' needs to reflect the social care pressures facing local government as much as it goes towards the NHS.

Cllr Bentley responded

- Trading standards do an incredible job keeping local areas safe from goods coming into the UK. Resourcing is a recognised issue and this has been raised with Government.
- Councils need to be involved in planning for local issues and supported by advice from national government, particularly in preparation for a 'no deal' scenario.
- The LGA has raised 'in principle' the need for councils to access any dividend, but both the quantum and process by which this would be allocated is currently unknown.

**Decision:** Members noted the update.

**Action:** Cllr Bentley was invited to provide another update at a future board.

## **6 Trade Investment and International Paper**

Daniel Shamplin-Hall updated the board on the recent trade and investment survey of councils carried out by officers.

Daniel also updated members on a meeting held with the French LGA (AFCCRE) where local and regional politicians from both countries came together for a roundtable discussion. This roundtable provided an opportunity for members to discuss a range of topics of shared interest with their counterparts, including the national-local relationship, financial and demographic pressures, reorganisation and relationships between rural and urban authorities. Members also had an initial conversation regarding a bilateral summit of local leaders proposed by the UK and French national governments, including consideration as to how to develop a new type of economic partnership between localities over and above traditional twinning relationships.

Members made the following comments:

- Some councils, especially district councils, do not have the resources or officer time to support SMEs to export and attract inward investment. This could be the reason that response rate to the survey was low amongst district councils.
- Members emphasised the importance of working with LEPs to encourage local exports, and suggested officers work with the LEP Network.
- Leeds was cited as a particularly good example of a council working to attract Foreign Capital Investment.

**Decision:** Members noted recent developments in relation to the LGA's work and agreed the next steps.

**Action:** Officers to proceed with next steps in line with members' steer.

- a) Appendix A- LGA trade and investment survey

## **7 Minutes of the last meeting**

Members agreed and noted the minutes from the last meeting.

## **8 Rural Land Management Research Specification- Confidential**

Daniel Shamplin-Hall updated the board on the planned research on rural land management that will shape future lobbying positions in this area.

A confidential discussion followed.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Bob Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
Members	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Tim Hall	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Glen Horn	Mid Suffolk District Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
	Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Cllr David Thomas	Torbay Council
	Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
Cllr Helen Grant	Richmondshire District Council	
Apologies	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
	Cllr Azhar Ali	Lancashire County Council