

People & Places Board

Agenda

Thursday, 15 January 2015
11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

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People & Places Board
15 January 2015

There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 15 January 2015** Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place from 10.00 -11.00am. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

David Symonds
020 7664 3107 david.symonds@local.gov.uk

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The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacwb

People & Places Board – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
Labour (5)	
Cllr Anne Western (Deputy Chair)	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Eion Watts	Bolsover District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Conservative (12)	
Cllr David Hodge (Chair)	Surrey County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE (Vice-Chair)	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Michael Jones	Cheshire East Council
Cllr Christopher Knowles-Fitton	Craven District Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Cllr Simon Galton	Leicestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr David Bill MBE	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr John Cordwell	Gloucestershire County Council
Independent (3)	
Cllr John Pollard (Deputy Chair)	Cornwall Council
Cllr Diane James	Waverley Borough Council
Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council

LGA People and Places Board Attendance 2014-2015

Councillors	16.10.14			
Labour Group				
Anne Western	Yes			
Vince Maple	Yes			
Jenny Mein	Yes			
Alan Rhodes	Yes			
Eion Watts	No			
Conservative Group				
David Hodge	Yes			
Philip Atkins	Yes			
Roger Begy OBE	Yes			
Andrew Bowles	Yes			
Gillian Brown	Yes			
Paul Carter CBE	Yes			
Neil Clarke MBE	Yes			
Paul Diviani	Yes			
Mark Hawthorne MBE	No			
Michael Jones	No			
Chris Knowles-Fitton	Yes			
Ken Meeson	Yes			
Lib Dem Group				
Heather Kidd	Yes			
Stan Collins	No			
Simon Galton	Yes			
Independent				
John Pollard	Yes			
Diane James MEP	Yes			
Angela Lawrence	Yes			
Substitutes				
Colin Lloyd	Yes			
Leigh Redman	Yes			
John Cordwell	Yes			

Agenda

People & Places Board

Thursday 15 January 2015

11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Item	Page	Time
1. Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest		11.00
2. Peace Commission: Discussion of Interim report Lord Teverson will be attending the meeting as a representative of the Peace Commission. A copy of the Interim report is available at http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6193395/How+the+Other+Half+Grows+%28lo+res%29.pdf/b1556a61-b8c5-4676-8df7-e3ee3090eaef		11.05
3. The Future Governance of England- Confidential	1 - 6	11.50
4. People and Places Programme- Update		12.00
a) Public Service Transformation	7 - 14	
To include contributions from "One Place, One Budget" councils as a standing item for the next few meetings. Suggested that updates be submitted on projects in Surrey, Cornwall and Derbyshire as Annex A, B and C. Team from RAND to be invited to contribute as the commissioned research team.		
b) Planning and Infrastructure for growth, including broadband	15 - 24	
c) Employment and Skills update	25 - 76	
The appendix to this report is confidential.		
d) Housing update	77 - 84	

To include details of report from Keith House and Natalie Elphicke and proposed affordable housing levy exclusion for developments of 10 houses or less.

5. Minutes of the last meeting 85 - 90 12.55

MAP	Page
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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 12 March 2015, 11.00 am, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Document is Restricted



Public Service Transformation

Purpose

To update on progressing the Board's work programme for public service transformation and ensuring that this agenda is firmly locally-led.

Summary

This paper mainly updates Members on progress with the One Place One Budget research project to refresh the evidence and develop a model for public service transformation across the local public sector in non-metropolitan and city areas. It also briefly updates Members on the Independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel report, which was published in November.

Dr Jeremy Lonsdale, Senior Research Leader at RAND Europe (the LGA's external research partner for the One Place One Budget project) will attend the Board and update Members on progress. The Leaders of Surrey County Council, Cornwall Council and Derbyshire County Council will also share their emerging transformation case studies at the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the progress update on public service transformation, which will be taken forward as part of the LGA's wider work on devolution, and gives any further steer.

Action

Officers to progress the project as directed by the Board.

Lead Member: Cllr Neil Clarke, MBE
Contact officer: Laura Caton
Position: Senior Adviser
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Email: Laura.Caton@local.gov.uk

Public Service Transformation

Background

1. There is widespread agreement and clear evidence that rewiring public services around people and places can drive public service transformation, improve outcomes for residents and businesses, and save money for the Exchequer.
2. Members agreed that the public service transformation strand of the Board's work programme had two objectives:
 - 2.1 To set out a way forward for the transformation of public services in the geographies represented on the Board** (the findings will of course be relevant to other places); **and**
 - 2.2 To ensure that the future momentum of service transformation is locally and democratically led.**
3. In order to progress the first objective, Members agreed to commission independent research to work with a small number of places to develop further an evidence-based way forward for public service transformation and what can be achieved for residents through a community budgeting type approach at the local level.
4. In order to progress the second objective, as well as publishing new independent research in early 2015, Members identified an early opportunity to influence the Independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel.
5. The current debate on the future of English governance has thrown into even sharper relief the LGA's calls for a constitutionally independent and rejuvenated local government that is genuinely free to lead public service transformation.

Progress update

One Place, One Budget Research Project

6. At the Board meeting in June 2014, Members agreed the following headline objectives:
 - 6.1 Work with a small number of non-metropolitan and city places to provide an independent and compelling new suite of place-based evidence in support of a community budgeting type approach and the outcomes for residents that it can deliver;
 - 6.2 Use the evidence base to develop a model for what a public service reform deal might look like that other places can learn from and adapt;
 - 6.3 Identify and make recommendations on which national legislative and regulatory barriers, and cultural blockers, must be removed in order to fully realise the benefits from a locally-led community budget type approach.
7. The project is being taken forward jointly with the City Regions Board. It is also relevant to the Improvement and Innovation Board and complements work being done to support councils to innovate and transform services. This includes, for example, the One Public Estate Programme, mapping and supporting shared services, leadership development

and supporting councils to engage with the Communities and Local Government Public Service Transformation Fund. Members have also highlighted the need to complement the work of the Government-led Public Service Transformation Network, which is working with around 30 places to support and share different approaches to leading transformation.

