

## **Transport and localism**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

In recent years, the LGA, and the Special Interest Group of ITA (Integrated Transport Authorities) have worked together to make the case for adequate funding for transport and for greater devolution and localisation of decision making on transport, ensuring that bus, road and rail services are developed on the basis of local priorities.

The Chair of the LGA Economy and Transport Programme Board, Cllr Peter Box CBE, and the Chair of the ITA SIG, Cllr Mark Dowd OBE, will make a short presentation to the Executive to discuss their proposed work on transport policy and how greater localisation of decision making in transport could help contribute to national economic growth.

### **Recommendation**

That members comment in the LGA's proposed work on transport policy.

### **Action**

LGA officers to action.

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## **Transport and Localism**

### **Local Government work on transport policy**

1. The LGA's work on transport is led by the Economy and Transport Programme Board. The focus of its work has been to ensure that the delivery of transport services is localised and able to contribute to local economic growth strategies.
2. Within the local transport family, the LGA has a number of "special interest groups" (SIGs). The principal one is the Integrated Transport Authority Special Interest Group which brings together and promotes the interests of the five Integrated Transport Authorities and the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee. Between them the ITA SIG serves eleven million in the six largest conurbations outside London. The ITAs provide the political authority for the Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs). The PTEs come together as **pteg** which has a support unit based in Leeds. The **pteg** Support Unit also provides the secretariat for the ITA SIG. All six members of the ITA SIG are in membership of the LGA.

### **Key issues for consideration by the Executive**

3. Work with the Department of Transport (DfT) on localism has been generally positive in recent months with the proposed devolution of the "major schemes" programme, further work on the possible localisation of bus subsidies (BSOG) and a positive direction of travel on local rail franchising. However, there is concern that the devolution debate in DfT is slow, with a focus on small initiatives being devolved rather than developing a fully formed strategy. There is also concern that work on the contribution of transport to economic growth is not being articulated strongly enough. Most importantly, any devolution – particularly on rail – would need to be accompanied by a fair deal on funding and risk transfer
4. At the LGA Executive meeting, Cllr Peter Box CBE, Chair of the LGA's Economy and Transport Programme Board, and Cllr Mark Dowd OBE, Chair of the ITA SIG will make a short presentation on how the LGA and ITA SIG could take this work forward. Members will be asked to comment on the following issues:
  - 4.1. The current debate on localism within national transport policy.
  - 4.2. How a localist approach to transport policy could contribute more to national economic growth.
  - 4.3. How the sector could develop its own "offer" on localism and transport.