

Item 1

Note of Meeting 8 September 2011

Title: Economy & Transport Programme Board

Date and time: 8 September 2011, 11.00am

Venue: Local Government House

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Political Group	Council
Chairman	Peter Box CBE	Labour	Wakefield MDC
Vice Chair	Shona Johnstone	Conservative	Cambridgeshire CC
Deputy Chair	Mike Haines	Independent	Teignbridge DC
Members	Kevin Lynes	Conservative	Kent CC
	Philip Atkins	Conservative	Staffordshire CC
	Tony Ball	Conservative	Basildon DC
	Neil Clarke	Conservative	Rushcliffe BC
	Mark Dowd OBE	Labour	Merseyside Travel / Sefton C
	Roy Davis	Labour	Luton BC
	Claire Kober	Labour	Haringey LB
	Anne Western	Labour	Derbyshire CC
Substitutes	Colin Rosenstiel	Liberal Democrat	Cambridge City Council
Apologies	Andrew Carter	Conservative	Leeds City
	Richard Knowles	Liberal Democrat	Oldham MBC
Deputy Chair	Roger Symonds	Liberal Democrat	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Substitutes	Gillian Brown	Conservative	Arun DC
	Paul Yallop	Conservative	Worthing BC
	Kevin Bentley	Conservative	Essex CC
	Tony Page	Labour	Reading Council
	Guy Nicholson	Labour	Hackney LB
	Heather Kidd	Liberal Democrat	Shropshire Council

In attendance: Ian Hughes; Eamon Lally; Charles Loft; Kamal Panchal; Craig Titterton
Virginia Ponton (LG Group); Lord Dubs; John Dawson (Road Safety Foundation).

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	Welcome and introductions	
	The Chairman welcomed members and officers and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He also sent best wishes to Philip Mind, Senior Adviser who could not attend due to a cycling accident.	
	The Chairman said that with the change in membership of the Board, he would write to all former lead members to thank them for their work.	Cllr Peter Box, Virginia Ponton
2	Membership, terms of reference, meeting dates and appointments to outside bodies	
	The Chairman suggested lead members make the appointments to outside bodies. The list will then be circulated.	
	The Chairman pointed out that the notes of the previous meeting appeared as the last item on the agenda.	
	Decision Members agreed:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead members will make the appointments to outside bodies • notes of previous meetings should feature earlier on the agenda • the membership list, terms of reference and meeting dates for 2011/12 were agreed • the notes of the previous meeting on 6 and 7 July provide an accurate record. 	
	Action	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead members to agree appointments to outside bodies. • Notes of the previous meeting will be taken earlier on future agendas. 	Lead members Virginia Ponton
3	Road Safety	
	The Chairman introduced Lord Dubs, Chairman and John Dawson, Chair of Managing Committee at the Road Safety Foundation.	

Lord Dubs said that they were appealing not for more money but for a better way of spending in order to increase road safety and asked members for their advice. He highlighted that road safety measures, based on research and socio-economic arguments, should be designed into roads in the first instance and that existing programmes of work can be tweaked to build in road safety measures. Without this, there are huge burdens on families, businesses, the police and the health service, including long-term care bills. He asked the Board for help and support in sharing this message and disseminating research and resources.

The Chairman welcomed members' ideas on how to disseminate this presentation to authorities.

John Dawson gave a presentation to the Board (PowerPoint presentation attached) and highlighted some useful tools for members and authorities such as colour-coded maps which measure road safety and the Road Safety Foundation's Simple Measures Saves Lives publication.

Lord Dubs and John Dawson asked for help from the Board through:

- political leadership on debating and driving this issue forward
- potential links to transport devolution
- LG Group conference platforms
- LG Group support for guidance.

The Chairman thanked Lord Dubs and John Dawson for a passionate presentation and suggested that this information could be distributed through regional groupings, adding that this is about innovation and making money go further.

Members discussed with the speakers in particular:

- The need to improve driver education and a change in behaviour.
- Other organisations and sectors should also invest in improving roads, work together and take responsibility for designing road safety into programmes of work.
- Insurance companies should recognise the increased benefits of taking further lessons and tests such as Pass Plus. There was also concern that increased insurance costs could lead to an increase in uninsured drivers.
- Members agreed they and regional offices could drive this issue if they had better guidance. Lord Dubs and John Dawson urged members to share their views on what kind of guidance would be useful and for any ideas on how to incentivise road safety improvement.

