

Note of Meeting 19 January 2012

Title: Economy & Transport Board
Date and time: 19 January 2012, 10.30am
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
Deputy Chair	Roger Symonds	Liberal Democrat	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Members	Kevin Lynes	Conservative	Kent CC
	Tony Ball	Conservative	Basildon DC
	Neil Clarke	Conservative	Rushcliffe BC
	Martin Tett	Conservative	Buckinghamshire CC
	Philip Atkins	Conservative	Staffordshire
	Anne Western	Labour	Derbyshire CC
	Roy Davis	Labour	Luton BC
Via telephone conference	Richard Knowles	Liberal Democrat	Oldham MBC
Substitutes	Kevin Bentley	Conservative	Essex CC
	Tony Page	Labour	Reading Council
	Guy Nicholson	Labour	Hackney LB
Apologies	Andrew Carter	Conservative	Leeds City
	Mark Dowd OBE	Labour	Merseyside Travel / Sefton C
	Roy Davis	Labour	Luton BC
	Claire Kober	Labour	Haringey LB
Substitutes	Heather Kidd	Liberal Democrat	Shropshire Council
	Gillian Brown	Conservative	Arun DC
	Paul Yallop	Conservative	Worthing BC
	Peter Popple	Independent	Scarborough BC

In attendance: Ian Hughes; Philip Mind; Eamon Lally; Charles Loft; Rachael Donaldson; Nick Porter; Virginia Ponton (LGA).

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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The Chair welcomed all, introduced Kevin Bentley as a substitute member and thanked all for agreeing to a different format for the Board meeting. The Chair and members wished Richard Knowles well, who attended via telephone conference.

1	Note of the previous meeting	
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The note of the previous meeting was agreed as a correct record.

2	LGA Business Plan	
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Members discussed the draft Business Plan agreeing the following feedback to send to the LGA Executive:

- Members welcomed the opportunity to influence the business plan at an early stage, which is a clear advance on the past years, and the open approach to setting corporate priorities.
- There is a need for more cross-cutting activities across the LGA and between Boards. The Economy and Transport Board has developed a joint programme with the Children and Young People Board on young people and work and with the European and International Board on EU regeneration funding. These projects have been at the Boards' own initiative but they exemplify how Board work needs to be joined up to concentrate on big issues. The development of clear corporate priorities is a welcome development and a discussion on how Board work can be joined up in these areas is welcomed in order to further these aims and ensure that work is accountable through the Board structures.
- There was concern that there were too many work themes within the corporate priorities. In the "Growth Section", for example, there is a need for a clear measurement of sub-themes against final corporate priorities and the ability of the LGA to deliver. The Local Growth Campaign will clarify where councils want the LGA to target its work, which is likely to be in three areas: promoting councils' leadership of economic development; removing continued barriers to local growth (such as the centralisation of decision making on transport); and the devolution of new powers (such as skills).
- The proposal for a "growth and prosperity" corporate theme is welcomed, but there would be more popular support if the employment issue could be addressed in the title. Thus it is suggested it is renamed "growth, jobs and prosperity".

Action

- **Feedback to be sent to the LGA Executive**

Officers**3 Economy and Transport updates**

Under Appendix C Cllr Tony Page and Ian Hughes attended the 2012 Games Task and Finish Group. There is an expectation that the LGA, through the Economy and Transport Board, needs to engage more and disseminate more information on transport issues, such as during the Torch Relay.

Members noted the report.

Action

- **Officers to draft a paper for the Executive on transport issues during the 2012 Games.**

Officers**4 Climate Change Adaptation/Resilience**

Kamal introduced the item, highlighting that there would be a Government announcement on the risks of climate change and that this work aims to mainstream the risks of climate change into the usual risk management themes. Jessica David is the LGA Adviser for this work (jessica.david@local.gov.uk / 0207 664 3175)

Members discussed the need to:

- ensure local government is proactive on climate change. Kamal added that proactive work is being undertaken through the Environment and Housing Board and that some councils are particularly proactive on the Green Deal and in creating green jobs.
- understand where the Environment Agency has resources for the National Adaptation Programme. Kamal said that there is funding for advice, information and development days for members and officers and that Defra is ensuring all departments are joined up on this work.
- build an evidence base on the potential hindrance and cost to economic growth from the impacts of climate change.
- join up local plans and offsets.
- ensure serious conversations over the impacts of climate change are happening. There was concern that local government is limited in how it can respond to the effects.

The Chair highlighted that the LGA is working with the Environment Agency on the work programme as per paragraph 11 and that members' comments would be fed into the work programme.