**Note of last People & Places Board meeting**

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| **Title:** | People & Places Board |
| **Date:** | Tuesday 7 January 2020 |
| **Venue:** | Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ |
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**Attendance**

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

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| **Item** | **Decisions and actions** |

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|  | **Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest**  The Chairman welcomed members to the board meeting and noted the apologies received.  No declarations of interest were made.  **Action**  Officers to arrange for microphones to be available for a future meeting |  |

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|  | **Brexit Update**  The Chairman introduced the current work that the LGA Brexit Task Force and the LGA organisation wide, is doing to prepare for the UK’s exit from the EU. The chairman updated members on the timeline around the transition period and the commencement of work to help councils prepare. Brexit and how local authorities should get involved in building structures around the transition period as the UK leaves the EU.  Paul Green reported on the work streams that the LGA are developing:   1. Fully prepare for the transition period 2. Longer term opportunities and minimising risks for local communities   **Action**  Officers to bring updates to the board on the LGA’s Brexit workstream. |  |

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|  | **Devolution and Future Priorities**  Rebecca Cox introduced members to how the LGA is currently refreshing its position on Devolution and how this may fit into the current political atmosphere in Westminster.  Rebecca Cox set out the main themes of the LGAs Devolution work, including how the process needs to be bottom up from local government to national.  Members made the following comments:   * The report needs to explore transport as a larger part of Devolution. * Non-metropolitan areas have been left behind in Devolution discussion with Westminster. * The role of LEPs and Growth Boards needs to be considered. * Areas need clarity on the outcomes of Government’s LEP review. * This board needs to consider agriculture as a part of any review of Devolution powers.   Officers responded:   * The LEP review is currently being considered as part of the Devolution review. * Defra is reviewing agriculture and its relationship with the UK leaving the EU. The Board will be keep informed of progress on this agenda.   Cllr Kevin Bentley responded:   * The LGA should be setting the pace around devolution with Westminster and ensuring members’ views are taken forward. * Members should be contacting officers between boards about issues and concerns from their communities. Devolution will be an ongoing agenda item for the board throughout 2020.   **Decision**  Members approved the updated programme of activity to campaign for greater devolution for local government in England.  **Action**  NFU to be invited to a future board meeting. |  |

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|  | **Growth Funding and Fiscal Devolution to Non-Metropolitan Areas**  Daniel Gardiner introduced members to the paper and introduced Jonathan Werran and Joe Fyans from Localis.  Joe Fyans updated the board on the research that has been commissioned on international approaches to fiscal flexibilities and growth funding.  Members made the following comments:   * This work should form part of building the business case for government to convince them of the argument for greater fiscal devolution. * What self-determination do local authorities in the highlighted European countries have over taxation? How do these models accommodate for need? * If this research is to be of real value to the board, there needs to be a relative context to how this would work in the UK as opposed to just detailed information on what European local government is doing.   **Decision**  Members noted the presentation with their comments taken forward.  **Action**  Localis to be invited to the next board meeting. |  |

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|  | **District and County Council Collaboration**  Daniel Shamplin-Hall updated members on the direction of the commissioned work on district and county collaboration as part of the Board’s 2019/20 work programme.  Phil Swann, executive director of Shared Intelligence presented to members on the research that Shared Intelligence have gathered so far, including interviews with stakeholders and analysis on case studies on collaboration of local authorities, on examples like the climate emergency. He asked for members input on:   1. their personal reflections on the drivers of collaboration at a local level. 2. What policy area or theme members would find helpful it most helpful for the report’s case studies to explore. 3. Their thoughts on how collaboration could evolve between tiers over the next 5 years.   Members made the following points:   * Trust needs to be built between different partners in local government, along with stakeholders in health and other services. * Parish and town councils are closer to residents and can be a key partner in making collaboration work and strengthening connections with communities. * Examples of formal meetings of leaders from surrounding councils and how it works well, would be useful for members. * While councils are talking about reorganisation, it is harder to build collaboration between local councils as it makes change feel short term. * Waste collection and customer service are examples of opportunities for greater collaboration. * Planning and housing can be areas of contention between tiers.   Shared Intelligence noted the comments.  **Decision**  Members noted the presentation and invited Shared Intelligence to return to a later board meeting. |  |