8. Following a competitive process, we appointed RAND Europe as our external work research partner. RAND Europe is a long-established, not-for-profit research institute whose mission is to help improve policy and decision-making through independent and objective research and analysis. They work with a wide range of government, private and third sector bodies, and have significant experience of working with a range of local government organisations.
9. In line with Lead Members' steer, we invited eight non-metropolitan and one urban area to participate in the research and all responded very positively. During November and early December, RAND Europe and the LGA met in person or remotely the nine councils to discuss the project in detail, and agree the focus of the case studies. Following the meetings, the councils shared existing data and evidence with RAND Europe, and a small number of follow-up interviews took place with each council. The focus now is on developing the case studies and policy analysis that will be brought together in the final publication.
10. The table at **Annex A** gives a brief overview of the case studies which will be written-up during January and signed-off by the councils. The table also summarises the cross-cutting themes which are starting to emerge and will form the basis of an overview of the building blocks for successful locally-led public service transformation. The publication will share a variety of approaches at different stages of development, reflecting a range of policy themes, governance arrangements and scale. The case studies will map these different approaches in order to provide insights into how a community budget or similar approach can lead to improved outcomes for residents, as well as allowing us to explore the barriers and enablers to this way of working.
11. The next steps are as follows:
 - 11.1 14 January - workshop for the nine places to share findings, reflect on common issues, barriers and enablers of change in each case study. The workshop will also enable us to test how a locally flexible "deals" model for successful community budgeting could be designed.
 - 11.2 30 January - RAND Europe will submit the final draft report to LGA.
 - 11.3 February - publish the report. The report will be central to LGA influencing the next government's first spending review, providing the evidence base to inform longer-term LGA lobbying for ambitious public sector reform and sharing learning with other councils.
12. **Members are invited to note the progress update and to offer any further steer on the emerging cross-cutting themes. At the Board, the Leaders of Surrey County Council, Cornwall Council and Derbyshire County Council will share their outline case studies, following which Members may wish to share any reflections from their council's approach to transformation in order to help shape the final report. This work will be taken forward in line with the LGA's wider work on devolution.**

Independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel

13. The Independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel was set up by the Treasury and Communities and Local Government in April 2014 to report on a way forward for service transformation. The Panel was co-chaired by Pat Ritchie, chief executive of Newcastle City Council, and Sir Derek Myers, former joint chief executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Michael Lockwood, LGA Executive Director, was an adviser to the Panel. The Panel invited written evidence from councils and others over the summer and undertook a number of visits around the country to learn more about locally-led transformation.
14. The LGA's submission set out the compelling evidence-based case in favour of faster and deeper devolution to councils and showcased how many non-metropolitan areas have already adopted a community budget-type approach to service transformation that is improving outcomes for residents and saving money for the taxpayer.
15. The Panel published its report in November and made 20 recommendations grouped around six key characteristics, which the Panel believes underpin successful transformation:
 - 15.1 A new approach to people with multiple and complex needs.
 - 15.2 Flexible and longer term funding with stronger local accountability.
 - 15.3 Smarter use of assets and more enterprising places.
 - 15.4 Information sharing: better, bolder use of smart data and digital technology.
 - 15.5 Adapting proven delivery models to suit local needs.
 - 15.6 Better collaborative leadership.
16. In response, we said that:

“This report is an important step forward in setting out a clear map to overcome some of the blockers to locally-led service transformation. We have long called for multi-year financial settlements, improvements to information sharing and more integrated funding. We want to build upon the Panel's recommendations so that every area has the opportunity to negotiate a genuine place-based budget with decisions made locally based on individual need.”
17. In the Autumn Statement on 3 December, the Chancellor responded to the Panel's recommendations by saying that the Government will look to develop and extend the principles of the Troubled Families programme to other groups of people with complex needs from the next Spending Review. The LGA's Autumn Statement One the Day Briefing said that:

“We welcome the recognition of the success of the council-led Troubled Families programme. The expansion to new groups of people is an important step towards the LGA's vision for devolved place-based budgets that will enable the local joining-up of public services to better meet the needs of people and places.

Any expansion must recognise the existing work of councils and their partners through the many local and national programmes already underway. Councils must be involved

at an early stage of development to ensure that this extension builds on and does not duplicate this important work, and that learning from current programmes about the complexity of existing systems is reflected in the design.”

18. The Panel's full report can be viewed at:
http://publicservicetransformation.org/images/2902929_ChallengePanelReport_acc3.pdf
19. **It is suggested that Members use the forthcoming One Place One Budget publication to keep up the momentum on making the case for devolved place-based budgets and to continue shaping how this and the next government responds to the Panel's recommendations.**

Council	Theme for case study	Brief overview	Emerging cross-cutting themes (please note these will continue to be refined)
Surrey County Council	Surrey Families Programme	Building upon Surrey's response to the Troubled Families programme, this case study will focus on how transformation is leading to innovative approaches in service delivery that will improve outcomes for residents with complex needs.	<p>Locally flexible governance arrangements and approaches – all nine places have developed their own structures and approaches to transformation that reflect local circumstances. Within this variability, some common themes are emerging, including: building on existing projects and partnerships, integrating networks and collaborations, developing agreements on pooling resources and staff and practical solutions that can be implemented quickly.</p> <p>Shared outcomes – agreeing with partners key indicators of progress to enable a shared focus on service improvements for residents. Many partners felt this was an essential enabler of pooled budgets and transformation.</p> <p>Innovative use of evidence and data management – a robust analysis of information on public services and local need was the starting point for all of the places. In many places transformation has been a key driver of new and multi-agency</p>
Essex County Council	Skills for Growth	This case study will allow us to show how implementing a whole-place community budget approach can help to drive local growth by using devolved funding to achieve a better match between local skills provision and the labour market.	
Suffolk County Council	Lowestoft Rising	Drawing upon the Our Place neighbourhood community budget project, the Suffolk case study will explore how pooled funding in one locality enables public agencies to better meet very local challenges and how transformation can be a vehicle for regeneration.	
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Integrated and early support for people with complex needs	The Cheshire West and Chester case study will enable us to examine how public agencies working together across services within an integrated case management system can offer improved services for people with complex needs and achieve efficiency savings through early intervention.	
Derbyshire County Council	Public assets and geospatial mapping	This case study will focus on the use of public assets in Derbyshire and how geospatial mapping and customer segmentation tools are enabling the council to better understand how well the supply of assets is meeting demand from residents and to plan strategically.	

