

Note of Meeting 28 March 2013

Title: Economy & Transport Board
Date and time: 28 March 2013, 11.00am
Venue: Local Government House

Attendance

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

In attendance: Ian Hughes; Eamon Lally; Piali Das Gupta; Rachael Donaldson; Charles Loft; Russell Reefer; Virginia Ponton;

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. It was agreed that the meeting would finish at 12.30pm due to travel disruption.</p>	
1	<p>Notes of the previous meeting</p> <p><i>Decision</i> The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Chair introduced the Chair's Report. He highlighted the Staffordshire County Council Town Hall Summit and thanked Cllr Philip Atkins for hosting the event.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Haines told members that the Bristol Skills and Growth Roundtable had been successful, with a great deal of feedback and information to feed into discussions with the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).</p> <p>Members asked for an update on Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act (TMA).</p>	
	<p>Actions Update on TMA to be provided.</p>	Eamon Lally
3	<p>Heseltine Review and 2013 Budget</p> <p>The Chair said that the Government's response to the Heseltine Review would be circulated to member. A more detailed paper considering the impacts of the announcements, as well as linking this to the New Model for Local Government, would be provided at a future Board after the Spending Review.</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the need for distinction between the devolved powers for LEPs and for City Deals and ensuring that LEPs work with democratic accountability and with reference to local government. - whether signing a City Deal allows you to also enter into other deals. - a lack of reference to combined authorities and of rural proofing. 	
	<p>Ian Hughes said that these issues would continue to be raised with BIS.</p> <p>Action The Government's response to the Heseltine Report to be circulated. A more detailed analysis paper to be taken at a future Board. Check any limitations on entering other deals after signing a City Deal.</p>	<p>Virginia Ponton Officers Piali Das Gupta</p>
4	<p>Transport Update</p> <p>The Chair updated members on a letter offering 2 places for the LGA to sit on the HS2 Roundtable. He proposed that the offer is taken up and that the political group offices put forward nominations.</p>	

Cllr Martin Tett noted his dissent.

Charles Loft told members that the Streetworks Summit on 14 March had been successful, with broad agreement from the utility companies to work together with local government. The utility companies would be written to so that another meeting could be arranged.

The Chair stressed the achievement of getting all the utilities together and said that all were keen to work with the LGA and local government.

On streetworks, members discussed the need to look at the detail of what success looks like as well as ensuring a cost effective business model and understanding of the effects that separate contracting can have.

On the Strategic Roads Network, under Items 25.2 and 25.3, members said that the impact on local authority planning decision-making would need to be considered.

Members also wanted to ensure the Highways Agency is engaged on pothole issues.

A Passenger Focus report on buses was highlighted and can be found [here](#).

Action

Utility Companies to be contacted.

Charles Loft

5 New Model for Local Government

The Chair introduced the item, saying that the benefits as well as the principle of devolution needs to be more strongly articulated, as well as supported by evidence.

Members discussed:

- the importance of taking decisions at the appropriate level, and therefore not only at local government, but also the neighbourhood level.
- the lack of capital- and revenue-raising ability at local government level.
- how to align any new devolved funding with other government funding and ensure hypothecation of the returns.
- questions around authority and accountability and who directs the local vision.
- the need for the government to recognise that local government is good at what it does and to improve the relationship with government and civil servants.
- linking to the [Hidden Talents II](#) work.
- the NHS and local government must be more joined up and have more of a focus on preventative work.

Ian Hughes said that regional debates are on-going and that issues will be taken to the LGA Annual Conference to start a debate. Members' comments will also be fed into a paper for the Leadership Board and Executive, before going to Annual Conference.

The Chair urged members to also push this debate through the political group system.

Actions

Members' comments to be fed into the debate.

Ian Hughes

6 High Streets update

Cllr Mike Haines introduced the item, highlighting the Love Your Local Market campaign. A letter has been sent from Mark Prisk MP to local authorities to make them aware of the campaign and there is a new cross-sector High Streets Forum, at which Cllr Haines will represent the LGA.

Members discussed realigning messages in 15.4 to 'manage' rather than 'prevent' clustering, in order to reflect the positive effects that specialised areas of businesses can have, and to tone down the need for 'radical reform'.

In response to members' concern around unsustainable rents, Cllr Haines said that rents had been discussed and that there is recent research available.

Action

Research on rents to be circulated to members.

Virginia Ponton

The Chair thanked all for a good discussion and closed the meeting.