

**Local Government Association**

## **Regeneration and Transport Board**

22 January 2009

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### **Notification**

There will be a meeting of the **Regeneration and Transport Board** at **11:00 on Thursday 22 January** in Local Government House in rooms 7.1 and 7.2.

### **Attendance Sheet**

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

**Labour:** Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: [aicha.less@lga.gov.uk](mailto:aicha.less@lga.gov.uk)  
**Conservative:** Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: [angela.page@lga.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@lga.gov.uk)  
**Liberal Democrat:** Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: [libdem@lga.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@lga.gov.uk)  
**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@lga.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@lga.gov.uk)

### **Location**

A map showing the location of local government house is printed on the back cover.

**Contact: Fatima de Abreu** Tel: 020 7664 3136, E-mail: [Fatima.deabreu@lga.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.deabreu@lga.gov.uk).

**Carers' Allowance:** As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £4.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (ie. Children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

**Hotels:** If you wish to stay overnight in London, discounted hotel rates are available through the **Local Government Travel Club** (consult your own authority for information) or contact **Hotelzon** on tel: 01962 844 004 or fax: 01962 860 974.



## Regeneration & Transport Board

Date: 28.7.08

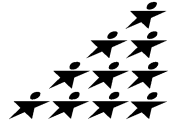
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### Regeneration & Transport Board - Membership 2008/2009

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (6)</b>	
Jim Harker <b>[Vice-Chair]</b>	Northamptonshire CC
Shona Johnstone	Cambridgeshire CC
Andrew Carter	Leeds City
Peter Jackson	Northumberland CC
Ricky Bower	Arun DC
Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Lesley Clarke	Wycombe DC
James Morrish	Torridge DC
<b>Labour (4)</b>	
David Sparks OBE <b>[Chair]</b>	Dudley MBC
Tony Page	Reading Council
Mark Dowd OBE	Merseyside PTA
Roy Davis	Luton BC
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Rhianon Passmore	Caerphilly CBC
Sirajul Islam	Tower Hamlets LB
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Richard Knowles <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Oldham MBC
Heather Kidd	South Shropshire DC
Sylvia Dunkley	Sheffield City
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Jon Ball	Ealing LB
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Prof John Whitelegg <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Lancaster City
<b>Substitute</b>	
Cllr Geoff Knight	Lancaster City

**14 Member Board**





## **Agenda**

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### **Regeneration and Transport Board**

22 January 2009

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#### **For Discussion**

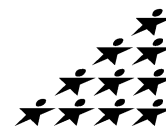
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|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | <b>Councils' Response to the Recession</b>                               | <b>7</b>  |
| 2. | <b>The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill</b>   | <b>19</b> |
| 3. | <b>Transport - Concessionary Fares, Local Transport Act and Update</b>   | <b>25</b> |
| 4. | <b>LGA Group Business Planning – Local Economy Strand – to be tabled</b> |           |
| 5. | <b>Draft LGA Key Messages on the EU Territorial Cohesion Green Paper</b> | <b>31</b> |

#### **For Information/Noting**

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| 6. | <b>Financial Inclusion</b>                          | <b>35</b> |
| 7. | <b>Outside Bodies Membership 2008/09</b>            | <b>41</b> |
| 8. | <b>Note of the Last Meeting and Decisions Taken</b> | <b>45</b> |

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 11.00  
at Local Government House**





## **Councils' Response to the Recession**

### **Summary**

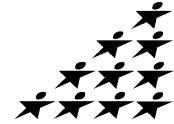
This paper updates the Board on developments in the LGA Group's work on the economic downturn and sets out the planned future work programme. The LGA research 'from recession to recovery' indicates that the recession is likely to impact differently in different areas and getting good intelligence on the key issues that are emerging in different regions will be important in informing the LGA Group's work programme. So the members of the Board are invited to share intelligence on the key issues facing their areas.

### **Recommendations**

The Board is invited to comment on the future work programme and identify the key issues that will be facing councils, their communities and local businesses in the coming months as the downturn develops.





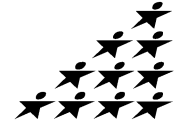


## **Work completed**

- 1 The key themes of the LGA Group's work to date to support councils' response to the recession have been:
  - Councils, together with local businesses and the Third Sector, are in the frontline in dealing with and mitigating the immediate impacts of the recession on local people and businesses.
  - The recession is likely to have different impacts in different areas, so responses need to be tailored to local conditions. Councils and their partners are well placed to identify local needs and target responses, so in times of recession the case for devolved economic decision-making becomes stronger.
  - As well as dealing with the immediate impacts of the downturn, councils also have a key role, working with local partners, in preparing local communities and businesses to take advantage of the recovery.
  
- 2 A detailed project plan for the LGA group recession work is attached at annex 1 and highlights of work already completed include:
  - a "credit crunch summit" at Local Government House; this well-attended event was addressed by the Chairman, Tony Travers, Barry Quirk, Stuart Etherington, the chief executive of the NCVO, and others and received media coverage;
  - publishing a collection of case studies ("Global Slowdown, Local Action") showing action taken by councils
  - publishing research showing the possible local impact of recession ("From Recession to Recovery") which received extensive media coverage including in the tabloids and the *Today* programme
  - carrying out a survey of councils which has been reported back to all councils and has also given rise to a number of press releases which have been well-reported
  - publishing a guide to the recession and a 'recession checklist' to support councils' understanding of the possible local interventions, building ;
  - getting the agreement of the Communities Secretary that a meeting of the Central-Local Partnership should be held in February to discuss the economic situation;
  - published a joint report with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) on how councils will work with business (copies will be available at the meeting);
  - published 25 additional case studies on the IDeA website (a list is attached at Annex 2)

## **Future work programme**

- 3 The proposed future work programme is also set out in detail at Annex 1. Highlights include:



## **Local Government Association**

- developing a second version of the recession checklist;
  - developing a more systematic system for gathering intelligence to help councils keep up-to-date on latest thinking on the recession;
  - carrying out a survey of council leaders;
  - publishing a joint report with third sector organisations, setting out how councils can work effectively with the third sector in mitigating the effects of the recession, including a wide range of case studies;
  - work to support councils interested in various kinds of proposals to deal with market failures in bank lending, either to local businesses or to fund public infrastructure projects;
  - establishing of action learning sets on dealing with the recession.
- 4 Discussions with the government are also underway about
- closer working between councils and Jobcentre Plus/HMRC in order to manage the expected increases in benefit caseloads;
  - integration of employment and skills provision;
  - improving takeup of benefits and tax credits.
- 5 At the meeting of the Regional Economic Council of 5 January, the Chairman agreed with the Prime Minister that we would work with the government on the challenges faced by young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

### **Sharing intelligence on the impacts of the recession**

- 6 The LGA research 'from recession to recovery' indicates that the recession is likely to impact differently in different areas and getting good intelligence on the key issues that are emerging in different regions will be important in informing the LGA Group's work programme. So the members of the Board are invited to share intelligence on the key issues facing their areas at the meeting.

### **Financial Implications**

- 7 The work programme can be accommodated within the programme budgets for Regeneration and Transport and Environment, and within IDeA funding.

### **Implications for Wales**

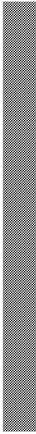

- 8 We will liaise with WLGA to identify potential common threads.

