

Note of Previous Meeting

Title:	Economy & Transport Programme Board
Date and time:	24 May 2011, 11am
Venue:	Local Government House, Smith Square

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Political Group	Council
Chairman	Peter Box	Labour	Wakefield MDC
Vice Chair	Jim Harker	Conservative	Northamptonshire CC
Deputy Chair	Richard Knowles	Liberal Democrat	Greater Manchester CA / Oldham MBC
Deputy Chair	Andrew Cooper	Independent	Kirklees MBC
Members	Shona Johnstone	Conservative	Cambridgeshire CC
	Kevin Lynes	Conservative	Kent CC
	Mark Dowd	Labour	Merseyside Travel / Sefton C
	Roy Davis	Labour	Luton BC
	Heather Kidd	Liberal Democrat	Shropshire Council
Substitutes	Tony Ball	Conservative	Basildon DC
	Tony Page	Labour	Reading Council
Apologies	Andrew Carter	Conservative	Leeds City
	Philip Atkins	Conservative	Staffordshire CC
	Kevin Bentley	Conservative	Essex CC
	Antonia Bance	Labour	Oxford City
	Zulfiqar Ali	Liberal Democrat	Rochdale MBC
In attendance:	Paul Raynes; Ian Hughes; Caroline Green; Philip Mind; Laura Caton, Kamal Panchal; Fatima de Abreu (LG Group), Jonathan Bray (Pteg Support Unit)		

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	Cllr Box (Chairman) welcomed members to the meeting.	
1	<p>Note of previous meeting 24 May 2011</p> <p>Members approved the note of the last meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Current and Future Plans for Rail</p> <p>The Chairman introduced Anna Walker and John Larkinson from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).</p> <p>As background to this item, a summary of the independent report of the rail value for money study chaired by Sir Roy McNulty was circulated to Members.</p> <p>The Board received an overview of the work of the ORR, its Periodic Review process and a presentation on delivering value for the users of Britain's railways. Available at: http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=18496590</p> <p>Members raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the delivery of savings and the implications of this on investment in rail infrastructure; • Councils need to have an enhanced role in representing the interests of local communities and local economies to help determine outputs for Network Rail; • The importance of local government views to be represented within ORR's developing strategies and to ensure ongoing links between local and regional partners; • Concerns that integration between rail operators and Network rail would not be deliverable under the current timetable for new franchises. <p>It was agreed that the Board and ORR would continue engagement as a way of taking forward issues raised and to facilitate wider discussion. A joint LG Group / ORR seminar during the consultation of the PR13 objectives would be arranged in the first instance.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>Members noted the report and agreed the recommendations.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to arrange facilitation of a joint LG Group / ORR seminar. 	LG Group Officers

3 Youth Unemployment – proposed work programme

Officers updated Members on the proposed joint programme of work with the Children and Young People's Board on youth unemployment which would be branded as a Hidden Talents .

The Board made the following points:

- The importance of the social causes of youth unemployment – these are often rooted in the family (such as child poverty) or correlated with wider social issues (such as teenage pregnancy);
- Young people who experience periods of unemployment and are disengaged from learning are not a homogeneous group. Their individual experience will be shaped by local factors, including access to work and learning particularly in rural areas;
- There were problems with the services for young people. They are fragmented, with particular issues around transitions from school, college and in and out of work. There are also issues about the quality of services and how well some services spoke to, catered for and understood young people, particularly Job Centre Plus and advice and guidance services;
- There were uncertainties about the role that local enterprise partnerships would play in tackling youth unemployment, although they provide a for a in which to engage the private sector on the issue;
- Employer practice can also be a problem. Retailers are, for example, are under-employing young people contracting them on shift patterns that increase travelling costs, sometimes giving them short notice of when they are required to work (and not to work).

The Board agreed the work programme, subject to the views of the Children and Young People Board, and identified a community budget proposal for NEETs as an early priority as a way of improving services for young unemployed people.

They felt that the issues should be conveyed to key politicians with case studies included and agreed that this suggestion would be taken to the Children and Young People Board with a view to be updated on the discussion at their next meeting on 6 July. [Note: the Children and Young People's Board proposed a joint meeting of lead members of both Boards as a next step.]

Decision

Members noted the report and agreed the further actions proposed.

Action

- Officers to set up a joint meeting of lead members of the Economy and Transport and Children and Young People's

Philip Mind / LG
Group Officers

Board.

4 Competition Commission Local Bus Services Market Investigation – provisional report

Caroline Green briefed the Board on current policy work on buses and the proposed LG Group's response to the Competition Commission report.

Members commented on the proposed LGG response highlighting that the regulation of competition should be focused on letting contracts through franchising . They discussed issues related to rural areas and agreed local authorities' role in increasing competition by making greater use of franchise arrangements, but said that processes need to be less complicated and that a single template solution would not be appropriate.

It was agreed that the response would be re-drafted and circulated to the Board for approval, prior to submission of the LG Group's recommendations to Norman Baker MP in July.

Decision

Members noted the report and agreed the actions proposed.

Action

- Officers to redraft the LG Group response and circulate to Members; Caroline Green
- Officers to progress work programme on buses as proposed. Eamon Lally

5 Getting Closer update

Members received a summary of the outcomes of the Getting Closer Programme and noted that the new integrated organisation would be effective from 1st June.

Decision

Members noted the update.

6 Oral Feedback from Members

Members noted the report.

Cllr Knowles asked officers to seek a response to the Chairman's letter to the Minister raising concerns about damage to roads by streetworks undertaken by utilities companies.

Action

- Officers to seek response to Cllr Box' letter of 13 April 2011. Caroline Green

7 European Transport Policy White Paper and EU Update

Members noted the report and requested a further briefing on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) programme at a future

meeting.

8 Economy Update

Members noted the report.

9 Meeting – Cornwall Council

Officers updated Members on arrangements for the field visits and meeting with Cornwall Council and reminded them to submit their intention to attend.

Members were informed that specific details of the study tours planned for the second day were being sought from the Council and that these would be circulated as soon as possible.

10 Correspondence with Ministers

Members noted correspondence with Ministers since the last meeting in March.

11 Integrated Transport Authority Special Interest Group – Annual report to the Local Government Group

Members noted the report.

Date of next meeting: 6 - 7 July 2011, Truro, Cornwall