

Item 3

Priorities for 2013/14

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper sets out members' steer from last year on the Economy and Transport Board's priorities for 2013/14. Members are asked to discuss and further develop the priorities for 2013/14.

Recommendation

Members are asked to comment on the priorities for 2013/14.

Action

As directed by members.

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Background

1. This is the first Economy and Transport Board of the new LGA year and it is the opportunity for members to prioritise the work of the Board over the next year.
2. At our Conference in July, the launch of [Rewiring Public Services](#) was well received by councils, parties, business and other organisations. It set out a radical reform agenda for public services, demonstrating how local partners could provide more efficient and effective services at the local level.
3. The steer from the LGA Executive is for the Board to move the *Rewiring* agenda to the next stage, examining how local government and its partners could offer better outcomes for communities and to ensure that these proposals are influencing party manifestoes in the run up to the 2015 general election.
4. At the July Board meeting, members gave a general steer for the focus on local economic development and growth.
 - 4.1. Whilst there has been a good direction of travel in terms of economic devolution in recent years, we must demonstrate that local partners' delivery ambitions exceed the boundaries of current local powers.
 - 4.2. The Government's response to the Heseltine proposals and the development of Local Growth Deals will require much work at a local level and the LGA should offer support. However, the Board should have a longer-term agenda and ensure that those aspects of the Heseltine report that have not been delivered are not forgotten.
 - 4.3. Any work in detailing future devolution proposals need to be focused and offer tangible solutions.
 - 4.4. The Board has already undertaken much work in key areas such as transport and skills and third party endorsement of LGA positions should be prioritised.
5. At this Board meeting, members are offered three papers to focus the work programme around the *Rewiring* agenda and to build on past years work:
 - 5.1. Further economic devolution, building on the work of Heseltine and local growth deals.
 - 5.2. Localising skills and employment services – it is suggested that we follow up the detailed work on youth provision with more detailed work on adult unemployment.

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- 5.3. Focusing our transport work on a joint programme with business partners to promote how a *Rewiring* agenda for public policy on roads could help business and growth.

6. Members gave a clear steer that working jointly with business should be a critical element of the work programme. At this Board meeting, the Federation of Small Businesses will attend to set out their ambition on public policy and where they would propose joint work with councils. It is also suggested that this year, rather than running a series of Town Hall debates, we concentrate our resources in securing slots for members at national business events.