Contact Officer: Ian Keating  
Phone No: 0207 664 3032  
Email: [ian.keating@lga.gov.uk](mailto:ian.keating@lga.gov.uk)

**PROJECT PLAN - RECESSION WORK**

Item 1 - /

**KEY**

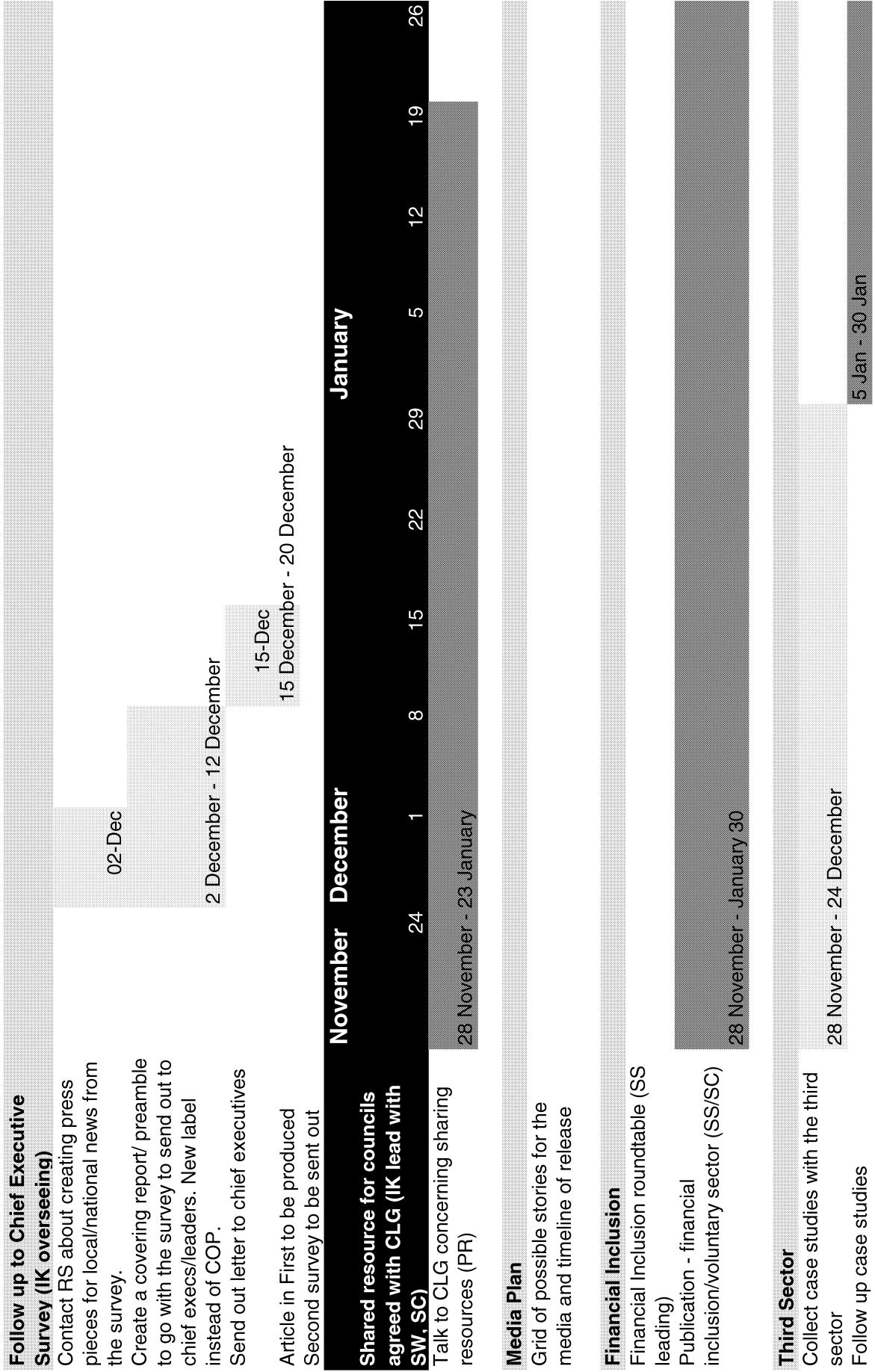
-  To Do
-  Completed

Tasks&Deadlines	November	December	January
8 Point Plan	24	1	8
8 points outlined on power point -to be developed (LC)		8 December - 12 December	19 22 29
To agree with CLG ministers that policy ideas will be shared with them (Currently with Chris Wormwold - PR to follow up) Mutual funds idea to be worked into 8 point plan (LC)			5 12 19 26 15 December - 17 January
<b>Case studies</b>			
Gather a further 20 case studies (IK/KP)		28 November-20 December	
Write up case studies (RP/SC/ES/FR/IK)		28 November- 24 December	22-24 December
Case studies to be placed onto the IDEA website (KP)			
Publication - 'Global Slowdown:Local Solutions 2'			
<b>CLP meeting</b>			
Write letter - request to Ministers for a CLP meeting on the recession (PR)	28-Nov		
Send letter	28 November - 5 December		

Letter to be sent to the NEC r.e presenting

5 January - 16 January

	November	December	January
<b>Publications</b>	24	1	5
Launch Joint LGA/ BCC Publication (KH/IK)		28 November - 9 January	
Publication on the council role in unemployment/worklessness - Pavec report part of this (PM)		28 November - 23 January	
Publication on the council role in unemployment/worklessness to include consultation with the councils mentioned in the publication (PM)			
Visitor Economy Publication			
Guidance on mortgage options for councils (RL)		28 November-12 December	
<b>Roundtable with RIEPS</b>			
Organise roundtable with RIEPS (KP)		28 November - 10 December	
<b>Checklist to recession-proof existing work programmes</b>			
Create checklist and place onto IDEA website		28 November-20 December	
Version 2 of the checklist Guide			5th January - 30 January
<b>Community of Practice for Chief Execs</b>			5th January - 30 January
SW		28 November - 24 December	
<b>Joint CLG/LGA initiative to monitor the impact of PVR</b>			
SJ			



Publish case study examples

26 Jan - 30

**Staff Event on the recession**

Organise a date for the event to take place  
Conference date

**NEETS**

**Conferences/Events**

Proposed ideas of conferences and events (FR)

5th January - 12 January

**Margaret Eaton Events/meetings**

Meeting with ME and David Harker, CEO CAB

ME meeting Lord Mandelson

ME meeting James Purnell

ME meeting with David Frost BCC

08-Jan

ME speaking at LGC confernece "Economic development in a recession" (key note Pat McFadden MP)

ME speaking at LGA Future Places event (Martin Wheatley)

ME speaking at LGA Housing in the North Event (Ruth Lucas)

**Projects: February to May**

ME meeting Lord Mandelson  
03-Feb

ME meeting James Purnell

- 05-Feb
- ME meeting with David Frost BCC  
18-Feb
- Financial Inclusion roundtable (SS  
leading)  
20-Feb
- Publication: "Global Slowdown:  
Local Solutions 2."  
23 - 27 Feb
- ME speaking at LGC conferece  
"Economic development in a  
recession" (key note Pat McFadden  
MP)  
26-Feb
- ME speaking at LGA Future Places  
event (Martin Wheatley)  
30-Mar
- ME speaking at LGA Housing in the  
North Event (Ruth Lucas)  
27-Apr
- Second Survey to be sent out  
4 - 8 May

**List of those involved**

- |    |                |    |                  |    |                |
|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| PR | Paul Raynes    | SC | Sally Cooke      | SJ | Stephen Jones  |
| IK | Ian Keating    | KH | Kevin Hoctor     | RL | Ruth Lucas     |
| SW | Sarah Williams | LC | Laura Caton      | NS | Nathan Stower  |
| KP | Kamal Panchal  | FR | Francesca Rhodes | SS | Steven Skelton |





**Additional recession case studies on IDeA website**

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=9215625>

**London Borough of Barnet** - In a move designed to boost the local economy, the London Borough of Barnet reduced the price of parking in the run-up to Christmas.

