

## Note of Meeting 27 September 2012

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**Title:** Economy & Transport Board  
**Date and time:** 27 September 2012, 11.00am  
**Venue:** Local Government House

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Political Group	Council
<b>Chairman</b>	Peter Box CBE	Labour	Wakefield MDC
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Tony Ball	Conservative	Basildon DC
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Roger Symonds	Liberal Democrat	Bath and North East Somerset
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mike Haines	Independent	Teignbridge DC
<b>Members</b>	Martin Tett	Conservative	Buckinghamshire CC
	Philip Atkins	Conservative	Staffordshire
	Nick Clarke	Conservative	Cambridgeshire CC
	Ann Steward	Conservative	Norfolk CC
	Mike Whitby	Conservative	Birmingham City
	Philip Bicknell	Conservative	Windsor & Maidenhead RBC
	Claire Kober	Labour	Haringey LB
	Barrie Grunewald	Labour	St Helens MBC
	Joan Dixon	Labour	Derbyshire CC
	Tony Page	Labour	Reading Council
	Colin Rosenstiel	Liberal Democrat	Cambridge City
	Peter Popple	Independent	Scarborough BC
<b>Apologies</b>	Heather Kidd	Liberal Democrat	Shropshire Council
	Andrew Carter	Conservative	Leeds City
	Gillian Brown	Conservative	Arun DC
	Chris Roberts	Labour	Greenwich LB
	David Wood	Labour	Tyne & Wear ITA [Chair of ITA SIG]

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the Board and invited introductions from all for the first Board of the new cycle.

Cllr Martin Tett gave apologies that he would have to leave the meeting early.

It was agreed to take Item 3 first.

### 3 City Deals

The Chair welcomed Miatta Fahnbulleh, Head of the Cities Policy Unit, Cabinet Office and outlined the Leeds City Deal, showing the Board the signed agreement. He questioned how far the Wave 2 would extend, highlighting the role that counties can play and the need to focus on functional economic areas (FEAs) rather than local authority boundaries. The Chair had reported back on City Deals to the LGA Executive the previous week.

Miatta thanked the Board for the invite. She outlined the City Deal principles, highlighting the need for change in local leadership and economic drive and therefore the need to empower local areas with resources and tools and encourage innovation. The deals comprise sets of asks and offers between local authorities and central government and are bespoke to the local area. Once signed, the deals are binding - local and central government must action their part of the deal.

Wave 2 will focus on functional geographies and on big cross-cutting issues, where work can be done deeper rather than broader. This will be complemented by a core package of devolved powers. Selection of the areas will be competition-driven by locally set standards around ambition, governance arrangements and private sector engagement. They will likely focus on urban conurbations, though the LGA's push for other areas to be considered has been recognised. She said there is thinking on how another process could run alongside City Deals for these non-city areas. Miatta understood the challenge from local government for Whitehall to change cultures and relationships but highlighted that there is appetite for the deals from ministers. The message that 'local knows best' is gaining traction in Whitehall.

The Chair thanked Miatta and added that a combined authority governance arrangement for the planning and delivery of City Deals, such as the Leeds City Deal, could be helpful to other areas as a vehicle for overcoming local tensions or difficulties.

Members discussed a range of issues including boundaries, "county deals" and innovative governance arrangements.

Miatta accepted the points made by the Board and said that the messages would be fed back to the government. Responding to the questions, Miatta said that the message on including non-city areas had been received loud and clear from the LGA and that there was potential for another process along-side City Deals for these areas. The starting point had been cities. Miatta expected conversations about deals in other areas to happen outside of the Cities Unit. She understood the

need for varied approaches and said that there is no set model, the emphasis rather is on the standard of the offers.

The Chair thanked Miatta and the Board for the discussions.

### ***Decision***

The Board agreed to write to the Minister for Cities, Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP, to send thanks for Miatta's presentation and to reiterate the key points and appetite for local government to deliver growth. The Minister was also identified as the lead on counties.

### **Action**

- Officers to draft letter to Rt Hon Greg Clarke, MP.

**Sarah Bull**

## **1 Note of previous meeting**

### ***Decision***

The notes of the last meeting were agreed.

## **2 Moving the Local Growth Campaign forward**

The Chair introduced the item by commending the LGA's local leadership, local growth publication, which has been a major piece of work for the Economy and Transport Board and which has been well received. He highlighted the next tour of Town Hall Summits, for which there is still great enthusiasm from members and the business community.

Ian Hughes asked for members' comments on the priorities of the local growth campaign for the coming year.

Members were pleased to see opportunities for influencing national policy and discussed:

- ensuring conversations on rural growth at the May Board at South Lakeland DC in Cumbria.
- the importance of transport to growth and the ability of local authorities to deliver schemes cheaper than, for example, the Highways Agency and the need, therefore, for more local discretion on transport.
- the key message of aligning education with business needs and ensuring a focus on school education not only at HE/FE level.
- the need to attract foreign investment and to persuade government that local authorities can and do take on this role.
- Cllr Steward outlined a three-county approach to growth and skills in Norfolk where the private sector and LEPs are also involved in a scheme which focuses on young people's ambition.
- Cllr Clarke outlined an example where Cambridgeshire CC has bought the assets of a bank to invest in pensions and run as a fully commercial FSE-approved bank; the first local authority one. With finance underpinning economic growth, there is a need to remove barriers for local authorities to enter into the financial market.

