

## Note of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

---

**Title:** Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board  
**Date:** Tuesday 15 November 2016  
**Venue:** Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

---

### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  The Chairman, Cllr Martin Tett, welcomed the board members to the first meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board in the new political cycle.  There were no declarations of interest made.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Outside Bodies</b>  Cllr Martin Tett introduced the report. He outlined the membership, terms of reference and asked for volunteers to appoint to the board's outside bodies.  <b>Discussion</b>  The board discussed several issues including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amending paragraph 4 of the terms of reference to read 'Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board' rather than 'Economy and Environment Board'.</li><li>• Prioritisation of sustainability.</li><li>• Amending the wording to assert equal importance to all work areas within the board.</li></ul> <b>Decisions</b>  The board formally; <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Noted</b> the membership and terms of reference subject to the amendments described above.</li><li>2. <b>Agreed</b> to allow their respective political groups to appoint members to outside bodies. The following members expressed interest in certain</li></ol>	

appointments during the meeting;

- 2.1. Planning Advisory Service Board - Cllr John Clempner (Labour)
- 2.2. Canals and River Trust - Cllr Simon Greaves (Labour)
- 2.3. National Fly-tipping Prevention Group - Cllr Catherine Rankin (Conservative)

### **Action**

Joseph Ling (Member Services Officer) to **liaise** with the political group offices and **inform** outside bodies of the change or continuation of LGA representatives.

## **3 Board Priorities and Work Programme**

Eamon Lally (Principal Policy Adviser) introduced the priorities report to the board and solicited direction from the board.

### **Discussion**

The board discussed the priorities and work programme document for 2016/17. Members suggested the correcting the dates in the work programme which read 'November 2013' to read 'November 2016'.

### **Decision**

The board **agreed** the priorities for the 2016/17 subject to the amendments described above.

### **Action**

Officers to **amend** the priorities report as described above.

## **4 Waste, Recycling and Flooding Update**

Sonika Sidhu (Senior Adviser) introduced the report to the board and facilitate discussion on the four questions highlighted in the item.

### **Discussion**

#### The LGA's position on consistency across waste and recycling services

The discussion between board members ranged across many areas including;

- The need to preserve a place-based localism when considering standardisation.
- The importance of clarity for consumers in waste services.
- Increased responsibility for collection and disposal on the part of the producers.
- The possibility of standardisation improving local authority performance.
- The need for any rationalisation process to take place over the

longer term.

- The importance of considering both collection and dispersal in the standardisation process.
- The role of the LGA in supporting best-practice, cooperation and innovation and feeding back local authority views to the WRAP review.

#### How to take forward the approach to producer responsibility

Cllr Martin Tett asked the board for direction on the LGA's future lobbying work around encouraging producers to contribute towards the costs associated with the collection and dispersal of their product packaging, particularly around asking producers to cover 50% of the associated costs.

Members agreed that a continuing dialogue was required with manufactures and retailers on how to incentivise reductions in waste.

#### If the LGA should investigate future options for how waste and recycling services could be funded including our position on landfill tax

The board agreed that officers should investigate a range of future funding options, including the LGA's position on landfill tax, for future consideration by the board.

#### Are members satisfied with the LGA's current approach to flooding

Cllr Martin Tett opened the discussion on the LGA's approach to flooding.

The board highlighted a range of concerns, including;

- The need for the LGA to be vocal about the role of local authorities in managing flooding, including preparation, during acute events and during recovery.
- The complexity of the relationship between local authorities and emergency agencies, and the need to streamline interaction between different actors.
- The need for the LGA to be alert to the consequences of temporary measures taken in response to acute events.
- The impact of the use of historic water management infrastructure, and the cost of maintenance.
- The need to adjust investment and funding arrangements in order to encourage co-funding, reduce the free rider effect, rebalance the funding formula and incentivise prevention.
- The importance of considering 'water-catchment areas' as a more effective form of organisation and prioritising "upstream thinking".

Board members also asked for officers to direct them on the value of conducting another review into the relationship between local authorities, emergency agencies and different methods of integration. Members also asked officers for their direction on the impact of changes in the approach of the Environment Agency.

#### **Summary**

Cllr Martin Tett summarised the board's position on consistency across

waste and recycling services as being that decisions should be taken as locally as possible, but that councils were keen to encourage best-practice sharing, cooperation and innovation. Were standardisation to occur, central government should be expected to cover the cost to authorities.

On progressing the LGA's standpoint on producer responsibility, Cllr Martin Tett summarised the board's position as advocating a change from a minimum requirement of 50% of costs to be paid by the producers, to an 'aspirational target'. This was to be used to facilitate further discussions with the industry.

Finally, on flooding Cllr Martin Tett summarised the board's discussion as highlighting;

- The importance of effective cooperation across authority and agency boundaries.
- The importance of water catchment areas in addressing flooding
- The need to make adjustments to the funding of costs associated with flooding.
- The importance of sharing best-practice.
- The importance of upstream thinking.
- The need to consider stakeholder communities.
- The need for the LGA to highlight the negative impact of flooding on local economies, and to lobby land-owners nationally to adopt better prevention measures.

## **Decisions**

The board;

1. **Directed** officers on LGA positions regarding waste services.
2. **Directed** the development of a local authorities waste and recycling review.
3. **Recommended** that the 50% target for costs paid by producers to be changed from a 'floor' to an 'aspiration'.
4. **Directed** officers on LGA positions concerning flooding.

## **Action**

Officers to **progress** work on priority areas in line with the views expressed by members during discussion.

## **5 Housing, Planning and Homelessness Update**

Eamon Lally introduced the item and solicited the board's opinion on the Autumn Statement and Housing White Paper, implementation of the Housing and Planning Act as well as the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

## **Discussion**

Housing White Paper and Autumn Statement

The board noted

- The impact of rent reductions on investment decisions and the need for longer term certainty.
- The need to make the argument for a range of tenures.
- The importance of health and social care when considering housing developments, especially integrated funding.
- The desire for authorities to run their own development corporations.

#### Housing and Planning Act implementation

The board agreed with the LGA's current approach concerning the implementation of the Housing and Planning Act.

#### Homelessness Reduction Bill

The board expressed the importance of integrating services to promote the prevention agenda.

#### **Decision**

The board;

1. **Directed** officers on the content of future engagement with the Government on housing policy.
2. **Directed** priorities for the LGA when working on the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

#### **Action**

Officers to **progress** work on the above issues in line with direction from the members.

## **6 General Update**

Eamon Lally introduced the item and asked the board to note the updates included.

#### **Discussion**

The board highlighted the importance of building in connectivity to new housing developments.

#### **Decision**

The board **noted** the report.

#### **Action**

Officers to **progress** work as directed.

## 7 Brexit Report

Eamon Lally introduced the LGA's recent work on key issues associated with Britain's exit from the European Union. He sought contributions from the board specifically on those areas in which they would like to see change during the transposition of EU to UK law.

### Discussion

A confidential discussion ensued.

### Decision

The board **directed** officers on priority issues, principles and legalisation.

### Actions

Officers to **carry out** confidential actions.

## 8 Minutes of the previous meeting

The board **noted** the minutes from the previous meeting.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council
	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Members	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	OBE	
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr David Westley	West Lancashire Borough Council
	Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
	Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Alyson Barnes	Rosendale Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw District Council
	Cllr Adele Morris	Southwark Council
	Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council