

DRAFT MINUTES

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Meeting ID	3018
Committee	City Regions Board
Date	13/06/2016
Attendees	Cllr Robert Light (Vice Chairman) Cllr Sean Anstee (Committee Member) Cllr Robert Alden (Committee Member) Cllr John Beesley (Committee Member) Cllr Donna Jones JP (Committee Member) Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chair) Cllr Paul Watson (Vice-Chair) Mayor Jules Pipe (Committee Member) Cllr Helen Holland (Committee Member) Cllr Tudor Evans OBE (Committee Member) Mayor Joe Anderson OBE (Committee Member) Cllr Jon Collins (Committee Member) Cllr Roger Lawrence (Committee Member) Cllr Sir Albert Bore (Committee Member) Cllr Ann Lucas OBE (Committee Member) Cllr Simon Letts (Committee Member) Cllr Judith Blake (Committee Member) Cllr Warren Morgan (Committee Member) Mayor Sir Steve Bullock (Substitute) Cllr Adrian Naylor (Substitute) Alderman Sir David Wootton (Substitute) Vacancy (Deputy Chair) Cllr Abigail Bell (Deputy Chair) Cllr Iain Roberts (Committee Member) Cllr Tim Bick (Substitute) City Regions Board - non confidential (Notify) Political Group Offices (all 4 groups) (Monitor) City Regions Board - Confidential (Officers) (Monitor) Cllr Peter Rankin (Committee Member)

Item ID	4950
Item Title	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest
Summary	The chair noted apologies and asked for any declarations of interest.

Item ID	5480
Item Title	Leading Places Project Update

Summary

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper. He outlined the Leading Places Project and advised members that it was being run jointly between the LGA, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and Universities UK (UUK). The project would take place in six pilot areas across the country and would run over the summer, concluding in February 2017. Each pilot area was currently in the process of selecting a priority challenge theme to develop, bringing together leaders from across the public, business and academic sectors in local institutions. The project would draw on successful international examples to drive growth, support public service reform and strengthen partnerships vital to the devolution agenda.

Ian Hughes, Head of Programmes, advised that HEFCE was funding the first pilot of the project and that this had influenced the criteria used to select areas for this phase. In particular, it was decided that the initial pilot would seek to work with areas where a successful working relationship between local institutions was already well established. If the pilot is deemed to be a success, members were advised of the potential to extend the project to include other areas across the country.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- It was positive that education bodies were engaging with local government, but members were concerned that few councillors were currently involved with the project in each pilot area.
- Members requested to know what work had been done on survey responses for priority working between universities and local authorities.
- Members asked how work on skills and employment would feed into the project.
- Members felt that councils needed to work with business leaders in their areas on issues such as land banks and the physical regeneration of communities.
- Members felt that councils and universities could work on the impact of the student population together, and discussed the impact of council tax rebates for student housing.

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the report.

Action:

1. Officers agreed to come back with updates for members as the

project progressed.

Item ID	5481
Item Title	Skills and Employment Update - Next Steps
Summary	<p>Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper. She advised board members that the paper captured the outcomes of the discussion on Skills and Employment which had taken place between City Regions and People and Places Lead Members on 10th May. At this meeting, lead members had agreed that the work would be a key priority as discussions evolved.</p> <p>The relationship and work carried out between local government and the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) was discussed, as was the changing role of Job Centre Plus. Members were advised that the LGA was working on the Work and Health Programme (WHP) with DWP, which would be devolved in 10 devolution deal areas. National consultation events had been arranged by the LGA and DWP in May on this and a working group was looking at recommendations in this area.</p> <p>In 2018, the Job Centre Plus Estates Contract would end and there would be an opportunity for local government to put forward a vision on the employment service. Members were advised that the LGA would look to develop a green paper on this in the autumn.</p> <p>Members were also advised that work with Shared Intelligence on growth related areas had been recommissioned. They would produce an independent report on this.</p> <p>In the discussion which followed, members raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In reference to paragraph 10 and the adult education budget, members discussed learner loans and asked how they could be used as a catalyst to benefit those who had benefited little from the system. Members also emphasised that developing a partnership approach with the careers service was important.• As well as developing local government's relationship with DWP, members highlighted that it was important for local government to develop a working relationship with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), so that skills and employment work at government level could be joined up.• In reference to paragraph 8 and the availability of jobs, members felt there needed to be a way of ensuring good, qualitative jobs were available.• The results of the further education system should be considered so that it was clear how adult education could be improved.• Members highlighted that the paper did not mention youth employment and how this could be measured. They asked if additional funding streams

	<p>would be available for this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A culture change within was needed DWP and some early positive changes had been seen. Members asked how the agenda with DWP could be broadened in the future. • Members asked what the difference would be in the 10 devolution deal areas where the WHP was being developed compared with the national solution offered elsewhere. This was something the board would look to influence as it was developed. Members asked if there would be an opportunity for flexibility within the DWP national framework. • Members noted that the role of Job Centre Plus was changing and that it was important for the organisation to be encouraged to work with other local partners. <p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members noted the update. <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers agreed to take forward work as directed by members above.
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Item ID	5484
Item Title	Devolution Green Paper
Summary	<p>Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report, advising members of progress on the Devolution Green Paper since the last board meeting. She asked members for feedback on the most recent draft.</p> <p>A discussion with members followed.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members noted the updated. <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers agreed to take forward work on the paper as directed by members.

Item ID	5482
Item Title	RSA Commission on Inclusive Growth
Summary	<p>Claire Hogan, Senior Adviser, introduced the report. Members were updated on the Commission, which had been formally launched on the 12th April. It would be informing its programme through a series of meetings, evidence</p>

hearings and a formal call for evidence. Members were encouraged to attend and input to the evidence sessions.

- Members asked how the state would be reconfigured to support growth in city areas. It was felt that government could look inwards to support this work.
- There was potential for this work to be tied in with the work on business rates retention.
- The work could address the divisions between rural areas, the commuter belt and urban areas. The position of the LGA was also discussed in relation to this.
- There were concerns about the focus on insufficiency of jobs in the report. Members highlighted that the methodology demonstrated a correlation between commuting and inclusion, and that high numbers of commuters in an area often brought wealth and economic growth. Places prospering economically often had a high mobility amongst the workforce. This should be seen positively and should be addressed in the LGA’s evidence.
- Members felt that the report did not refer to the spatial nature of exclusion – particularly in highlighting that neighbourhoods which were poor ten years ago were still disadvantaged.
- Improvement of transportation in an area increased opportunities to commute and put pressure on the housing market. It was highlighted that it was often harder to work with people who worked at a distance and that commutability could marginalise more individuals in an area.
- Members requested that asset- or strength-based approaches on delivery were considered.

Decision

1. Members **noted** the report.

Action:

1. Officers agreed to continue with work as directed by members.

Item ID	5483
Item Title	End of Year Report
Summary	Eleanor Reader-Moore, Member Services Officer, introduced the report and advised members that the report gave a synopsis of the board’s work over the past year and looked forward to key issues the board would consider during next year’s cycle. She asked members for feedback and suggestions on additions/improvements before it was submitted to the LGA Executive in July.

	<p>In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That budgets on key areas of the board’s work should be included. <p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members noted the achievements against the board’s priorities in 2015/2016. 2. Members noted the board’s priority areas for 2016/17. <p>Action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers to include information on budgets in the report.
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Item ID	4951
Item Title	Note of the Previous Meeting
Summary	<p>Decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members noted the minutes of the previous meeting and agreed that they were an accurate summary of the discussion.