**Essex County Council** - A one-off financial assistance scheme will help families and older people on low incomes in Essex cope with the economic downturn.

**London Borough of Harrow** - Harrow Council is balancing the need to maximise council tax and business rate collection with support for those experiencing genuine financial difficulties.

**Ipswich Borough Council** - There is a need for clear, direct advice on how to access services that can help businesses and people to cope during a downturn.

**St Albans District Council** - The current economic downturn is having a big impact on relatively affluent areas such as St Albans in Hertfordshire.

**Westminster City Council** - Westminster City Council is investing more than £1 million to help almost 3,000 people find work during the economic downturn.

**City of York Council** - York residents were given advice on how to beat the credit crunch at a special event attended by a range of local organisations.

**Slough Borough Council** - Slough Borough Council has launched a taskforce to ensure that it can respond quickly and effectively to any local issues linked to the economic downturn.

**Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council** - A tackling debt action plan has been developed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and its local partners.

**Gloucestershire County Council** - In an uncertain financial climate, residents of Gloucestershire can access instant advice through an online 'one-stop shop'.

**Tunbridge Wells Borough Council** - Local agencies in the Tunbridge Wells area are working side by side to offer support to people and businesses.

**Lancaster City Council** - Lancaster City Council has teamed up with Lancashire County Council to offer a package of financial support for small businesses.

**Devon County Council** - Devon County Council is increasing its support for local organisations which offer financial advice and support to local people.

**Copeland and Allerdale Borough Councils** - Through the West Cumbria local strategic partnership, these two councils have found a novel way to help people through the credit crunch.

**Telford and Wrekin Borough Council** - Since the credit crunch, membership of local authority health and fitness suites is increasing in Telford and Wrekin.

**Basildon District Council** - Basildon District Council is offering a package of support for local people and businesses.

**West Lancashire District Council** - West Lancashire District Council is working with retailers and the police to combat an anticipated rise in crime during the recession.

**Cambridgeshire County Council** - The leaders of influential Cambridgeshire organisations held an economic summit in November 2008 as part of their response to worsening economic conditions.

**Brighton & Hove City Council** - A package of support for local businesses, including a buy local campaign, is being provided by Brighton & Hove City Council.

**Hampshire County Council** - Hampshire County Council is lobbying for central government support to help councils during the economic downturn.

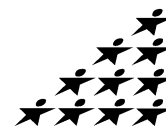
**Leicestershire County Council** - Leicestershire County Council together with Leicester City Council is developing a multi-area agreement to minimise the impact of the recession on the sub-regional economy.

**Oxfordshire County Council** - Councillors and officers at Oxfordshire County Council have identified ways to help local people and businesses through the economic crisis.

**West Sussex County Council** - Councils in West Sussex have developed a joint local authority action plan to support businesses and communities.

**Tamworth Borough Council** - Tamworth Borough Council has been working with its partners to develop a comprehensive local action plan.

**Teignbridge District Council** - In Teignbridge, a task force was set up by the local strategic partnership to make recommendations on local action to mitigate the effects of the recession.



## **Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill**

### **Summary**

This report updates the Board on the progress of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEDC) Bill and seeks agreement to the proposed lobbying priorities during the future passage of the Bill.

### **Recommendations**

To agree the approach set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 to lobbying and advocacy on the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction (LDEDC Bill).

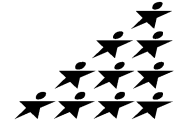
### **Action**

Officers to take action as appropriate.

Contact Officer:

Ian Keating (020 7664 3032), [ian.keating@lga.gov.uk](mailto:ian.keating@lga.gov.uk))





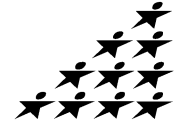
## **Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill**

### **Timetable**

1. The LDEDC Bill seeks to implement the Community Empowerment White Paper – ‘Communities in Control’ and the recommendations in the Sub-National Review of economic development and regeneration (SNR) that require primary legislation.
2. The Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 4 December and had its second reading on 17 December. Lords Committee Stage begins on 19 January and is expected to conclude in the following week. The government expects the Bill to reach the House of Commons by Easter and for Royal Assent before the summer recess at the end of July. It is not expected that the parts of the Bill dealing with SNR implementation will have been reached by the time the Board meets.

### **The economic development provisions**

3. Parts 4 - 7 of the Bill contain provisions to implement the parts of the SNR that require primary legislation. These, and the positions the LGA has taken on them, are as follows:
  - **a new economic assessment duty on upper-tier authorities:** we believe this should be exercised jointly by counties and districts in two-tier areas and that the legislation should spell out the areas that the duty should cover, rather than allow this to be left to statutory guidance (the current draft of the economic assessment guidance stretches to 10 pages)
  - **new arrangements for developing integrated economic and spatial strategies at the regional level, to replace the current RES and RSS:** these would be decided on jointly by local government leaders’ boards and RDAs. This is sufficiently close to our own compromise proposals on accountability for regional strategies that we support it, subject to some concerns about the extent of the power to be given to the Secretary of State to intervene in the strategy-making process.
  - **a framework for establishing new Economic Prosperity Boards (EPBs),** which would create statutory sub-regional structures to which the government says it would be prepared to devolve powers over funding, transport, employment and skills. Although we do not agree that such structures are necessary for devolution to take place, we would support their creation where



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councils in a sub-region wish to pursue this option, provided they are wholly voluntary.

- **a framework for putting multi-area agreements on a statutory basis with their own financial accountability** (rather than relying on an accountable body within a collective agreement as the existing MAAs do): we have opposed statutory MAAs, arguing that there is no need for them and that there is nothing that can be done through this route that could not be done through a joint committee under existing legislation. But if the government is determined to put these powers on the statute book, we would not object provided that the option of non-statutory MAAs remains available and the government does not intend to put pressure on existing MAAs to reform themselves on this model.

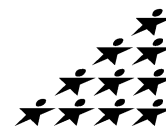
4. What the Bill does not contain is an enabling power allowing **RDAs to delegate their funding to councils and groups of councils**, which we regard as a central part of the SNR 'deal'. Ministers argue that legislation is not needed, as delegation can in effect take place through agreed joint investment planning within the framework of the new regional strategies. Our position is that the government needs to convince us that what we understand as delegation can be delivered without legislation and if it can't, then a suitable amendment should be made to the Bill to make delegation possible.

5. The board is asked to agree the approach set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above for LGA lobbying on the economic development provisions of the LDEDC Bill.

### **Lords Second Reading 17 December 2008**

6. Opening the Second Reading debate in the Lords on 17 December, CLG Minister **Baroness Andrews** highlighted the important role of local councils in responding to the economic downturn and said the Bill would "strengthen the capacity of local government and its partners to drive recovery where it really counts—at local level."

