

Item 6

EU Update

Summary

This report updates the Board on the work of the LG Group's European and International Team work and creation of the Group's new European and International Programme Board.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update report from the European and International Programme Board, and the potential implications for the Economy and Transport Programme Board.

Action

None.

Contact officer: Jasbir Jhas
Position: Programme Manager, LG Group
Phone no: 020 7664 3114
E-mail: jasbir.jhas@local.gov.uk



**Economy and Transport
Programme Board**
18 November 2010

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Background

1. Almost all council services are affected by EU laws in one way or another from energy efficiency, equalities, procurement, recycling, waste and working hours. Councils also benefit from EU structural funds as well as a whole host of other funds. Thus, the LGA manages a lobbying programme so we can maximise the opportunities for councils to gain EU cash and to minimise the burden of proposals for new regulation.

E&I Programme Board

2. Cllr Peter Box is the Economy and Transport representative on the newly formed LGA European and International Programme Board, which will provide oversight on the Group's E&I work. The first meeting takes place on Friday 26 November. Membership is highlighted below:

Name	Nominated from
Dave Wilcox (Lab)	Chair
Richard Kemp (Lib Dem)	Vice Chair
Sandra Barnes (Con)	Deputy Chair
Linda Gilham (ind)	Deputy Chair
tbc	Children and Young People
Liz Eyre (Con)	Community Wellbeing
David Lloyd (Con)	Culture, Tourism & Sport
Peter Box (Lab)	Economy and Transport
Paula Baker (Lib Dem)	Environment & Housing
tbc (Con)	Improvement
Nilgun Canver (Lab)	Safer & Stronger Comms
Roger Phillips (Con)	Workforce
Albert Bore (Lab)	Rep from external body
Gordon Keymer (Con)	Rep from external body
Graham Tope (Lib Dem)	Rep from external body

Transport and economy related EU issues

3. The EU produced its 2011 annual legislative work programme in late October. It is equivalent to the Queen's Speech. The LGA undertakes to lobby on those issues which will affect councils in coming years from a funding, cost, or regulatory point of view. Issues raised in the work programme, which are relevant to the Economy and Transport Board include:

3.1 The European Commission confirmed that in February 2011, it will produce a **Future of transport white paper**. It could frame EU financial and legislative action on: urban mobility; urban-rural links; road pricing; green zones; road safety; intelligent transport systems; tackling climate change; social inclusion.

3.2 The EU will also propose in 2011 some new rules governing the award of service 'concessions'; it could affect councils' 'franchise' arrangements including **bus franchises and toll road/bridges**. Much will depend on the scope proposed. Officers have engaged with the EU on this topic will update the board when further details are available.

3.3 The EU budget review 2014-2020 will cover all EU spending priorities, including UK receipt of **EU structural funds**. The current budget (2007-2013) finances many programmes relevant to local authorities: Structural Funds (£8.4 billion to UK), the Common Agricultural Policy (including the Rural Development Plan for England worth £3.9 billion to England), and a range of thematic funds. The European Commission will propose EU overall spending plans, including figures for 2014 – 2020, in June 2011. Detailed proposals for each Fund will be published separately: draft regulations for European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, CAP/Rural development and the range of thematic funds (such as those for innovation). These are expected in July 2011.

3.4 The European Commission will also produce several policy strategies of interest to Board members: overarching EU 2020 strategy on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU (EU funds will be closely aligned to this); youth employment; and skills and jobs.

4. The LGA is proactively making the case for coherent, locally responsive and accessible EU funds. At the LGA's *Rethinking EU Billions* event on 19 October, the LGA launched its *EU funds and place-based budgets*. This sets out the LGA's vision for spending future (2014-2020) European funds for economic and skills development to help address major public service objective to achieve better value for money, to be more effective, and to be driven by communities.
5. In September, the LGA launched a new EU lobbying and funding trackers specifically designed to help our LGA member authorities get more out of the EU. Register via www.lga.gov.uk/eu-trackers