Council	Theme for case study	Brief overview	Emerging cross-cutting themes (please note these will continue to be refined)
Devon County Council	Local communities identifying and solving their needs	We will focus on Devon County Council’s “Delivering Differently” programme, which is a community-led conversation in three towns on public service transformation and the role of communities. This will allow us to focus on approaches to supporting and involving local communities in identifying needs and services, reflecting local characteristics.	approaches to evidence and data management across whole places, communities and/or cohorts of residents. In turn, this enables a fuller understanding of the challenges to be addressed, and underpins collaborative working.
Cornwall Council	Integrated health and social care	This case study will examine how Cornwall is approaching health and social care in Newquay, with a view to scaling it up and rolling out across the county. This will enable us to focus on how multi-agency working can better enable prevention and early intervention and approaches to scaling-up transformation initiatives.	Culture and behaviours – the wider shift towards multi-agency working is resulting in changes in organisational culture and behaviours. In particular, more collaboration and willingness to compromise. Many places emphasised the importance of “bottom up” change that increases the willingness of staff, external partners, and communities to engage with the transformation process.
West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Partnership and demand management	Building upon successful collaboration on economic growth, this case study will identify the key lessons to date and share how the Combined Authority is moving into a new phase of deeper joint working, starting with a shared understanding of demand for key services and what this might reveal about different and more efficient ways of organising services.	Leadership – effective senior leadership was a key factor identified in many places. Enablers include a willingness to collaborate and base discussions on the wider evidence available, providing staff with the skills that empower them to understand and act upon the change process and encouraging external expertise and approaches.
Cambridgeshire County Council	Growth and associated challenges	This case study will focus on economic growth. By analysing partnerships between the county council, city council, district councils and neighbouring Peterborough Council, it will enable us to draw out learning on cross-border transformation and insights into cooperation that are highly relevant given the current debate on greater devolution.	

Planning and infrastructure for growth, including broadband

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper sets out recent LGA activity in relation to the agreed work programme on these areas and sets out proposed next steps.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the report and comments on the proposals at paragraphs 5, 8, and 21.

Action

As directed by the Board.

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Planning and infrastructure for growth, including broadband

Part A – Strategic planning

1. Due to officer resources being directed to supporting the Non-Metropolitan Commission and evolving devolution agenda, this piece of work has not been progressed as envisaged in the October Board paper.
2. However, the objectives included in that paper have been progressed in three ways:
 - 2.1 Through the work of the Non-Metropolitan Commission.
 - 2.2 As part of the LGA's work on devolution.
 - 2.3 In councils' own developing plans in this area.
3. The interim report of the Non-Metropolitan Commission draws on evidence from councils, businesses, LEPs and other organisations to illustrate the challenges faced by areas outside our major cities that hinder them planning effectively for growth. Issues raised in the evidence include: complicated governance arrangements, particularly in two-tier areas; the need to better reflect functional economic areas in public service delivery; maintaining and developing effective transport networks; the vital importance of digital communications to non-metropolitan areas; the need to provide housing supported by appropriate infrastructure; and the difficulty of making joined-up decisions about housing, transport, and other infrastructure, particularly across administrative boundaries.
4. The Commission made a number of suggestions in regards to strategic planning and infrastructure. Many of these reflect members' steer at previous Board meetings. The recommendations include:
 - 4.1 A formal mechanism **for joining up councils' strategies for new homes, roads, and other infrastructure across economic areas**, and for ensuring that they are taken in partnership with business through LEPs.
 - 4.2 Giving these groupings the power to **pool public land and assets** and make decisions about its disposal or use.
 - 4.3 Planning to be carried out at a **similar scale to decisions taken on transport and infrastructure** and integrated with those decisions, including by bringing utility providers more closely into the process.
 - 4.4 A forward look in partnership between industry and government at the likely developments in communications technology of the next 25 years leading to the development of a **long-term national plan**.
 - 4.5 A role for councils and LEPs in ensuring **digital infrastructure provision**, with an element of competition, in their areas.
 - 4.6 The development of a **pan-public service vision for the digital provision of public services**, with an eye both to reducing costs and improving access in rural areas
 - 4.7 Recognition in planning rules that **digital infrastructure needs to be treated as a basic utility** for all new homes and funded as part of basic development costs.
5. Members are reminded that the Commission has asked for comments on its proposals to inform its final report. As well as this morning's discussion, submissions from individual councils are encouraged via nonmet_commission@local.gov.uk by the end of January.

6. At the December meeting of the LGA Executive members agreed a programme of work on devolution including a 'toolkit' for councils looking to negotiate greater freedoms for their areas. This will include any 'breakthrough' agreements so far and help councils shape their own offer to government. This paper, being developed by a cross-team group of officers, will include a section on planning and infrastructure. It is due to be discussed at the Executive's January meeting.

7. Since the Board's October meeting the national context has developed significantly. A number of councils have published their intention to work more strategically on planning and infrastructure issues. This demonstrates the sector's readiness to take a more joined-up approach to planning issues. Examples include:
 - 7.1 The new **Greater Exeter, Greater Devon Partnership**, which "paves the way for joined-up decision making on planning, housing, resources and infrastructure."¹
 - 7.2 A proposed **Derby and Derbyshire** combined authority which includes homes and infrastructure as two of its key priorities.²
 - 7.3 A new partnership between **Cambridge, Oxford and Norwich** which will allow a shared approach to issues including housing and transport infrastructure.³
 - 7.4 A proposed combined authority in the **Tees Valley** which would "make decision making simpler for strategic transport and infrastructure, employment and skills, economic development, business investment and low carbon."⁴
 - 7.5 A proposed combined authority in **Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire**, which would "take a strategic overview on the key issues of spatial planning, transport, skills, and business support to deliver an arc of economic growth."⁵

8. It is proposed that officers ensure that the programme of work on devolution and the response to the Non Metropolitan commission fully reflects the issues on planning and infrastructure for growth that have been raised by the People and Places Board. Following the discussion of this work programme by LGA Executive and the production final report of the Non-Metropolitan Commission, officers will develop proposals for how the project on planning and infrastructure should be taken forward and for discussion by lead members of the Board.

¹ <http://apps.exeter.gov.uk/dnRSS/ShowMediaReleases.aspx?ID=1744>

² http://derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/combined-authority/background/in_brief/default.asp

³ <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Cambridge-forges-landmark-partnership-Place/story-24115444-detail/story.html>

⁴ https://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk/media/262420/2014_11_13_combined_authority_faqs.pdf

⁵ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/news/CreativeCountiesDocument.pdf>

Part B – Superfast Broadband

Introduction

9. Councils strongly support the extension of access to superfast broadband through the commercial rollout, and are also leading the rural and urban publicly funded programmes.
10. Fast and reliable broadband is vital infrastructure for supporting growth in non-metropolitan areas, given the employment and business patterns in those geographies, and the importance of the visitor economy. It also makes communication between citizens, businesses and public agencies easier in more sparsely populated areas.
11. Councils are joining-up the broadband rollout with efforts to encourage people and businesses to get online, and wider public service transformation including online applications for Universal Credit and health and social care integration.
12. Since the start of this project, the following actions have been completed to raise councils' concerns and support them:
 - 12.1 Provided opportunities for councils to come together to exchange good practice, help to identify solutions to challenges and develop shared advocacy messages. For example, 25 senior officers met at LGA in June, and we have maintained a virtual network of advisers to help shape our work.
 - 12.2 Set out a compelling vision for the potential of digital technology to drive growth and service transformation in the LGA's response to the DCMS and HMT consultation on Future Digital Communications Infrastructure Needs.
 - 12.3 Strengthened our ability to influence Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) by forging a productive relationship with the Chief Executive, Chris Townsend. Mr. Townsend has been visiting councils around the country to get a better understanding of their concerns and his recent article for the LGA's First Magazine is attached at **Annex A**.
 - 12.4 Planning Advisory Service developed and launched a guide for councils on BDUK's Mobile Infrastructure Project, covering information in on planning applications for mobile phone masts, and balancing economic and social benefits with the environmental impact.
<http://www.pas.gov.uk/documents/332612/6594211/PAS+telecomms+note.pdf/c56467a1-d427-4015-b9c5-8845f7a2b4af>