7. **Baroness Warsi**, the Conservative lead on the Bill in the Lords, highlighted the need for the delegation of RDA funds to local councils and questioned the need for Economic Prosperity Boards, saying "they put on a statutory basis something that councils are quite happy to do anyway, which is to co-operate when they need to. We must ensure that such agreements stay as voluntary agreements and that any such arrangements are fully accountable."



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8. On behalf of the Liberal Democrats, **Baroness Hamwee** questioned the need for statutory guidance on local economic assessments asking “would it not be better to give a local authority space to prepare one rather than worry about whether it is meeting the Secretary of State’s requirements?”

9. LGA President **Lord Best** – a crossbencher - raised the issue of RDA delegation and questioned the extent to which there would be real devolution of powers to Economic Prosperity Boards. He said the revised proposals for joint agreement on Regional Strategies between RDAs and local authority Leaders’ Boards “plugs a democratic deficit in the Government’s original proposals and ensures that directly elected authorities are fully involved in decisions about regional strategy”.

### **Implications for Wales**

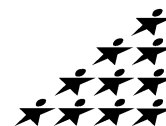
10. The Bill formally applies to England and Wales, however, most of the individual sections to do with economic development are restricted to English authorities and regions only.

### **Financial/Resource Implications**

11. The work on the Bill will be met from within existing LGA Group budgets.







## **Transport – Concessionary Fares, Local Transport Act and Update Paper.**

### **Summary**

This paper gives an update on activities undertaken and progress made on two priority areas of the Board's work on Concessionary Fares and The Local Transport Act and provides an update on other areas of work on transport.

### **Recommendations**

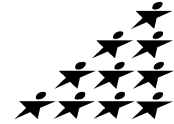
Members are asked to note the update on progress on the Local Transport Bill and related activities.

### **Action**

To progress the agreed work programme subject to comments from the Board and report progress at future Board meetings

Contact Officer: Caroline Green  
Phone No: 020 7664 3359  
Email: caroline.green@lga.gov.uk





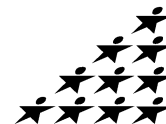
## **Transport – Concessionary Fares, Local Transport Act and Update Paper**

### **Background**

1. This paper gives an update on activities undertaken and progress made on two priority areas of the Board's work on Concessionary Fares and The Local Transport Act and provides an update on other areas of work on transport.

### **Concessionary Fares**

2. Following the recommendations of the November meeting of the Board, the LGA raised councils' concerns over funding for concessionary fares with Paul Clark MP Minister for Buses through the meeting of the Bus Partnership Forum on 16<sup>th</sup> December. The Chair of the Board also discussed the issues when he met with the Minister on 13<sup>th</sup> January.
3. The key issues raised in these meetings were:
  - The Department is confident that there is enough money in the system as a whole. However, they need to address inequities in the funding distribution and ensure that the scheme is fully funded at the individual authority level.
  - In some cases the shortfall is equivalent to a large proportion of councils' revenue expenditure and is therefore having a big impact on finances. Pressure is leading to difficult choices between cutting services or increasing council tax. We are pleased that Government has recognised that the current system is not fit for purpose and is undertaking a review. But those councils who are suffering shortfalls, and whose shortfalls will increase next year, cannot wait until 2011.
  - The Minister recognised that some councils are facing shortfalls and agreed to continue listening to their concerns and to continue dialogue with councils and the LGA on the issue. Officials expressed the view that funding concessionary fares at the County rather than District level would smooth out funding distribution anomalies, largely resolving the issue of shortfalls at local level. The Minister indicated that they would encourage Districts to seek local solutions by voluntarily pooling the special grant funding at the County level.
4. In response, the LGA highlighted the following issues:

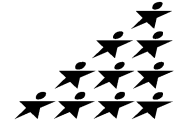


## **Local Government Association**

- We are working with authorities adversely affected by the grant distribution to explore solutions locally, however there are significant difficulties involved in pooling funds at county or joint scheme level. Resolving the issues caused by centrally determined distribution formula will require action at central level.
  - It will not resolve issues in all areas – eg even if they pooled all funding at County level, Lancashire would be approximately £2m short.
  - It would not resolve issues for unitary authorities – eg Nottingham £1.6m shortfall, Brighton and Hove, £2m shortfall.
5. In relation to the Government's proposed review of the funding and administration of Concessionary Fares from 2011, the LGA emphasised that
- regardless of the level at which concessionary fares is administered, funding must be distributed in a way that ensures that the scheme is fully funded at the local level.
  - the quantum of funding for concessionary fares needs to be sufficient in future years and needs to take into account increasing costs of bus provision and take up of the scheme.
  - In any change to level at which concessionary fares is funded and administered, Government must make sure that no district is left worse off as a result of extracting current funding for concessionary fares.
6. The Chair of the Board to wrote to all councils requesting further and better information on the financial impact of concessionary fares in December. LGA officers are collating responses and will present results of this survey to the Board as soon as analysis is complete.
7. The LGA has also invited senior officers from all councils facing funding shortfalls to a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January to clarify information provided by councils on the extent funding problem and establish ways in which councils can work together to seek resolution within the current three year settlement period. An update on the outcomes of this meeting will be given at the Board meeting.
8. As reported at the last meeting, DfT are proposing to consult on future funding and administration of Concessionary Fares. We expect the consultation paper to be published at the beginning of February. The Board meeting in March will provide an opportunity to discuss the LGA response to the consultation.

## **Local Transport Act**

9. The Local Transport Act was also an item for discussion at both the Bus Partnership Forum and the Chair's meeting with the Minister. Key points raised by the LGA were:



- Councils are committed to successfully implementing the Local Transport Act. There are still some detailed issues to be resolved through guidance but we hope that the final result is an Act which really will make a difference to how councils work with operators to deliver better bus services on the ground.
- Local Government is keen to move swiftly ahead with using the tools that will now be available to us and are particularly keen to make progress in relation to Quality Partnerships and Quality Contracts. To facilitate this, the department needs to:
  - a) assist councils in bringing forward quality partnership schemes and quality contracts. Pump priming to develop schemes could help early action and assist in disseminating best practice as experience emerges.
  - b) make sure regulations and guidance are implemented as early as possible to allow councils to make progress. In particular, priority should be given to regulations and guidance for Quality Contracts. We would like to see these come into force earlier than autumn 2009 as currently envisaged.

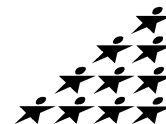
10. The Minister agreed to consider ways in which the Department could support early take up of the powers in the Act and to write to the Chair of Board on this issue.

## **Rail**

11. At the last meeting of the Board, members requested that rail policy should be an item for discussion at a future meeting of the Board. It was suggested that this include an update from network rail and discussion of LGA engagement on the rail agenda. LGA officers are developing proposals for influencing the expected National Policy Statement covering rail and the DfT's Developing a Sustainable Transport System consultation process. It is proposed that this discussion take place at the Board meeting in March. Members are asked to comment on this suggestion.

## **LGA publication Volatile times - Transport, climate change and the price of oil**

12. Members are asked to note the publication of the LGA document "Volatile times - Transport, climate change and the price of oil". The paper was published in December following input from the Board at previous meetings in 2008.