Decision

Officers will bring to the next Board a proposal of how to work with Blackpool and the regions, incorporate this road safety issue and engage with other agencies who have a responsibility to road safety and who could also make contributions.

The Chairman will write to Lord Dubs to propose this action.

Action

- **Officers to draft proposal for next Board meeting.**

**Eamon Lally,
Ian Hughes**

4 and 6 Local Growth Campaign – supporting council’s ambition for local economic growth and the economic development improvement offer

Items 4 and 6 were taken together.

The Chairman introduced item 4 on the Local Growth Campaign, saying that the paper reflects the need for the LG Group to have a greater emphasis on and role in economic and transport development.

Ian Hughes outlined that this is a refreshed offer to the sector with a series of discussions in order to promote the current and future role of local government in driving economic growth. He asked members for ideas of what to focus on, what types of partnerships could be established, what kind of questions/topics can be debated and the desired outcomes.

The Chairman encouraged members to put forward quirky ideas in order to do something different to the normal methods of engagement, for example by looking to the private sector and young people. He also highlighted the need for outcomes not just outputs so that in 12 months time the Board can demonstrate what work it has done and how it has supported local authorities and members.

Taking both item 4 on the Local Growth Campaign and item 6 on Economic Development improvement offer, members commented that:

- This is a crucial time as economic growth is the top Government priority. This therefore presents a great opportunity and a risk of being left out of the debates if the LG Group does not get involved. The Chairman pressed the need to establish a clear economic vision for local government and to get Government to agree local authorities have a crucial role to play.
- There are varied approaches, perceptions, representation and engagement of LEPs. And there is no one-size-fits-all. To make LEPs work, there needs to be a focus on a smaller number of priorities, which can be achieved through working with other organisations.

- It was agreed that outcomes and timescales need to be specified.
- Skills are a priority issue and relationships need to be built with FE and HE providers and businesses.

Members discussed a variety of ideas for the events to be taken on board by officers and questioned how brave they could be, for example with controversial debate titles in order to attract a broader range of people than usual, such as young people and businesses including larger corporations.

Members urge local authorities to go to the sessions taking place in or near their areas.

The Chairman proposed that members agree these papers. He asked officers to establish the early programme which would be cleared with lead members and which would provide a clear view on outcomes.

Decision

Members agreed the next steps on items 4 and 6.

Action

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| • Officers to clear programme with lead members and bring revised programme to next Board meeting. | Ian Hughes |
| • Officers to develop an improvement offer as detailed in the report and to present an update to Members at a future Board meeting. | Kamal Panchal |

5 Transport devolution

Eamon introduced the item saying that DfT has given the green light for transport devolution to take place and highlighted the broad points of the paper.

Members discussed the following:

- Linking Transport with the Economy within the Board's programme. The Board needs to ensure there is a good balance of Economy and Transport.
- Local authorities need greater influence over funding streams but also, for example, the ability to influence the performance management of franchises.
- Local franchising should be a priority.
- Providing support to local authorities on areas such as rail devolution where capacity may be an issue is key.
- Devolution brings major opportunities but the risks need to be understood, e.g. relationships with other stakeholders, reducing budgets and a reputational risk both of assuming responsibilities and not delivering and not taking up the opportunities.

- It is important that devolution is joined up, so that local authorities can develop integrated and innovative local solutions

The Board will seek an early opportunity to meet with Ministers to discuss devolution issues.

Decision

Members agreed item 5.

Action

- Letter to be sent to Minister

**Officers and
Cllr Peter Box**

7 Business Plan headlines

Members voiced a general lack of links across Boards, the need to meet more with other Boards, include DCN and CCN in joined-up working and forge one voice for local government.

Decision

Members agreed the report and to improve links across Boards and joined-up working.

8 Business rates

Decision

Members noted the report.

9 Economics update

Decision

Members noted the report.

10 Note of previous meeting

Decision

Members noted the report.

Provisional date of next meeting: 17 November 2011, LGH