Progress Monitoring

13. Phase One (90% coverage by 2016) of the superfast broadband rollout is continuing at pace with 1.5 million premises and the government's target of 2 million should be reached by 2016. In response to considerable lobbying by councils, BT has agreed to provide 'take-up' data at electoral ward level. This information will allow local bodies to better target local marketing and drive take-up and help to ensure value for money. Attached at **Annex B** is an article for First magazine from Councillor Neil Poole, Cabinet Member for Policy Resources at North Lincolnshire Council, updating on the North Lincolnshire Broadband Programme.

14. All 47 projects in Phase Two (95% coverage by end of 2017) of the rollout have started procurement. BDUK estimates that seven contracts will be signed by the end of this year and all projects aim to complete procurement by the end of June 2015. Ministers are putting pressure on BT to speed up the procurement process.
15. State aid consultation for Phase Three (beyond 95%) has now finished. Pilot testing on options for alternative technologies is underway, with a report expected in March 2015 about the best way to reach the final 5%. We continue to press for this to be taken forward as quickly as possible.
16. The Government announced on 18 December that EE, O2, Three and Vodafone have agreed a voluntary agreement that will result in them investing £5 billion to ensure that 90% of the UK landmass will have basic text and voice coverage by 2017. Under the agreement all four of the mobile networks have collectively agreed to:
 - 16.1 A guaranteed £5 billion investment programme to improve mobile infrastructure by 2017;
 - 16.2 Guaranteed voice and text coverage from each operator across 90 per cent of the UK geographic area by 2017, halving the areas currently blighted by patchy coverage as a result of partial 'not-spots';
 - 16.3 Full coverage (i.e. the ability to download data as well as send texts and make phone calls) from all four mobile operators will increase from 69 per cent to 85 per cent of geographic areas by 2017;
 - 16.4 Provide reliable signal strength for voice for each type of mobile service (whether 2G/3G/4G) – currently many consumers frequently lose signal or cannot get signal long enough to make a call; and
 - 16.5 Make the deal legally binding by accepting amended licence conditions to reflect the agreement, which will then be enforceable by Ofcom.
17. As part of the agreement, the Government:
 - 17.1 Will bring this agreement to the attention of Ofcom in the context of their work to revise Annual Licence Fees – this is the subscription fee mobile networks pay Government;
 - 17.2 Intends to reform the Electronic Communications Code to make it easier for the whole communications sector to rollout out new mobile and broadband services, and increase choice for consumers; and
 - 17.3 Is allowing many of the Government's freehold buildings to be used as sites for mobile infrastructure – potentially opening up hundreds of sites to boost mobile coverage, including areas where it has been previously difficult to rollout network coverage.
18. While these improvements are very welcome, they still leave 10% of the UK landmass where people will be unable to use a mobile phone and 15% of the UK will still not have full mobile internet coverage, which is particularly important for businesses and public

service access for people living in the most remote communities. The Government noted that during the recent consultation process, consumers made it very clear that they feel any solution should include better data coverage.

19. BDUK has launched an advertising campaign designed to promote the benefits of its work to bring fibre services to rural communities. This is part of a strategy to encourage businesses and consumers to take-up broadband once the infrastructure is in place. We have emphasised the need to link the national campaign to local work led by councils to stimulate demand.

LGA Actions and Next Steps

20. Since the last Board meeting, the following actions have been completed:

- 20.1 Welcomed the announcement in the Government's National Infrastructure Plan that the Superconnected Cities Scheme will be extended to other urban areas, but highlighted in the LGA's On the Day Briefing the need to ensure that the rural rollout is undertaken as quickly as possible.
- 20.2 Submitted written evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into broadband in rural areas. This was an opportunity to further press the Board's position that the predominantly rural communities who are already lagging behind in the publicly funded broadband and Wi-Fi rollout, need to get access to fast and reliable digital connectivity - internet and mobile - as soon as possible.
- 20.3 Launched a new publication *Transforming Public Services using Technology and Digital Tools*, which highlights case studies from councils across the country. For example, in Suffolk County Council, customer insight tools were used to better understand the needs of troubled families, saving more than £450,000 over four years in cost avoidance. Staffordshire County Council has co-developed Patchwork, an online tool which allows front-line staff to quickly log in and see which other agencies are supporting their clients. The publication can be viewed on the LGA website:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11553/Transforming+public+services+using+technology+and+digital+approaches/ab9af2bd-9b68-4473-ac17-bbdf2adec05>
- 20.4 Published an analysis about how to improve the effectiveness of national public service transformation programmes through earlier and better engagement with councils. The rural broadband programme is one of the case studies and responds to Members' steer that we need to ensure that Government learns the lessons from the first phase of the rollout. This work was led by the Local Government Delivery Council, a Chief Executive advisory group on digital technology and service transformation.
<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5854661/National+programmes+of+service+transformation++Making+these+more+effective%2C%20efficient+and+economic/ab1a3f43-fde0-42bb-b5f8-0e54ae11ec6b>

21. We would welcome Members' steer on priority actions over the coming weeks:

- 21.1 Continue to influence phase two and phase three of the rural rollout to maximise competition, promote value for money and ensure that 100% coverage is achieved** – in particular to ensure that the Government learns the lessons from phase one of the rollout. The Public Accounts Committee's most recent report reinforced its earlier conclusion that Government had not done

enough to promote competition. All 44 contracts for phase one of the rural programme have been awarded to BT. The PAC recommended that “Before the next round of funding is released, the Department should work with local authorities to identify opportunities to promote competition and value for money; including considering alternative solutions, joint working and fair capital contributions from suppliers.”⁶

21.2 Engage Ministers in follow-up discussions on the £5billion mobile phone agreement to emphasise the need for the mobile phone providers to work in close partnership with councils and to press for plans that will enable 100% coverage to be achieved.