13. The paper:
  - Analyses the evidence and theory surrounding the debate on oil price volatility.
  - Makes key recommendations to councils about the practical steps they can take to adapt both their own operations and help business and householders.
  - Signposts some of the tools, organisation(s) and resources that can offer further support.
  - Offers a number of case studies from local authorities (nationally and internationally) who are adopting innovative ways to help reduce the pressure on their budgets from spiralling fuel costs.
14. The report concludes with specific recommendations to central government about how it can help local government respond to the challenges and opportunities. This includes:
  - Dismantling the bureaucracy behind transport funding and transport project appraisal,
  - Empowering councils to rapidly improve bus services.
  - Reforming the current system of public bus subsidies for buses to help fight climate change, provide better bus services and give better value for money to the tax payer.
15. The paper is available on the LGA website and hard copies will be available at the meeting.

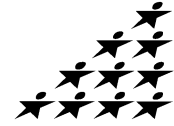
## **Financial Implications**

16. Staffing and other resource implications of the report can be met within current resources.

## **Implications for Wales**

17. The English National Concessionary Fares Scheme does not apply to Wales. Provisions of the Local Transport Act relating to buses do apply in Wales.

Contact Officer: Caroline Green  
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Email: [caroline.green@lga.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.green@lga.gov.uk)



22 January 2009

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## **Draft LGA Key Messages on the EU Territorial Cohesion Green Paper**

### **Summary**

This paper outlines the draft LGA key messages developed in response to the EU Territorial Cohesion Green Paper. The Green Paper outlines the Commission's thinking to a new approach to regional development for the future.

### **Recommendations**

1. Members are asked to agree the draft LGA key messages in response to the Territorial Cohesion Green Paper issued by the European Commission.
2. Any actions arising to be taken forward by officers following members' discussion.

### **Action**

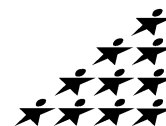
Officers

Ian Hughes, Programme Director European and International Unit

Contact Officer: Nick Porter  
Phone No: 020 7664 3113  
Email: [nick.porter@lga.gov.uk](mailto:nick.porter@lga.gov.uk)

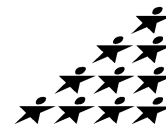






## **Draft LGA Key Messages on the EU Territorial Cohesion Green Paper**

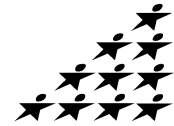
1. This paper outlines the draft LGA key messages developed in response to the EU Territorial Cohesion Green Paper. The Green Paper outlines the Commission's thinking to a new approach to regional development for the future.
2. The European and International Unit previously briefed the Regeneration and Transport Board on the Territorial Cohesion Green Paper on the 30 October. Since then the unit has engaged with local authorities and other partners (in the UK and Europe) to move towards a robust LGA position.
3. This process has included a joint seminar with the European and International Strategy Group and a number of practitioners from local authorities, and a session in Brussels with UK and EU stakeholders.
4. The following draft LGA key messages will provide the framework for the full response to the green paper (submission deadline 28 February 2009):
  - a. The LGA believes territorial cohesion policy has an important role in shaping the future EU priorities and associated funding. UK local authorities should continue to benefit from EU funding post-2013.
  - b. The EU should look towards consolidating and simplifying funds to address fewer policy priorities.
  - c. There should be fewer and better targeted EU funding programmes in the future, which are easier to access.
  - d. The consolidated priorities and associated funding programmes should be given a greater territorial dimension in a way that better compliments existing national, regional and sub-regional strategy.
  - e. The EU should take a holistic view of territorial cohesion and associated funding by recognising that urban centres exist within functional economies in which urban-rural links are crucial. This might mean, for example, bringing rural development activities currently under Common Agricultural Policy into cohesion policy.
  - f. Resources for co-operation programmes, such as Interreg, should be increased alongside a greater emphasis given to projects with demonstrable outputs that directly benefit local communities.
  - g. Gross Domestic Product alone is not an adequate measure of the modern challenges faced by UK local authorities, such as demographic change.
  - h. In addition to influencing future arrangements (2013-2020) there is an opportunity to reform current arrangements (2007-2013), new freedoms and flexibilities are particularly important given the current economic downturn.



***Local Government Association***

5. The territorial cohesion debate sits with the Commission's review of the Budget for post-2013, for which the Commission is committed to publishing a communication during 2009 outlining the EU's future spending priorities.
6. The LGA will engage over the course of the debate to ensure the views of local authorities are represented both to EU institutions and to UK government departments.

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## **Financial Inclusion**

### **Summary**

This paper provides members with background and update information on the LGA Group's work to promote Financial Inclusion.

### **Recommendations**

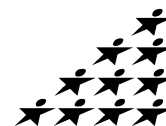
That members note the information provided in this paper.

### **Action**

Subject to any comments from members, officers to take forward appropriate actions.

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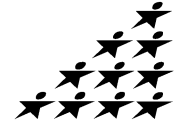
## Financial Inclusion

### Background

1. Many people, particularly those living on low incomes, cannot access mainstream financial products such as bank accounts and low cost loans. This financial exclusion imposes real costs on individuals and their families - often the most vulnerable people in our society. It also has costs for the communities in which they live.
2. Councils have a key leadership and facilitation role to play in promoting financial inclusion. This involves ensuring that their own functions, such as revenue and benefits and housing services are joined up and are promoting financial inclusion in their work. It also means working with local employers and third sector agencies such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and credit unions to make sure financial inclusion is promoted, in partnership, across their area.

### Financial Inclusion taskforce and Champions initiative

3. The Government set out its financial inclusion strategy in 2004. It also established a Financial Inclusion Fund and a Financial Inclusion Taskforce, chaired by Brian Pomeroy CBE. The Taskforce brings together private, public and third sector partners such as banks, the Financial Services Authority, the Association of British Insurers, ABCUL (the Association of British Credit Unions), the Citizens' Advice Bureau and government departments including HMT, DWP and CLG.
4. Local Government was invited to join the taskforce in 2008 and is represented by Bala Mahendran, Chief Executive of Basildon BC. Through Bala's role, the LGA is working closely with central departments and the Taskforce to develop the **Financial Inclusion Champions** project. The Champions, employed by DWP, will develop strategic relationships and promote financial inclusion with local partners across designated sub-regions in England. These sub-regions are set out in the map at **Annex 1**. There will also be national Champions operating on a thematic basis (for example a rural issues Champion) and a Champion for Scotland and one for Wales. Recruitment is nearing completion and sub-regional Champions will be hosted in a variety of organisations, including local authorities, Housing Associations and CABs.
5. Due to the close interaction that will be needed between the Champions and local authorities within the sub-regions, it is hoped that representatives from the project will attend a future Regeneration and Transport Board to discuss the implications of this work and how best to develop contacts with senior council Leaders and Chief Executives.



## **Next steps for LGA Group**

6. The LGA Group's recession workplan (discussed elsewhere on this agenda) contains a Financial Inclusion workstream. As the recession deepens councils, corporately and also through their ward Councillors, will see demand rise from residents for debt and benefits advice, access to credit unions and other financial inclusion services. Councils will need to play a strong leadership and facilitation role across their area and with strategic partners (particularly the third sector) to tackle the knock-on effects of rising unemployment, such as any increase in doorstep lending or homelessness.
7. Officers are currently working with the CAB on a publication setting out what councils and advice bureaus can do in partnership to promote debt advice and financial inclusion messages across their area. It will feature case studies and will draw on some of the experiences of the three financial inclusion Beacon councils; Leeds, Sheffield and South Tyneside.
8. Also being planned are a series of awareness raising measures, including meetings between councils, government and third sector representatives, and a possible reception for senior politicians at LGA Annual Conference. This work will seek to present Financial Inclusion efforts as the "human face" of councils' response to the recession. As part of achieving this the work will be conducted under a "councils helping you manage your money" banner, rather than employ existing financial inclusion terminology.

