

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

**Title:** Environment and Housing Board

**Date and time:** 15.00, Monday 01 July

**Venue:** Westminster Suite

### Attendance:

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Cheshire
Vice chair	Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest LB
Deputy chairs	Keith House	Eastleigh BC
	Andrew Cooper	Kirklees MBC
Members	Clare Whelan	Lambeth LB
	Eric Allen	Sutton LB
	Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Brian Williams	Shropshire Council
	Jim Harker	Northamptonshire CC
	Tim Moore	Liverpool City Council
	Barbara Cannon	Allerdale BC
	Terry Stacy JP MBE	Islington LB
	Simon Galton	Leicestershire CC
Apologies	Gwen Hassall	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
	Clare Pritchard	Hyndburn BC
	Frances Roden	Stroud DC
	Tony Newman	Croydon LB
	Chris Pillai	Calderdale MBC
In attendance	Paul Raynes	LGA
	Caroline Green	LGA
	Liam Paul	LGA

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1. **Wealth from Waste – the LGA local waste review**

Members received an update on the Waste Review from Cllr Clyde Loakes. He welcomed the document’s clear statement of leadership for the waste management sector and explained that the report had been well received by both the Waste Management industry and local government. The DEFRA Minister with responsibility for waste, Lord de Mauley, had confirmed his department’s participation in the LGA’s proposed Re-use Commission at the report’s launch event.

In discussion Members welcomed the focus on growth within the document and the definition of waste as a resource. The Officers and Members of the Board who worked on the Review were thanked for their efforts. Members also recommended that the money-saving potential of effective waste management and the waste prevention agenda be highlighted as the Waste Review is communicated to stakeholders.

**Decision**

**Action**

Members of the Board:

- 1) **agreed** that a meeting to be organised between Mary Creagh MP, Shadow Minister for Waste, Cllr Clyde Loakes and Cllr Mike Jones;
- 2) **agreed** that a meeting to be set up between Cllr Mike Jones and the Associate Parliamentary Sustainable Resources group in light of their inquiry into the export of waste; and
- 3) **agreed** work to take the review and its recommendations forward, as per discussion of priorities and work programme for next year discussed at **Agenda Item 4.**

**Dan McCartney /  
Liam Paul**

**Dan McCartney /  
Liam Paul**

2. **Environment and Housing Board Review of the year**

Members received a summary of the Board’s achievements since September 2012 and made the following comments:

*Housing – Unimplemented permissions* – Members discussed recent discussion and media coverage of the LGA’s figure of 400,000 unimplemented planning permissions and requested an updated set of figures. It was noted that should local Government be able to reach a point where all councils have a 5-year supply of housing it would be a powerful point to make in defence of local autonomy.

*Waste* - Members noted the success of the Waste Judicial Review and work on the MRF Code of Practice, and welcomed the beginnings of an emerging shift in public perceptions of waste.

*Carbon Reduction and sustainability* – Members commented that progress had been made in a difficult policy area and that the LGA’s policy position on initiatives such as the Green Deal has been validated by events. In future the LGA must be ready to offer the Government further proposals to improve the Green Deal. It was noted that currently the design of the ECO element disproportionately benefits the devolved administrations due to their ability to offer match funding for projects.

*Flooding* – Members welcomed the inclusion of both higher levels of funding for flood defences; and the Government commitment to a replacement for the existing flood insurance statement of principles announced in the Spending Review. The LGA has applied consistent lobbying pressure to both parties.

*PAS* – New governance arrangements for the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) have been successfully established. The PAS Board is in the process of finalising PAS's objectives and work programme.

## Decisions

## Actions

Members of the Board:

- 1) **requested** the LGA's figure of 400,00 unimplemented permissions be updated along with a breakdown showing the proportions of the figure which relate to sites that have not yet begun work and those which are stalled sites; and
- 2) **noted** the achievements against the objectives and deliverables agreed for 2012/13.

**Clarissa  
Corbisiero /  
Caroline Green**

### 3. Responding to the LGA funding challenge

Members noted an update on the LGA's funding position and the resultant changes to the Environment and Housing team. As per last year the team's projects and workload would be determined by the Board but the total amount of work to be done must match the available staffing resources. The Chairman added that the way of working over the 2012-2013 political year had led to clearer outputs and results against the objectives set.

## Decisions

## Actions

Members **noted** the changes to the LGA's Policy and Finance team and the implications for the Board's projects and ways of working in 2013-14.

**None.**

### 4. Priorities and Work Programme for 2013 - 14

Members noted the outline work programme for the coming year, making the following comments:

*Increasing housing supply* – This strand was identified as a top priority by the Chairman of the Board.

*Managing the housing implications of Welfare reform* – Members suggested that this section be strengthened.

*Strategic planning for infrastructure and growth – Fracking* – Members sought an addition to the work programme to include work to establish a suitable planning process for fracking, which recognises an appropriate role for councils and gives consideration to the community benefit and environmental impacts of any scheme.

*Strategic planning for infrastructure and growth – working with cultural, heritage and sporting assets to encourage growth* – Members suggested the removal of this project from the work plan, although it

was noted that this was joint work with the Culture Tourism and Sport Board and its handling would need to be agreed by both groups of members.

*Waste - A more ambitious agreement to reduce packaging waste* – It was noted that the project plan in this area required further refinement and that the wording should be revised.

*Energy Efficiency - Exploration of trading standards and consumer protection issues arising from the marketing and targeting of energy efficiency programmes* – Members suggested the removal of this project from the work plan.

*Climate Local* – Members agreed that consideration is given to identifying specific contributions that the Climate Local programme could make to delivering each of the Board's priorities.

## Decisions

## Actions

Members of the Board:

- 1) **agreed** the suggested priorities and areas of focus set out at paragraphs 8, 10, 12 and 14 of the report as a broad framework for next year's work plan, noting that officers would further develop and refine proposals on the 13 projects set out in this report over the summer;
- 2) **noted** that the work plan would require projects to be sequenced and in some cases prioritised over the 2013-14 year; and
- 3) **noted** that the work plan allows for a level of reactive work to respond to issues, opportunities and challenges as they arrive, but that any new substantial projects would necessarily displace or de-prioritise others in the work plan to ensure resources are not overstretched.

## 5. Environment and Housing Board Update

Members noted the LGA's policy positions and lobbying work on the items contained within the update paper and that the National Adaptation Plan Report had been published on 01 July.

## Decisions

## Action

Members of the Board **requested** that a briefing note be produced to explore any asks upon, or opportunities for local government in response to the recent publication of the National Adaptation Plan Report.

**Lucy Breeze /  
Kamal Panchal**

## 6. Any other business

There was no other business.

## 7. Decisions and actions from previous meeting

Members **noted** and **approved** the notes of the last meeting, subject to correction of Cllr Brian Williams' role

Liam Paul