

**Item 9**

## **Economy & Transport Board at party conferences**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper outlines the LGA's activities and those relating to the Economy and Transport Board at the party conferences in October.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the report.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

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1. The LGA will be holding a corporate reception at each of the three main party political conferences this year, to publicise the *Rewiring Public Services* campaign. Each reception features a front bench party spokesperson. At the time of writing, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition have been confirmed for the Liberal Democrat and Labour events, with an invite extended to Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the Conservative reception.
2. As part of the LGA's efforts to influence the 2015 party manifestos, a fringe event is being held at Liberal Democrat conference to debate the content of *Rewiring Public Services*. Panellists include:
  - 2.1. Chair: Mayor Dorothy Thornhill, Deputy Leader of LGA Liberal Democrat Group, elected Mayor of Watford.
  - 2.2. Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
  - 2.3. Lord Shipley.
  - 2.4. Annette Brooke MP, Co-Chair of Liberal Democrat backbench CLG Committee.
  - 2.5. Cllr Ruth Dombey, Leader of London Borough of Sutton.
3. The LGA has also proactively sourced over eighty speaking platforms for member councillors across the three events, offering a bespoke briefing for each opportunity. Listed below are a selection of those events sourced by the LGA for member councillors, on subjects related to the work programme of the Economy and Transport Board:
  - 3.1. **The impact of localism for young people and their communities**  
Private breakfast roundtable organised by the National Youth Agency. Cllr Steward attending at Conservative conference; Cllr Grunewald attending at Labour conference.
  - 3.2. **Skills and Apprenticeships: Building employment and careers**  
Private roundtable organised by Reform. Cllr Kevin Bentley attending at Conservative conference.
  - 3.3. **Business and government: working together to support homeless young people into employment**  
Public fringe organised by the End Youth Homelessness alliance. Cllr Mike Whitby speaking at Conservative conference.
  - 3.4. **A Vision for 2035: The Future of Road**  
Public fringe organised by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK). Cllr Kevin Bentley speaking at Conservative conference.

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- 3.5. **The future of British business growth**  
Private roundtable organised by the British Chambers of Commerce. Cllr Gary Porter, LGA Vice-Chairman, attending at Conservative conference; Cllr Sharon Taylor, Deputy Leader of LGA Labour Group, attending at Labour conference; and Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, LGA Vice-Chairman, attending at Liberal Democrat conference.
  - 3.6. **Getting Britain's Cities Moving**  
Public fringe organised by Freight Transport Association (FTA). Cllr Peter Box speaking at Labour conference; Cllr Phillip Atkins speaking at Conservative conference; and Cllr Heather Kidd speaking at Liberal Democrat conference.
  - 3.7. **Placing the customer at the heart of parking management**  
Public fringe organised by the British Parking Association. Cllr Peter Box speaking at Labour conference; Cllr Ann Steward speaking at Conservative conference; and Cllr Heather Kidd speaking at Liberal Democrat conference.
  - 3.8. **Infrastructure investment and regional growth**  
Private roundtable organised by Reform. Cllr Kevin Bentley attending at Conservative conference.
  - 3.9. **Delivering the National Infrastructure Plan, and removing barriers to investment**  
Public fringe organised by the Infrastructure Alliance. Cllr Gary Porter, LGA Vice-Chairman, speaking at Conservative conference.
  - 3.10. **Beyond Portas: Can walking-friendly places save the high street?**  
Public fringe organised by Living Streets. Cllr Mike Whitby speaking at Conservative conference; Cllr Peter Box speaking at Labour conference.
  - 3.11. **A platform for local growth: is partnering enough?**  
Private roundtable organised by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Cllr Sharon Taylor, Deputy Leader of LGA Labour Group, attending.
  - 3.12. **Opportunity for all: how business and government can get homeless young people into work**  
Public fringe organised by End Youth Homelessness alliance. Cllr Peter Box speaking.
  - 3.13. **A Vision for 2035: The Future of Rail**  
Public fringe organised by The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK). Cllr Liam Robinson, Chair of Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority, speaking at Labour conference.
4. Details of all the public events that the LGA is involved in across the three party conferences, including the LGA's own receptions and fringe event, can be found online at <http://www.local.gov.uk/party-conferences>