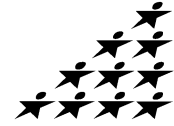
## **Financial Implications**

9. The financial implications of this work will be managed from existing resources.

## **Implications for Wales**

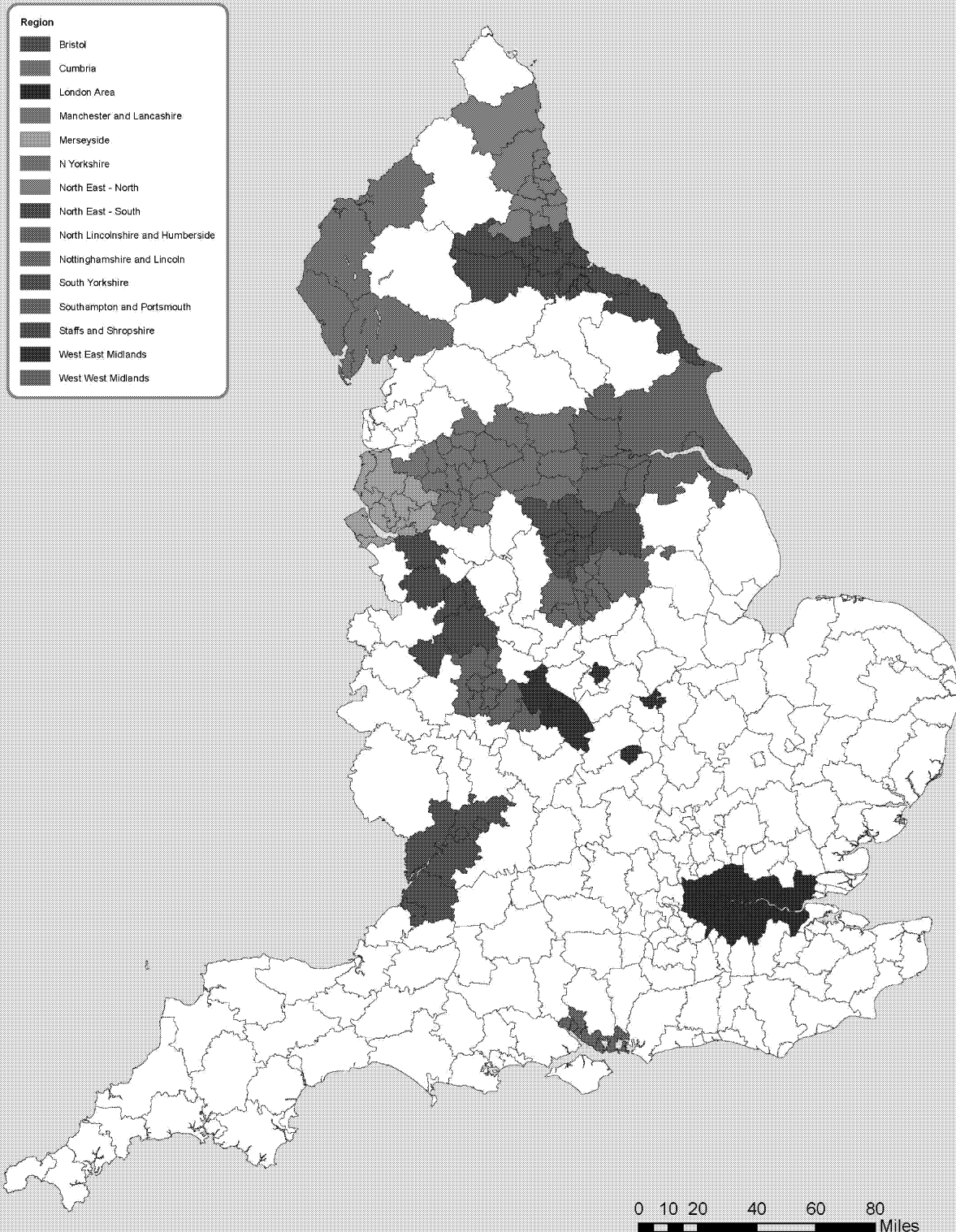
10. The Financial Inclusion Champions project applies to Wales. Officers will liaise with WLGA colleagues as appropriate in support of this work.

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### Financial Inclusion Champions in England (Provisional)

LA Selected Areas







**Regeneration and Transport Board**

22 January 2009

Item 7

**Outside Bodies Membership 2008/09**

**TRANSPORT AND REGENERATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>RELATED BODIES</b>	<b>Nomination 2008/09</b>
Rural	LGA Rural Commission	Cllr Stephen Parnaby (Cons)
Urban	LGA Urban Commission Steering Committee	Cllr Andrew Carter (Cons)
<b>Social Inclusion and Equalities Issues</b>	Lead member required for each LGA Board	Cllr Rhiannon Passmore (Lab)
<b>European and International</b>	LGA's new International and European governance arrangements	Cllr David Sparks (Lab)
<b>2012 Games</b>	LGA Culture Tourism and Sport Board	Cllr Shona Johnstone (Cons)
<b>Regional Development Agencies – LGA liaison with LA members</b>	Local Authority Members on Regional Development Agency Boards was set up by the LGA as a forum for these members to exchange ideas and views and keep up to speed on relevant RDA and local government issues. This could be a useful sounding board going forward on a number of LGA interventions (not just regeneration and transport, although highly relevant).	<b>The relationship between the LGA and RDAs; plus local authorities and RDAs is under review - in the context of the sub national review. A proposition on the future shape of these relationships has been commissioned by office holders.</b> Chair Cllr David Sparks (Lab) (as Chair of the Regeneration & Transport Board) Cllr Phil Davis (not a board member) Professor John Whitelegg (Indep) Jim Harker (cons)

## TRANSPORT AND REGENERATION BOARD OUTSIDE BODIES

OUTSIDE BODIES	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	Vacancy/nomination 08/09
<b>Motorists Forum</b>	<p>The <i>Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT)</i> was asked by the Deputy Prime Minister to set up a group in September 1999 to advise on policy proposals affecting motorists. CfIT subsequently agreed to form The Motorists' Forum and the Forum was launched formally by the Deputy Prime Minister on 31 January 2000.</p> <p>The Forum looks to ensure that motoring interests and car users' views are represented properly in the development of both Government and local authority policies that could impact on motorists. It works within the conceptual framework of the Government's integrated transport strategy and sustainable development policy but also in the light of the Deputy Prime Minister's statement that the car will remain the dominant mode of transport for personal use.</p>	Meets 4 times per year	Cllr Ricky Bower (Cons)
<b>Bus Partnership Forum</b>	<p>Brings together senior representatives from the bus industry, central and local government. The Forum aims to forge a spirit of co-operation and to overcome any barriers to achieving an effective climate of partnership between the key stakeholders. Member organisations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Confederation of Passenger Transport</li> <li>▪ The Local Government Association</li> <li>▪ The Association of Transport Co-Ordinating Officers</li> <li>▪ The Passenger Transport Executive Group</li> <li>▪ The Department for Transport.</li> </ul> <p>The Forum's work programme is overseen by an official-level Steering Group. The Steering Group has established 'Task &amp; Finish' groups to look at possible solutions to the problems that prevent buses from achieving their potential for growth.</p>	Meets about 2 times per year	Cllr Richard Knowles (Lib Dem) Cllr Shona Johnstone (Cons) Cllr Tony Page (Labour)
<b>Channel Tunnel Initiative</b>	<p>The Joint Local Government Channel Tunnel Initiative is a grouping representing local authorities throughout Great Britain, with members from all the constituent organisations involved in the subject (the Local Government Association, the Convention of</p>	4 Oct 2007 10 Jan 2008 6 March 2008 5 June 2008	Cllr Richard Knowles (Lib Dem) Cllr Ricky Bower (cons) Cllr Derek Bateman