21.3 Ensure that councils have the access to timely data from BT that allows them to accurately monitor take-up of broadband and up to date information about about planned broadband coverage and speed. This will enable councils to assess value for money from their investment and to help ensure more competition in the next phases of the rollout.

⁶ Public Accounts Committee Rural Broadband Programme, August 2014,
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmpublicacc/834/83403.htm>

Annex A

1. When I was at the LGA conference in July, representing Broadband Delivery UK, I was delighted to be surrounded by so many people who share my enthusiasm for superfast broadband and the benefits it brings to all our lives.
2. Since then, I have been able to visit many council projects around the country. I have been truly impressed by the pace at which these are progressing.
3. Together, we are reaching 40,000 new homes and businesses every week; and nearly 4,000 small and medium enterprises in our SuperConnected Cities have taken up a connection voucher.
4. We are on schedule to deliver superfast broadband to 90 per cent of the UK by 2016, and to 95 per cent by the end of 2017.
5. We are now looking at what more we can do to encourage consumers to take up superfast broadband once it is available.
6. We have a lot of excellent case studies which show that local marketing is really making a difference. Spaldwick village in Cambridgeshire now has take-up levels of over 50 per cent. In October, the Prime Minister presented a national volunteering award to broadband champion, Mark Heath, for supporting the Connecting Cambridgeshire project. He has enabled villagers to get online, helped with their broadband problems and developed the village website. BDUK is looking at what more we can do to support this kind of work.
7. Meanwhile, we are working hard with Arqiva to build the masts that will provide mobile voice connectivity for communities who will have no coverage at all.
8. BDUK has much appreciated the advice and support we have received from the LGA Planning Advisory Service to ensure that we approach the planning issues in a way that reflects the range of local opinion.

Chris Townsend is Chief Executive of Broadband Delivery UK

Annex B

1. The Northern Lincolnshire broadband programme, cited as best practice nationally by the Government, is now helping other councils in the country provide similar schemes and help their business community reap the benefits.
2. Our programme is leading the way nationally by providing an intensive support package to local businesses. The service provides a range of support including one-to-one meetings, business reviews, direct IT support, and workshops and seminars covering a range of topics including social media for business, dealing with HMRC, IT security and cloud computing.
3. Authorities including Northumberland County Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council have sought help from us in setting up similar schemes.

Companies

4. So far, the Northern Lincolnshire programme has provided over 2,200 hours of direct support to businesses, with 110 completing the full package of support. Around 400 companies have engaged in the programme and a further 40 continue to receive support. By June 2015, well over 160 businesses will have completed the support programme.
5. Throughout the whole project, North Lincolnshire Council has managed to avoid using expensive consultants and, unlike many projects, has avoided the use of technical consultancy for the telecommunications, mapping, data and business advice requirements.
6. This has resulted in a considerable saving of almost £336,000, which has enabled the programme to allocate more resources to businesses, including awarding all participating businesses who complete the programme a free mobile device.
7. The project has passed the half-way mark with 17,500 homes and businesses with access to high-speed broadband. By the end of the project in June 2015, the multi-million pound initiative will have made fibre optic broadband available to 31,000 properties.
8. In total, the project will invest more than £7 million to extend fibre broadband to reach 92 per cent of North and North East Lincolnshire. BT has invested £2.5 billion to roll out fibre broadband to two-thirds of UK premises.
9. We have been extremely successful in the delivery of both parts of the project – to improve infrastructure through access to superfast broadband, and provide a package of support to businesses to help maximise the benefits of being online. We are delivering one of the fastest schemes nationally.
10. We are able to deliver this fantastic service with existing expertise within the council, so this makes our scheme even more special. Our IT specialists and business advisors create a bespoke package of support for each company, recognising the unique nature and needs to each enterprise.
11. We have built up an excellent relationship with our business community and so they know and expect us to provide the best service we can for them, which means they can reap the benefits for their company. This is shown in the feedback we've received, which has been overwhelming.



People and Places Board

15 January 2015

12. I'm delighted that we are leading the way nationally. It's been a real challenge, but everyone involved has worked so hard in bringing about these fantastic results.

Cllr Neil Poole is Cabinet Member for Policy and Resources at North Lincolnshire Council

Employment and skills update

For information

Summary

This report summarises recent LGA activity and developments in relation to the People and Places Boards' agreed work programme on employment, skills and economic growth issues.

Recommendation

That the Board notes progress against each of the key work programme areas.

Action

As directed by the Board.

Lead Member:	Cllr Anne Western
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Employment, skills and economic growth update

1. LGA / Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI) research

- 1.1 The Board agreed a programme of work on welfare, employment and skills with a focus on a research project the LGA has commissioned from the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion (CESI).
- 1.2 In consultation with Board members the LGA identified a core group of 11 places with whom we will work closely to develop the evidence base for our proposal, and draw on learning from local approaches. The 11 places are:
 - Devon
 - Essex
 - Surrey
 - Lincolnshire
 - Shropshire
 - Staffordshire
 - Greater Manchester
 - West Yorkshire combined authority (Leeds, Wakefield and Barnsley)
 - Newcastle
 - South London tri-borough (Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham)
 - Southampton and Portsmouth
- 1.3 In July we published the **first in the planned series of three reports** which will set out the challenges for our employment and skills system and propose ways it can be improved. '**Realising Talent**' looked at the extent and nature of the skills gap we face in the future – at both the national and local level. A continuing trend towards higher skilled jobs will mean there will be significant changes in the demand for labour over the next seven years and beyond.
- 1.4 The report highlighted that under the current centralised system councils' ability to address the widening gap was severely constrained. This could **restrict economic growth** if employers can't recruit the skills and capabilities they need. We have calculated that in 2022 between 16% and 25% of growth could be lost by not investing in skills. This means that up to £375 billion of output is at risk.
- 1.5 The **second report** in the series is due to be published in **early February**. A draft will be available for **circulation to members for comment on the 15th January**. The second report will complement the broad geographical perspective taken in the first report by exploring the impact of a centralised, nationally commissioned system from the **perspective of individuals seeking employment, progression and additional support**. It will
 - 1.5.1 Use a series of pen-pics to highlight some typical journeys for those seeking employment and progression. These will include a lone parent, an older person seeking retraining after redundancy, a long-time unemployed

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimant recently reassessed as fit for work and a young person not in education, training or employment (NEET). These will enable us to highlight some key touch-points and interactions with the employment and skills system and other key services e.g. welfare benefits, housing and advice providers. We are liaising with the eleven areas to ensure that these touch-points identify the real opportunities and barriers faced by councils and individuals.