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|  | **Growth Update Paper**  Daniel Gardinerupdated members on national developments across key areas of growth policy. The updated focused on Industrial Strategy, investment in towns, infrastructure investment, clean growth and inclusive growth.  Members made the following comments:   * The LGA need to be pushing for infrastructure to be built into developments upfront and this must go beyond roads. Members referenced that this was the model followed in City Deals but not everywhere has these. * The LGA board oversight of the Stronger Towns Fund was queried and officers will continue to keep the board updated with this policy. * Queries were raised over the future of ESIF and LEADER funding, as well as the future of the Industrial Strategy – urgent clarity is required on these. * City Regions Board and People and Places Board need to continue to be joined up on metropolitan and rural growth, with nuance between the different types of area reflected as appropriate.   **Decision**  Members noted the report and updates. |  |

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|  | **Employment and Skills Update**  Jasbir Jhas summarised recent work and activity on employment and skills and welcomed a member steer on next steps now that a Government has returned. The update focused on the ways the LGA could position itself with the new Government on our Work Local ambitions and an update on new work on young people and adults. Members made the following comments:   * The LGA should take forward discussions with central Government on how it can support the development of the National Skills Fund, of which there has been little information. With our jobs market transforming and demanding new skills, access to lifelong learning will be critical to adults already in work. This requires investment and targeting. Local authorities already play a key role in adult education provision, and want to do more, however provision is under-funded and this must be addressed. The LGA should continue to push for the Apprenticeship Levy to be reviewed, as it has far too many restrictions. The LGA should consider how councils can play a greater role in targeting skills including through local structures like Growth Boards.   **Decision**  Members noted the report.  **Action**  Officers to engage DfE on the National Skills Fund, and progress work as indicated in the report. |  |

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|  | **LGA Business Plan**  Rebecca Cox outlined the LGA Business Plan for 2019-22 and asked members to reflect on how the People and Places Board work programme links to it.  Members made the following comments:   * Infrastructure does not seem to be mentioned as a central theme throughout the business plan, which is crucial right now for local government. * The considerations of business rates do not fully reflect what councils need in terms of funding.   **Decision**  Members noted the LGA Business Plan for 2019-22. |  |

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|  | **Minutes of the Last Meeting**  Members **agreed** to the notes of the previous People & Places Board that took place on Wednesday 11 September 2019. |  |

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**Appendix A -Attendance**

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| Position/Role | Councillor | Authority |
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| Chairman | Cllr Kevin Bentley | Essex County Council |

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| Vice-Chairman | Cllr Morris Bright MBE | Hertsmere Borough Council |

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| Deputy-Chair | Cllr Heather Kidd | Shropshire Council |
|  | Cllr Bob Jennings | Epping Forest District Council |

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| Members | Cllr Marc Bayliss | Worcester City Council |
|  | Cllr Hilary Carrick | Cumbria County Council |
|  | Cllr Neil Clarke MBE | Rushcliffe Borough Council |
|  | Cllr Keith Glazier | East Sussex County Council |
|  | Cllr Bradley Thomas | Wychavon District Council |
|  | Cllr Rob Waltham MBE | North Lincolnshire Council |
|  | Cllr Sue Woodward | Staffordshire County Council |
|  | Cllr Leigh Redman | Somerset County Council |
|  | Cllr Kyle Robinson | Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council |
|  | Cllr Doina Cornell | Stroud District Council |
|  | Cllr Helen Grant | Richmondshire District Council |

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| Apologies | Cllr Rachel Bailey | Cheshire East Council |
|  | Cllr Diane Marsh | Gravesham Borough Council |
|  | Cllr Eddie Reeves | Oxfordshire County Council |
|  | Cllr Martin Tett | Buckinghamshire County Council |
|  | Cllr Simon Henig CBE | Durham County Council |
|  | Cllr Sarah Osborne | East Sussex County Council |
|  | Cllr Karen Ward | North Norfolk District Council |

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