	<p>Scottish Local Authorities, the Welsh LGA, the Association of London Government and the Shires Public Transport Consortium). The Initiative was originally formed some years ago to press for regional services through the Channel Tunnel and came together again during 1998 in the light of the difficulties then occurring. The group's main focus is on rail policy and rail freight issues.</p>		<p>(Lab), as Chair of the Shire Public Transport Consortium  Cllr Austin (Lab) (not a Board member)  Cllr Malcolm Blansby (Ind) (not on Board)</p>
<p><b>DfT Road Safety Advisory Committee</b></p>			<p>Cllr Jon Ball, (Lib Dem)  Cllr Peter Jackson (cons)</p>

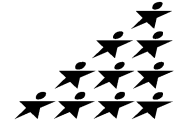
**OTHER APPOINTMENTS (now made through personal application due to expertise)**

OUTSIDE BODIES	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCY	CURRENT REP
<p><b>Disabled Passenger Transport Advisory Committee – Personal Mobility and Local Authority Working Group</b></p>	<p>Established by an <u>Act of Parliament</u> as an independent body to advise Government on the transport needs of all disabled people across the UK. Also advises on the built environment needs of all disabled people. A number of working groups have been established to lead on DPTACs work programme – including one on Personal Mobility and LAs which is looking at developing advice on road user charging; research reviewing how effectively home and quiet zone design standards reflect the needs of disabled people; contributing to development of disability equality strategies.</p>		<p><b>No current LGA link, although local government is well represented on the Committee – application process closed for 2008 appointments</b></p>

**Proportionality: 21 positions: 8 Conservative; 6 Labour; 3 Liberal Democrat; 2 Independent**

## Special Interest Groups

Group	Contact
<p><b>SASIG</b></p>	<p>Strategic aviation SIG James Bailey, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DT tel: 020 8541 9459 fax: 020 8541 9447</p>
<p><b>NABMA : National Association of British Market Authorities Special Interest Group</b></p>	<p>David Preston NABMA The Guildhall Oswestry Shropshire SY11 1PZ Tel/Fax: 01691 680713 Email: nabma@nabma.com</p>
<p><b>SIGOMA: Special Interest Group of Metropolitan Authorities (outside London)</b></p>	<p>Philip Coppard (Secretary, SIGOMA) Chief Executive Barnsley MBC P.O. Box 14 Town Hall Barnsley S70 2AQ Tel: 01226 773301 Fax: 01226 773199</p>
<p><b>Passenger Transport Authority Special Interest Group</b></p>	<p>Tim Lamer PTEG Support Unit West Yorkshire PTA 40-50 Wellington Street Leeds LS1 2DE tel: 0113 2517315 Fax:: 0113 2517333</p>
<p><b>Shire Public Transport Special Interest Group</b></p>	<p>Adrian White, Consortium Secretary, Durham CC County Hall Durham DH1 5UQ email: adrian.white@durham.gov.uk</p>



22 January 2009

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## **Note of the last meeting and Decisions taken**

### **Regeneration and Transport Board**

19 November 2008, Local Government House, Smith Square, London

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#### **Present:-**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Cllr David Sparks (Labour) (Dudley MDC)
<b>Deputy Chair(s):</b>	Cllr Richard Knowles (Lib Dem) (Oldham MDC)
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Jim Harker (Cons) (Northamptonshire CC)
<b>Conservative:</b>	Cllr Shona Johnstone (Cambridgeshire CC) Ricky Bower (Arun DC)
<b>Labour:</b>	Cllr Tony Page (Reading Council) Cllr Mark Dowd (Merseyside PTA) Cllr Roy Davis (Luton)
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Cllr Heather Kidd (South Shropshire DC) Cllr Sylvia Dunkley (Sheffield City)
<b>Substitutes:</b>	Sirajul Islam (Tower Hamlets LB)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Prof John Whitelegg (Ind) (Lancaster City), Cllr Andrew Carter (Cons) (Leeds City Council), Cllr Peter Jackson (Cons) (Castle Morpeth DC)

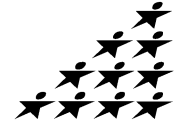
The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced Mr Kelvin Reynolds (Director of Technical Services & Head of Safer Parking Scheme at the British Parking Association).

### **Item 1 - Presentation from BPA**

Kelvin Reynolds gave a presentation to members introducing the work of the British Parking Association. He introduced several schemes and informed the Board that it would be useful for the BPA and local authorities to engage with each other to ensure best practice and benefits to the public. Members raised several concerns including issues surrounding hospital parking, clamping and traffic signage.

#### **Decisions**

- Members noted the presentation
- Members responded positively to the suggestion that the LGA and BPA should work more closely together in order to lobby central Government



### **Actions**

- BPA and Officers to work together in order to provide a draft directive regarding SPARKS.
- Officers to collaborate with BPA and provide information on research into the cost to retail of parking restrictions.

## **Item 2 - Concessionary Fares**

Caroline Green updated members on concessionary fares. She explained the complexities involved in addressing Special Grants issues, such as unfair distribution and problems in serving rural areas. Members discussed ways of addressing these, including looking at impact on local authority budgets. Further issues included introducing the benefits of evidence-based funding, payment of interim support and basing the scheme on return journeys.

### **Decisions**

- Members noted the report

### **Actions**

- The Chair to meet and raise issues with Paul Clark MP at the earliest opportunity
- The Chair to write to key people at all councils requesting figures for 2006 – 2008, as well as information on the financial impact of concessionary fares on local authority budgets.
- The LGA to collect data and convene a meeting open to all councils in order to agree a lobbying strategy.

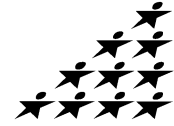
## **Item 3 - Oral Feedback Reports from Members**

Members noted the Outside Bodies information (Item 7) and discussed the issues and progress. Concerns were raised regarding lack of information on the 2012 Games, with particular concerns surrounding the local transport infrastructure. The Chair updated the Board on European structural funding and notified members that it was due to end soon. The remit of the Channel Tunnel Initiative (CTI) was discussed. Many felt that the title should be changed to reflect the importance of the wider high speed rail agenda. It was suggested the group be known as 'High-speed Links'. Cllr David Sparks agreed to raise this with the Chair of the CTI, and to request a report for the next meeting.

Tony Page informed members that the LGA were no longer invited to membership of Network Rail.