- 1.5.2 Draw on the experiences of the eleven areas to set out the ways in which the current system causes obstacles, confusion and disincentives for individuals, and barriers to integration and personalised support for providers.
 - 1.5.3 Set out what is currently provided nationally and locally, and what is needed to improve experiences and outcomes for those seeking employment and progression.
 - 1.5.4 Set out figures which illustrate outcomes for key groups who currently face the greatest barriers to employment and progression, for example outcomes for lone parents moving from Income Support on to Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). This will be displayed on a map again drawing on the eleven areas. This will also enable us to show considerable variation between the constraints upon and needs of individuals in different areas.
 - 1.5.5 Set out examples from other service areas where a more devolved approach has allowed for greater integration and personalisation and improved outcomes including: Troubled Families and Universal Support delivered locally (USdl).
- 1.6 A **final report** in Spring 2015 will make proposals for addressing the challenges highlighted in reports one and two, and set out how these can be more effectively addressed through a more devolved and locally integrated approach. This will contribute to the broader objectives identified in '100 days'.

2. National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) report – Local authority schemes supporting people towards work (Annex 1)

- 2.1 We will shortly be publishing the findings of some work that we commissioned from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) to explore where locally led and commissioned programmes are complementing, out-performing or enhancing national provision. The research looked at a number of specific locally-led schemes in detail and clearly demonstrates that there are a number of vulnerable groups – for example those who have been failed by the work programme, or the economically inactive (who are not claiming benefits) – whose needs are much more effectively met, and who achieve better outcomes, through local approaches. It dovetails with the CESI research outlined above to support the case for devolution and integration of commissioning and delivery for employment and skills.
- 2.2 In a joint foreword with Cllr Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the City Regions Board and Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Children and Young People's Board **Cllr David Hodge** says: "We want to open a serious debate on the future of employment

support for vulnerable young people and adults; a future that has to focus on bringing together funding locally so that partners can efficiently plan investment across places, on building new relationships with local employers to fill skills gaps, and on integrating services around those with more complex barriers to work.”

3. The future of back-to-work and in-work support

- 3.1 The two specific pieces of work highlighted above are being delivered in the context of our ongoing work to develop clear and well evidenced lobbying lines on the future design and delivery of the Work Programme and other back-to-work and in-work support.
- 3.2 The LGA is arguing that groups of councils should be given the power, funding and lead responsibility to integrate and commission back to work support from 2017 (when current Work Programme/Work Choice contracts end) alongside skills and welfare support.
- 3.3 We are bringing together research and evidence from a number of different strands of work including employment and skills, Universal Credit, Troubled Families and Public Health as well as our broader work on public service transformation to make a clear and well-evidenced argument for the cost-effectiveness and improved outcomes through giving councils the freedom and flexibility to commission locally, particularly for those facing the most complex barriers to employment and progression.

Some recent examples include:

- 3.3.1 The LGA hosted a round table with a small group of councils and the Department for Work and Pensions on ‘Work Programme Plus’ in October. There remain some considerable differences of perspective between the Department and the LGA about the appropriate balance between national and local commissioning and delivery, and the role of local authorities in delivering back-to-work and in-work support. We are drawing on the work outlined above to continue to press the case for devolution and integration.
- 3.3.2 The Chairman met with Rachel Reeves MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 26 November. She was particularly interested in our proposals for the devolution of back-to-work support and our ideas for the Youth Jobs Subsidy, and we have subsequently provided her with more detail of our work on employment, skills and economic growth.
- 3.3.3 Jasbir Jhas and Nick Porter met recently with the Employment Related Services Association (ERSA), which represents Work Programme providers. ERSA are open to arguments on locally-led commissioning if we can offer them assurances about the relationships and benefits for providers, although they have some anxieties about performance management; we have therefore agreed to work with them on areas where we are in agreement.

- 3.3.4 Rose Doran attended a round table session with DWP and the ‘Universal Support delivered locally’ trial sites for Universal Credit in Birmingham on 28 November. Building on the earlier local authority-led pilots these places are clearly demonstrating that co-location and / or integration of council, JCP and VCS advice and support is benefiting claimants in both urban and rural contexts. The LGA is liaising closely with the trial sites to ensure that we continue to draw on this work, which is sponsored and supported by DWP’s Universal Credit programme, in our discussions with Government about devolution and integration.
- 3.3.5 The Chairman will be speaking alongside Lord Freud MP, Minister for Welfare Reform at the LGA’s annual **welfare reform conference** on **12 January**. This conference will also include a presentations from CESI on the work outlined above, and Lesley Seary, Chief Executive, LB Islington, making the case for devolution and integration of welfare, employment and skills.

4 Next steps

Members are invited to review the draft second report from CESI from the perspective of individuals seeking employment, progression and additional support when it is available for circulation on 15 January 2015.

5 Financial Implications

Work set out here will be carried out within existing resources.

Document is Restricted



Housing update

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This report summarises recent LGA activity and developments in relation to the people and Places Boards' agreed work programme on housing issues.

Recommendation

That the Board notes the report.

Actions

1. Members may wish to submit evidence from their councils on the impact of the new affordable housing thresholds on smaller sites.
2. Officers to consolidate findings of Government's Housing Review (once published) and Sir Michael Lyons' Housing Review for the Labour Party to inform further consideration of LGA policy on housing in the light of the reviews.

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Housing update

Locally led housing

1. Councillor Keith House and Natalie Elphicke (Co-Chairs of the Government's review of the Role of Local Authorities in housing supply) attended the October meeting of the People and Places Board. Their review and recommendations are due to be published in January 2015, but as yet the date has not been confirmed. A briefing on the report will be provided to board members on the report following publication.
2. Sir Michael Lyons' Housing Review for the Labour Party was published on 16th October 2014. An LGA briefing on the review can be found as the annex to this report. Sir Michael Lyons attended the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board on 2nd December to discuss the findings of his review.
3. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board agreed that members should review LGA policy on housing against the findings of the reviews once both reports have been published and consider areas for further development of LGA positions.

Financial Flexibilities to support councils to build more homes

4. The LGA has continued to lobby for greater freedom for councils over the use of right to buy receipts for building replacement homes. The LGA responded to consultation from DCLG in December over the continuation of "pooling" right to buy receipts where a proportion of receipts are retained by the Treasury. We argued that councils should have full control over receipts and that the complex arrangements of the use of receipts should be ended. A survey of councils will be carried out by the LGA, CIH and National Federation of ALMOS in January 2015 to build an evidence base on the ability of councils to replace homes sold under the right to buy and the barriers in the current system.
5. In the wider context of investment in housing, the LGA's Productivity Team has been exploring models and options for private investment in housing with interested councils. An initial meeting in November highlighted innovative models already developed by councils, and sought feedback from councils to inform the next stage of development and further LGA activity.
6. The government has introduced a 10 unit threshold for section 106 obligations on smaller sites, or 5 units in rural areas. The LGA opposed these changes when they were first proposed, arguing that councils are already flexible in their negotiations with developers. These changes will undermine the ability of councils to deliver affordable housing, and will be felt disproportionately in rural areas where small schemes are appropriate for small villages/hamlets and where there is a strong demand for affordable housing for young people from those communities.
7. The DCLG announcement contained ambiguities in relation to the proposed changes, particularly over the designation of rural areas and local flexibility over thresholds. We are working with DCLG and the Planning Advisory Service to clarify these issues. We are collecting evidence from councils on the impact of the lower threshold and will continue to

monitor levels of affordable housing provision. Councillor Mike Jones from the Environment, Economy and Transport Board is meeting Brandon Lewis MP in February and this issue will be on the agenda, along with a discussion on viability assessment.

