**Note of decisions taken and actions required**

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| **Title:** | European & International |
| **Date:** | Tuesday 10 December 2013 |
| **Venue:** | County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP |
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**Attendance**

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| Councillor |  | Council |
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| Clarence Barrett (Chair)  Gr. Uff. Marco Cereste OSSI OMRI (Vice Chair)  Richard Kemp CBE (Deputy Chair) | | Havering LB  Peterborough City  Liverpool City |

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| Neil Clarke | Rushcliffe BC |
| Alan Melton  Liz Eyre  Judith Wallace  Chris Shaw  Sir Albert Bore  Aaron Shotton  Roger Lawrence  Dave Allan  Paul Crossley | Fenland DC  Worcestershire CC  North Tyneside MBC  North East Lincolnshire Council  Birmingham City  Flintshire CC  Wolverhampton City  Sunderland City Council  Bath & North East Somerset Council |

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| **Apologie**s:  Gordon Keymer CBE |  | Tandridge DC |
| Nick Daubney  Keith Glazier  Sue Murphy (Deputy Chair)  Sherma Batson MBE DL  John Kent  Sian Reid  Diane James |  | Kings Lynn & West Norfolk BC  East Sussex CC  Manchester City  Stevenage BC  Thurrock Council  Cambridge City  Waverly BC |

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| **Officers**: Ian Hughes, Jasbir Jhas and Frances Marshall |  |  |

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**PART 1: FORMAL LGA BOARD MEETING**

The Chair opened the meeting with a round of introductions and noted the apologies that had been received. He thanked Worcestershire County Council (WCC) for hosting the meeting.

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|  | **LGA Lobbying Priorities for 2014**  The Chair introduced the report, which set out the proposed LGA EU lobbying priorities for 2014, following the publication of the European Commission’s annual work programme. In doing so, he outlined the seven key priorities, those issues with a watching brief, and how these priorities would be translated into lead member portfolios. Members were invited to discuss the proposed prioritisation for recommendation to Executive on 12 December**.**    In the discussion that followed, a number of comments were made, including:   * Members were generally supportive of the priorities outlined, however emphasised the importance of keeping abreast of developments relating to those issues with a ‘watching brief’. Particular reference was made to Directives on: EU state aid rules to airports and airlines; free movement of workers and their rights; and revision of food hygiene legislation. * With reference to the Lead Member portfolio areas, a discussion arose regarding how Board Members could best support the Lead Members in leading on the priority areas within their remit. * Members asked that in future a commentary be kept on each of the priority areas and watching brief issues to monitor developments and share progress with the wider membership. * With reference to the European Accessibility Act, it was suggested that a meeting be set up between Cllr Allan (President of CEEP UK) and the Chair of the European and International Board to investigate the possibility of closer working to maximise local government’s influence. * Members emphasised the importance of working after the European Parliamentary elections to develop positive relationships with the new MEPs and new European Commission. * Members expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the central-local summit - convened to discuss local government priorities with the EU leads in government departments - due to lack of engagement from Whitehall. Whilst members acknowledged that the fact that Whitehall having not engaged with the sector provides a useful audit trail to strengthen our case should Government seek to devolve a fine, there was a mixed view on next steps. Several Members emphasised the importance of continuing to pursue the issue through appropriate channels to ensure a meaningful outcome for local government, whilst on the other hand, it was suggested that resources be focused on lobbying key Departments on key issues, rather than engaging with Whitehall as a whole.   **Decision**  That the Board **agreed** the LGA’s EU lobbying priorities for 2014 for recommendation to Executive.  **Actions**  Arrange a meeting between President of CEEP UK and the Chair of the European and International Board. | Frances Marshall |

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|  | **Round-up of activity: Board EU lobbying priorities, institutions and international activities**  Ian Hughes (Head of Programme) briefly summarised the report which gave an overview of recent developments: in the Board’s key priority topic areas; in the European and international bodies to which the Board nominates members; and the LGA’s international activities.  In the discussion that followed, a number of comments were made, including:   * Cllr Sir Albert Bore, a member of the national Shadow Programme Growth Board (SPGB) which oversees EU funds, updated Members on the outcomes from the second meeting of the Shadow Board. In doing so he commented on the willingness of Ministers to engage with the Board and local government. * With reference to the cessation of the European and International Board under the proposed changes to the LGA governance structure, Member asked for a report to be brought to a future meeting outlining the important relationships which the Board manages and how these will be maintained within the new governance structure. * Concerns were expressed regarding the length of time Whitehall took to ratify member appointments to the Committee of the Regions. It was noted that these issues were being raised at a political level.  |  | | --- | | **Decision** | |  | | That the Board **noted** the report.  **Action**  Bring a report to a future Board meeting setting out the important  relationships which the Board manages and how these will be maintained  within the new governance structure. | |  |

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|  | **Note of the last meeting**  The notes of the last meeting held on 15 October were **agreed** as a correct record.  **PART 2: THEMED SESSION ON EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS** |  |

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|  | **European Structural and Investment Funds: The local perspective**  There followed an informal themed session on WCC’s use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to drive growth and prosperity, which was presented by Cllr Liz Eyre (WCC’s Cabinet Member for Children and Families) and Ahmed Goga (WCC’s Head of Economic Development & Strategic Planning). They provided a presentation on the council’s role in the development of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership’s Investment Strategy, the strategy’s links to WCC’s Corporate Plan and how investment of ESIF was focused on addressing the specific needs of the localities within the WCC boundaries. |  |

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|  | **Visit to Malvern Hills Science Park (via bus)** |  |

The themed seminar was followed by a site visit to the Malvern Hills Science Park which is a focal point for Worcestershire ERDF funded projects around growing the cyber sector and proof of concept fund. </AI5>

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