

City Regions Board- report from Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chair)

Trade and Investment

1. In partnership with the People and Places Board and the Department of International Trade the LGA has produced a report on how local authorities can successfully attract investment, from both domestic and foreign sources, into local capital projects. This is in the final stages of design and will be available on the LGA website in early July.

Local Industrial Strategy

2. Working closely with the People and Places Board and the Cities and Local Growth Unit, the LGA commissioned a comprehensive improvement support offer to councils looking to instigate or further their contribution to Local Industrial Strategy development. Two reports capturing the learning from this offer [have now been published](#) and focus on the key components of LIS development and the role of councils in contributing to this process.

Skills and Employment

3. The LGA launched [Work Local – Making our vision a reality](#) at its Annual Conference in July 2019, in partnership with the City Regions Board. It recommends that the Government commits to enabling groups of councils and combined authorities to work with partners to test a devolved and integrated approach to employment and skills through local pathfinders to better address the unique skills and labour market challenges faced by local areas. It also sets out key findings from the LGA skills taskforce which brought together industry experts and stakeholders. The report was launched at a Conference plenary session on addressing the country's skills challenges.

LGA Annual Conference 2019

4. Vice-Chair Cllr Susan Hinchliffe represented the Board at the LGA's "Thriving economies: thriving communities - addressing our skills challenges" at this year's Annual Conference. The plenary addressed challenges facing the labour market, as well as the changing effects that Brexit, digitalisation, rapid technological change and the gig economy are all having on the nature of jobs. The session was an opportunity for the panellists, which included business leaders, journalists, and economists, to discuss what needs to be done now to make this happen. The plenary was well attended, and officers received excellent feedback from delegates.

Devolution Support

5. In partnership with the City Regions Board, the LGA has continued to facilitate the sharing of learning between combined authorities. During the reporting period, the LGA were represented at a CA CEX roundtable organised by MHCLG on the future role of cities in economic growth and we also convened meetings of the CA CEX Network and the CA Finance Directors Network.



Councillors Forum

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Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principle Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7187 7384
E-mail: Rebecca.Cox@local.gov.uk