### **Decisions**

- Members suggested another conference on changes to European structural funding would be useful.



### **Actions**

- Officers to provide members with updates on the 2012 Games and local transport
- Officers to request a presentation and report from the Chair of the Channel Tunnel Initiative for the next meeting
- Officers to remove Network Rail from Outside Bodies list, but invite them to give a presentation at the January meeting

### **Item 4 - Board Update Paper**

Ian Keating updated members on the government's response to the SNR consultation informing them that the outcome would be available after Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Members were given two recently published booklets and Ian informed them of their content;

*'From Recession to Recovery: the local dimension'* and *'Global Slowdown: local solutions'*

Members were asked to consider how their own local authority was dealing with the downturn and invited to submit case studies for inclusion in further publication. Concerns raised included discomfort at some of the references used, and members stated that it was vital for messages to be correctly conveyed, particularly where local examples were used as illustrations. The Chair advised members to convey any dissatisfaction via a detailed email to the LGA. It was agreed that RDA's funding allocation and the accessibility of available money needed to be addressed. The risks to the supply of affordable housing were discussed and it was agreed that the Government should be encouraged to intervene.

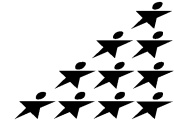
Caroline Green gave an update on progress with public transport issues. Points raised by the LGA on clauses within the Local Transport Bill had led to a request for clarification on amendments, and a response should be available soon. Discussion progressed to the lack of funding available to support local transport infrastructure projects, and Caroline notified members of a forthcoming conference on 1<sup>st</sup> December to look at this with the aim of providing a practical guide for councils to develop new funding mechanisms.

### **Decisions**

- Members noted the reports

### **Actions**

- Officers to relay concerns regarding written messages and use of named cities
- Officers to circulate a summary of the Local Transport Bill's processes to members
- Update members of the likely date of publication of the report on TAS partnerships.



### **Item 5 - European Commissions Green Paper**

This paper, submitted by John Dodd, (LGA in Brussels) updated members on issues surrounding the EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. Consultation seminars with stakeholder organisations were being held in Brussels in order to help inform the LGA's opinion. A draft response will be available at the next meeting.

#### **Decisions**

- Members noted the paper.

#### **Action**

- Secretariat to confirm the presence of an alerts facility on the LGA homepage for the work of the European and International Unit

### **Item 6 – Note of previous meeting**

The note of the previous meeting was **agreed**. There remains a clash with the date of the May 2009 meeting.

#### **Action**

- Secretariat to look into moving the May meeting to the end of April/beginning of May and confirm the date with Board members before Christmas.

### **Item 7 – Outside Bodies nominations**

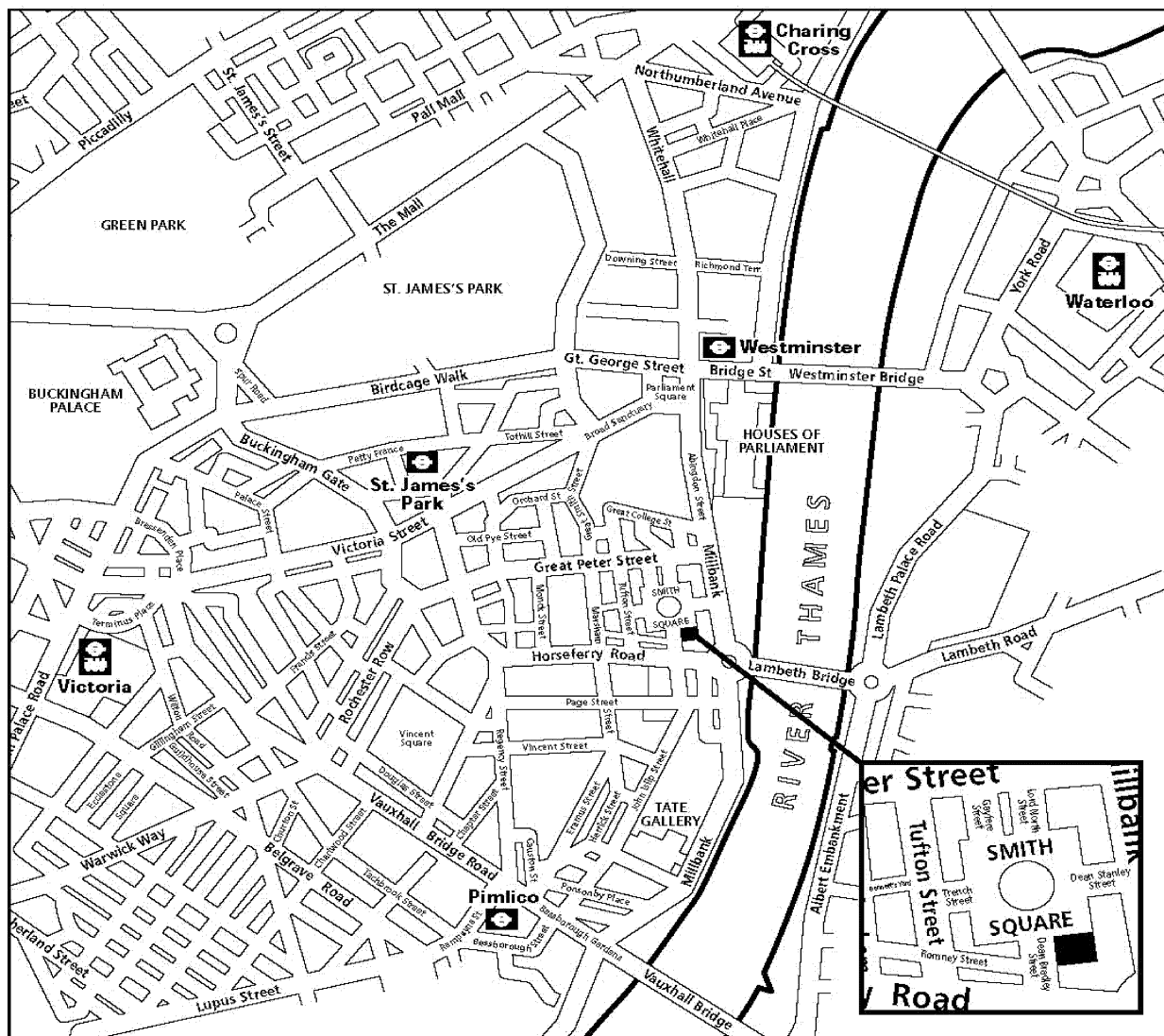
David Robertson is no longer a Board member, and Cllr Bower will therefore attend the Motorists Forum for the Board.

#### **Actions**

- Secretariat to confirm new nominations, finalise and circulate the list to members.







### Local Government Association

Local Government House  
 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ  
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 Fax: 020 7664 3030  
 Email: [info@lga.gov.uk](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk)  
 Website: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

### Public transport

**Local Government House** is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are; **Victoria** and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines); **Westminster** (District, Circle and Jubilee Lines); and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line), all about 10 minutes walk away. Buses **3** and **87** travel along **Millbank**, and the **507** between Victoria and Waterloo goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

### Bus routes - Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

### Bus routes - Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Clapham Common
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

### Cycling Facilities

Cycle racks are available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

### Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone. For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

### Car Parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park**  
Great College Street
- Horseferry Road Car Park**  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street