International housing and good practice

8. The international housing report was agreed by members at the last board meeting. It has been published on the LGA website and shared through our networks and bulletins. The Final report and case studies is available at http://www.local.gov.uk/housing/-/journal_content/56/10180/6716725/ARTICLE
9. New housing case studies from non-metropolitan areas have been added to the housing pages of the LGA website. The new look for the case study pages include an option to search for case studies from non-metropolitan and rural areas. <http://www.local.gov.uk/housing>

Next steps

10. Members are invited to contact officers with evidence of the impact of the new affordable housing thresholds.
11. Officers will consolidate the recommendations of both the Government's Housing Review and Sir Michael Lyons' Housing Review to inform further consideration of LGA policy on housing in the light of the reviews.

Financial Implications

12. Work set out here will be carried out within existing resources.

Lyons Housing Review: Briefing

The Labour Party announced a review of Housing, independently led by Sir Michael Lyons at their party conference in 2013. The review is concerned with identifying measures to increase the supply of new homes in England above 200,000 a year by the end of the next Parliament.

The review was published on 16th October 2014 and contains a raft of proposals covering a wide range of issues including planning for housing, large scale development, community engagement and quality and sustainability. This note provides a summary of the key recommendations for local government and the LGA's response.

The full review can be accessed here <http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-review/the-lyons-housing-review>

LGA response to the review

“We are pleased the Lyons Review recognises the central role councils need to be given in ending the housing crisis, but it is disappointing it has not recommended removing the housing borrowing cap, which is the single biggest obstacle to delivering the thousands of homes the country desperately needs.

“The housing borrowing cap is fundamentally flawed and places unnecessary restrictions on the amount of money councils can invest in housing. Until this is removed councils will continue to be hampered in our efforts to provide the homes residents need.

“It is positive that the Lyons Review has also recognised the importance of giving councils a lead role in speeding up building and making sure increased land values benefit communities through investment in schools and roads. We are pleased the review has listened to our calls and proposed reforms to Right To Buy.

“The LGA has set out plans which, if adopted by the next government, would see half a million extra new homes built over the next Parliament, transforming the lives of hundreds of thousands of families. But to do this, we need an immediate removal of the housing borrowing cap, as well as changes to Right To Buy, the creation of council-led local land trusts and a meaningful incentives scheme to encourage developers to speed up building.

“Councils have set a precedent in the past and shown they can deliver housing on a large scale. It's time national politicians learned from the past to build for the future and we hope all parties make housing a priority in their manifestos.”

Summary of key findings.

The role of councils:

The Lyons review endorsed LGA recommendations that councils should supported to take a leadership role to plan for, attract and build housing. The



Briefing

review agreed that large scale development should be locally led by councils and provided councils with powers to form locally led Housing Development Corporations. The review also agreed with the LGA that the mechanisms underpinning the Right to Buy should be reviewed. The review did not however lift the HRA borrowing cap.

- **Councils have an important role as developers for their communities alongside the private sector.** This includes councils identifying and assembling land, securing investment and working with public and private partners to build homes.
- **Councils should act as lead developers to identify and lead housing growth areas** – this would include powers to designate areas and capture the uplift in land value to fund infrastructure.
- **New homes corporations should be established by councils operating across a housing market area** (which could include the growth areas above). The corporations will bring together the public and private sector to build housing.
- **The HRA borrowing cap will not be lifted.** There will be provision to raise individual caps on borrowing for housing within the current HRA borrowing envelope where councils provide an investment plan. The review proposes a review into whether there is a need for an increase in headroom in the longer term and encourages councils to consider alternatives to borrowing under the HRA.
- **The Right to Buy should be reviewed** to assess whether it is meeting its policy objectives, the distribution of receipts from sales and the total level of affordable housing stock. .
- Local authorities should be able to ensure their **local plan reflects the right mix of tenures to meet local need** and that where there is a public stake in development **homes can be released and marketed locally before further afield.**

Financing house building and infrastructure:

The Lyons review endorsed LGA proposals that there should be financial tools and support to underpin large scale development and that local government must play a prominent role. The review also agreed with LGA recommendations to scale up the application of deferred payments and bring consistency to central government disposal programmes.

- **The HCA should be refocused to focus on investment of public land** rather than managing separate grant programmes.
- **Housing funding streams should be consolidated and devolved to county or city regions** through the economic development fund proposed by Lord Adonis. Devolution of this funding will be based on clear contracts with government about delivery.
- **There will be support for garden cities, suburbs and reshaping existing towns** by allowing garden cities to retain 100% of business rates and supported by government guarantees.
- **The New Homes Bonus should be reviewed** including an assessment of the redistributive impact of the policy.

- **A programme of revolving infrastructure funds should be created.** New Homes Corporations will be able to access this fund and Tax Increment Financing.
- **A consistent approach to deferred payments across government** should be pursued. This would support the public sector to unlock the potential for significant large scale development and that the government should produce guidance to departments to ensure a consistent approach to the disposal of land.
- **A review of Community Infrastructure Levy** should be undertaken to include a removal of the restrictions on pooling S106 agreements.

Planning for housing:

The Lyons Review endorsed LGA proposals to give councils stronger and streamlined compulsory purchase powers and responded positively to our calls for stronger powers to incentivise plots with planning permission or identified in the local plan to be developed swiftly. Secondly the review agreed that the current approach to viability assessment is unsatisfactory and proposed a clear method should be put in place. Finally, the review endorsed the LGA's campaign for locally set planning fees so that local authorities and council tax payers can recover the cost of planning.

