

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LGA Executive
Date and time:	Thursday 10 November 2011, 2.15pm
Venue:	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House

Attendance

An Attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1 Transport and Localism

Cllr Peter Box CBE introduced this item to the Executive outlining the Economy and Transport Programme Board's proposed work on transport policy. Cllr Box introduced Cllr Mark Dowd CBE, Chair of the Special Interest Group of Integrated Transport Authorities (ITA SIG) and Neil Scales, Chief Executive and Director General of Mersey Travel, who described how greater localisation of decision making in transport could help contribute to national economic growth as well as outlining the work of the ITA SIG.

Members felt that real integration of transport services, across all aspects of transport, including roads, freight and rail as well as buses was needed to have a beneficial effect on economic growth and development. Members discussed the limitations of quality bus contracting in producing an integrated transport service as well as making it difficult to create new bus routes. Cllr Box stated that the Government was aware of the issue of integration. Neil Scales commented that the Government was currently consulting on the possibility of area quality contracts.

The possibility of creating new Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) was discussed, especially with regard to the Local Enterprise Zones. It was noted that new ITAs would be a matter for local determination.

Decision

Members agreed the principles of greater devolution and localisation of transport policy and the importance of making a distinct offer to Government.

Action

Officers to progress as directed by the LGA Executive.

**Ian
Hughes**

2 Community Budgets

Paul Raynes introduced this paper, and set out the key principles for the LGA's continuing work in this area. These are:

- LGA members and officers should continue to participate in policy and governance discussions with the Government in order to drive the initiative in the direction the sector is demanding;
- The LGA should continue to offer direct support to councils participating in community budgets for troubled families and to the councils piloting "whole place" and neighbourhood community budgets; and
- The LGA should support councils not yet participating by facilitating information exchange, and in particular help to ensure that what the small number of "whole place" pilots learn is available to as many other interested councils as possible.

Some members raised concerns about the level of support for Community Budgets in Government departments and felt that there should have been a greater number of pilots. The Chairman said that Community Budgets were one of the key priorities of the Prime Minister, and had been gaining support within Government departments. This was a completely different way of working and it would take time for the barriers to break down. However, this was an important opportunity for the LGA and local government. The Chairman also stated that the LGA had been lobbying for a greater number of pilots and would continue to push for this with the Government.

Decision

Members agreed the three key principles and importance of a greater number of pilots in the future.

Action

Officers to:

1. develop appropriate working arrangements to support councils and work with the Government across all the main strands of work emerging from the community budgets initiative;
2. support councils which are pursuing the community budgets model out with the frameworks endorsed by the Government;
3. continue to lobby for further pilots in the future.

**Paul
Raynes**

3 Local Growth Campaign – supporting councils’ ambition for local economic growth

Cllr Peter Box CBE introduced this item for discussion setting out Economy and Transport Programme Board’s previous work in this area and the need to develop a programme for what could be done, which would stretch the LGA’s ambition for localism and which recognises the economic challenges facing different places.

Members asked how developers would be involved in this work. Cllr Box said that developers would be heavily involved in the Town Hall meetings taking place in the coming months. The Board had sought a wide variety of attendees to ensure that the proposals which would be contained in the Economy and Transport Programme Board’s Green Paper reflected a broad number of views.

Members felt that the localisation of business rates would impact on this work and needed to be considered in its planning.

Decision

The Executive endorsed the proposals for future working as set out in the report.

Action

The Economy and Transport Programme Board to consider the Executive’s comments in its work programme.

**Ian
Hughes**

4 Icelandic Banks Update

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, introduced this item to the group, updating them on the work that had been undertaken to secure local authorities deposits from Icelandic banks and gain priority status. Stephen outlined the continuing work of the LGA to secure a favourable exchange rate for the deposits and he particularly thanked the finance team and the councils that had worked with the LGA to achieve this outcome.

Members agreed that the work had proved the value and effectiveness of the LGA and thanked Stephen Jones and the rest of the finance team for their hard work and support.

Decision

*Members **endorsed** the provision of continuing support for authorities on the basis set out in the report.*

Action

Officers to proceed in line with members’ comments.

**Stephen
Jones**

5 Note of the LGA Leadership Board 9 November 2011

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting.

6 Note of last LGA Executive

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Executive meeting.

Attendance list

Position/ Role

Chairman
Vice-chairman
Vice-chairman
Vice-chairman
Vice-chairman
Deputy-chairman
Deputy-chairman
Deputy-chairman
Deputy-chairman
Deputy-chairman

Councillor

Sir Merrick Cockell
Gary Porter
Marianne Overton
Gerald Vernon-Jackson
David Sparks OBE
Robert Light
Robert Gordon DL
Sharon Taylor
Steve Reed
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE

Authority

RB Kensington & Chelsea
South Holland DC
Lincolnshire CC
Portsmouth City
Dudley MBC
Kirklees Council
Hertfordshire CC
Stevenage BC
Lambeth LB
Watford BC

Position/ Role

Members

Councillor

David Parsons CBE
Paul Bettison
Peter Fleming
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock
Peter Box CBE
Mehboob Khan
David Rogers OBE
Chris White
Jill Shortland OBE
Peter Martin
Martin Hill OBE
Mayor Jules Pipe
Paul Watson
Robert Dutton OBE
Stephen Castle
Neil Clarke
Stephen Houghton CBE
Paul Carter
Ian Greenwood
Sir Richard Leese CBE

Authority

Leicestershire CC
Bracknell Forest Council
Sevenoaks DC
Lewisham LB
Wakefield Council
Kirklees Council
East Sussex CC
Hertfordshire CC
Somerset CC
Essex CC
Lincolnshire CC
Hackney LB
Sunderland City
Wrexham County Borough
Essex CC
Rushcliffe DC
Barnsley MBC
Kent CC
Bradford MDC
Manchester City

Apologies

Philip Atkins
Roger Phillips
Edward Lord OBE JP
Lord Peter Smith
David Simmonds
David Wilcox OBE
Angus Campbell
Andrew Lewer

Staffordshire CC
Herefordshire CC
Local Partnerships
LG Leadership
Hillingdon LB
Derbyshire CC
Dorset CC
Derbyshire CC