The Chair highlighted a key message in ensuring engagement with young people happens earlier in order to nurture their ambition.

The Board agreed:

- that the local growth campaign is on the right track and agreed for officers to add messages on removing barriers for local government access to the finance market as well as a focus on school education.
- to seek a meeting with Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, the new Secretary of State for Transport as per the commitment with the former Secretary of State to discuss barriers to growth.
- to take a paper on Higher Education at the next Board.
- to move the May Board to meet alongside the Town Hall Summit at South Lakeland DC.

#### **Action**

Officers to:

- add in member comments to the Local Growth Campaign.
- arrange meeting with Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP.
- add paper on Higher Education to the next Board.
- arrange the May Board to meet in Cumbria, alongside the Town Hall Summit.

**Rachael  
Donaldson/Ian  
Hughes  
Eamon Lally  
Nick Porter  
Rachael  
Donaldson/Virginia  
Ponton**

**4  
and  
7**

#### **Roads Strategy and Transport Update**

Item 4 and 7 were taken together.

Eamon Lally introduced the paper, with the importance of discussing the role of local government in road strategy and the future of the Highways Agency. He proposed that there is some advantage to integrating the national and local road networks to improve local community outcomes and asked for members' views on this.

Members discussed:

- how to respond to the government's expectation, which runs counter to much expert opinion, that the strategic network usage will rise by 40 per cent in the next 20 years.
- a lack of appreciation by Network Rail that national and intercity networks do include commuter traffic.
- the lack of communication and linking between areas within DfT, for example between roads and rail. There should be a focus on an integrated network with integration across modes of transport as well as other related departments such as Health.
- local government can develop and deliver transport for growth but the national structure must enable this.
- the importance of future funding and charging mechanisms for roads, as electric and hybrid cars create a decline in fuel income
- the need for clear income streams, so that road charges, for example are reinvested into roads.
- TMS powers in Wales.
- Cllr Clarke gave an example of Cambridgeshire CC working closely with the DfT using local knowledge on a project, which officers can capture as a case study.

Eamon said that the national strategy for transport in December will not give model shift options but will provide principles for the role of transport in growth

The Chair updated members on the HS2 roundtable. The DfT Minister had responded negatively to the LGA's request for four places at the HS2 Environment Forum in order to represent the breadth of local government opinion. The LGA Chairman would be asked to restate our request to DfT.

The Chair said that members support and welcome Norman Baker MP's devolution of funding for local major schemes, but not any added bureaucracy.

### **Decisions**

The Board agreed:

- to write to Norman Baker agreeing with devolution but not bureaucracy of local major schemes.
- to a meeting with the Vice-Chair, Cllr Tony Ball and Norman Baker MP on TMA.

### **Actions**

Officers to:

- capture Cllr Clarke's case study on local authority and DfT engagement.
- investigate Welsh TMA powers.
- LGA Chairman to be asked to restate the request to DfT for four places at the HS2 Environment Forum.
- draft letter to Norman Baker MP on local major schemes.
- arrange a meeting with the Vice-Chair and Norman Baker.

**Eamon Lally  
and  
Charles Loft**

## **5 Hidden Talents**

The Chair commended the Hidden Talents publication and introduced the item. He added that at the LGA Executive meeting he had pushed the importance of working across Boards on this issue.

Nick Porter asked members for a steer on the next steps and ideas on the potential propositions for improving services for young people. He added that there would be a joint Lead Member meeting between the Economy and Transport Board and the Children and Young People Board on 14 November 2012.

Members discussed the following points:

- there are short- and long-term needs and community budget pilots could help in the short-term.
- careers advice is key.
- skills must align with business needs.
- it must be recognised that there is no easy fix – this issue is complex
- it is important to engage with HE and FE as well as understand that not all providers agree with this agenda.
- success must be demonstrated, collated and shared as best practice, international best practice must also be considered.

The Chair was positive in the Board's ability to demonstrate the range of good work being done on skills.

***Decisions***

The Board agreed for officers to write to all members for case studies on skills and share as best practice.

**Actions**

Officers:

- to write to members for case studies.
- to circulate the last LGA Executive notes to members.

**Nick Porter**  
**Virginia Ponton**

**6 Streetworks**

Charles Loft introduced the item on the streetworks campaign, which focuses on quality reinstatements after road works. Officers are working with DfT on permit schemes and DCMS on broadband.

***Decision***

The Board agreed this lobbying campaign.

**8 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2012/13**

The Board agreed to appoint members to outside bodies through the Lead Members.

The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the Board meeting.