- **Local plans will be put on a compulsory footing** (all plans should be submitted by December 2016). The plan making process will also be split into two stages.
- To implement the 'Right to Grow' **the Secretary of State (SoS) should have the power to require authorities within a housing market area to complete a Strategic Housing Market Plan** where cooperation is not forthcoming and housing need is not met. **The SoS will have the power to intervene and instruct the planning Inspectorate** to ensure that it happens.
- **Councils will have 'use it or lose it' powers** to levy council tax on plots allocated for housing that are not built out and stronger Compulsory Purchase Order powers.
- **A clear method for assessing viability** and a new arbitration service for negotiations between councils and developers.
- The responsibility of councils to identify sufficient land for new homes in local plans will be strengthened. **This will include a requirement for a 15 year pipeline of land.**
- Introduction of **red line applications for sites of less than 10 units**. This would allow the principle of development to be agreed up front.
- **Local authorities will have the powers to set planning fees** on a full cost recovery basis.

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title: People & Places Board
Date: Thursday 16 October 2014
Venue: Bevin Hall, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest Cllr Hodge (Chairman) welcomed members to the meeting. An apology was received from Councillor Stan Collins, substituted by Councillor John Cordwell. Cllr Hodge also welcomed Cllr Keith House and Natalie Elphicke, who were guest speakers on item 3, "Review of local authorities' role in housing supply". <u>Declarations of interest</u> Cllr Hodge declared an interest:	
2	People and Places Work Programme-Update Lead Members had worked with officers to develop the agreed work programme priorities and they were invited to present briefly on progress before opening to Board discussion: a) Employment, skills and economic growth This paper reported on the findings from 'Realising Talent' report and updated on the forthcoming report on individual barriers and opportunities in accessing employment support. Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LGA need to put pressure on national politicians to ensure action in this area.• Devolution would help and allow Councils greater opportunity to pursue these issues to a greater degree.	

- Councils should be able to share their experiences.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

- b) Planning and infrastructure for growth, including broadband

The report provided an update on Planning and Infrastructure for growth, including broadband: overview of strategic planning and infrastructure research findings, analysis, and emerging policy proposals and reported of recent engagement with government and councils on broadband issues.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

- LEP's were important although they should not become like non-departmental public bodies
- LEP's should be developed further and be made much more co-terminus across authority boundaries.
- Broadband needed to reach all areas and the speed should be as fast as possible. There was a lack of connectivity in rural areas.
- EU regulations in the broadband area needed to be checked.

Decision

The Board discussed the emerging policy proposals for the Planning and Infrastructure for Growth project and commented on the draft LGA response to DCMS and HMT Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy Consultation.

With specific reference to p17 of the report concerning broadband "*ensuring that councils have the access to timely data from BT about planned broadband coverage and speed*", the Board considered that there needed to be tougher line taken with BT as more areas of the country needed to be reached in ensuring fast broadband. It was clear that this report was "*work in progress*" and more needed to be done to make this more robust, checking relevant EU Regulations and contacting BT.

c) Public service transformation

The report to the Board updated on progressing the Board's work programme for public service transformation and ensuring that this agenda was formally-led. Annex A was the LGA's submission to the Independent Service Transformation Fund. It also updated on selected project places.

(Cllr Clarke as the Lead Member did raise a number of points relating to the report and queried these on a long list- I did record these and can pass these on to you but suggest the following wording for the minutes:

Cllr Clarke introduced the report and asked for amendments to the report.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

Decision

The Board noted the progress update on public service transformation.

The Board strongly supported the report and may use the media to support public service transformation and reform. They also supported the Chief Executive and the Leadership Board in putting forward a strong case to Government and other agencies on public service reform/transformation across the local public sector in non-metropolitan and city areas.

3 English devolution

The Board received an update on the LGA work on Scotland issues following the Scottish independence referendum.

Members noted that the debate around English devolution would run up to the General election in 2015 and clear decisions about any settlement would not be taken until after it.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that

followed:

- Local authorities voices should be heard in this matter and not be lost in any Constitutional Convention. It should be also kept high on the agenda.
- Local Government works and should be trusted by Government.
- What do we mean by devolution and this can mean different things to different people.

Decision/Actions:

Members **noted** the report.

Leadership Board and Lead Members on the People and Places Board should take this matter forward to develop an approach alongside that of the proposed Constitutional Convention. Carolyn Downs advised that the LGA were working on this matter at the present time.

English devolution would be considered in further detail at a future meeting of the board

4 Review of local authorities' role in housing supply

- a) Presentation on the 'review of the role of local authorities in housing supply' commissioned by DCLG and HMT from Cllr Keith House and Natalie Elphicke, co-chairs of the review.

Cllr House advised that there was a clear consensus amongst the main parties that there was a necessity to build affordable homes and that Councils could do more to access private finance. There were four things that he felt were important:

- 1) Where does the local authorities' responsibility in housing cease?
- 2) Do you have the skills base to make this work?
- 3) Building on smaller sites was also as necessary as utilising larger sites for development.
- 4) Do local authorities have access to private finance? Were authorities transparent in this way?

Natalie Elphicke highlighted that local authorities should be trusted with house building and there was an awareness and zest for building more homes. She advised that the joint report would be published in December 2014 and stated that

it would be courageous and challenging. In particular, the report would listen to local authorities and talk to developers.

Board members raised the following points in the discussion that followed:

- Planning is not the problem and there is a need to improve access to finance. The mortgage market also needs to change and become more flexible.
- Government needs to trust local authorities so that they can start building houses again. Councils would also like to see the Housing Borrowing Cap lifted to support them to build more homes.
- Members raised the importance of small sites in non-metropolitan areas and the importance of being able to secure affordable housing on those sites. CLG proposals to exempt small sites from affordable housing requirements is unhelpful in this regard.

Cllr Hodge thanked Cllr House and Ms Elphicke for their presentation.

Decision:

Members **noted** and welcomed the presentation and would view the final report with interest.

b) Housing work programme: update

The paper provided an update on progress against the housing programme area and included a background paper on international experience and best practice.

Decision:

Members **noted** progress against the housing programme area and **agreed** the international case study publication attached at Annex A.

5 Other business report

The report contained a review of the Board's activity and wider LGA activity at the political party conference. It also contained a review of the recent joint LGA/Rural Services Network Conference.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

6 Minutes of the last meeting

Decision:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2014 were agreed.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr John Pollard	Cornwall Council
Members	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Jennifer Mein	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Eion Watts	Bolsover District Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
	Cllr Andrew Bowles	Swale Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Paul Diviani	East Devon District Council
	Cllr Christopher Knowles-Fitton	Craven District Council
	Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr John Cordwell	
	Cllr Diane James	Waverley Borough Council
	Cllr Angela Lawrence	Vale of White Horse District Council
	Cllr Simon Galton	Leicestershire County Council
	Natalie Elphicke	
Apologies	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Michael Jones	Cheshire East Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		

LGA location map

Local Government Association

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Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
- Horseferry Road Car Park
- Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking



