

Note of last City Regions Board meeting

Title: City Regions Board
Date: Thursday 3 July 2014
Venue: Banquet Suite (6th Floor), Cunard Building, Water Street, Pier Head, Liverpool, L3 1TS

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Chair's Update Sir Richard Leese thanked Mayor Joe Anderson for hosting the meeting, and the Mayor extended a warm welcome to all attendees. The Chair updated members on the work that has been conducted since the last Board meeting, including the lead members' teleconference, and other key meetings. Looking ahead, he highlighted the opportunity presented by party conferences in September.	
3	Trade and Investment Policy Ian Hughes introduced the speakers for this item: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cllr Paul Watson (Leader of Sunderland City Council) and Cllr Jon Collins (Leader of Nottingham City Council).2. Annika Pattberg (Representative for the UK at Germany Trade and Invest)3. Ken Dytor (Managing Director of Urban Catalyst and Regeneration) Cllr Watson spoke about the reasonable amount of success Sunderland has experienced with inward investment, particularly from the USA and Japan. He believes this is partly due to the consistency of messages in their campaigning. However, there is still some frustration that it can take up to two years to achieve what devolved authorities in Wales can do in 3-5 months. While Sunderland's relationship with UKTI has been strained, Cllr Watson emphasised that they are invested in it. Cllr Collins said that Nottingham's focus is around investment and less so on trade. He believes that work around inward investment has been	

improving and it is clear that it needs to be locally driven because it is place-based. Nottingham's approach so far has been to concentrate on building city-to-city links and strengthening relationships through the Nottingham University, as well as focusing efforts in India and the Punjab as this is a reflection of the community and the already established business links. Their relationship with UKTI has been improving and he believes its role should be to promote growth across the whole of the UK rather than focusing only on London and the South East.

Ms Pattberg explained to members the partner organisations that Germany Trade and Invest works with and the way in which they conduct research to steer potential investors towards the best state for their business.

Mr Dytor told members that it is important to see 'place' as more than just roads and building; it includes culture, branding, skills, etc. as well. He believes that China presents a big opportunity for the UK, especially because the Americans have alienated themselves there. He remarked that in his dealings with the government, he has found ministers to be engaged and approachable. Mr Dytor therefore thinks that the LGA should act now to improve relationships with UKTI and LEPs.

Members discussed the following:

- Whether the paper properly reflects the current situation in the UK.
- The need to create a level playing field between England and devolved authorities for funding and grants.
- The need to strengthen relationships between different cities and LEPs.
- The need to export more than we are currently.
- The idea that future discussions should separate inward investment from trade.

4 Employment, Skills & Economic Growth

Dave Simmonds, Chief Executive of Inclusion, spoke to the Board about the early findings of his research report. He acknowledged that Hidden Talents has been a very effective campaign and that it is now time to consider adults as well. The report looks at the skills gap that will be opening up unless action is taken. By 2022 the forecast is that the average qualification level will need to be 3 A levels and that there will be a surplus of 5.5 million low-skilled people and 2.5 million medium-skilled people. This places £375 billion of output at risk.

In order to face these challenges, we need to look at upskilling the workforce and concentrate on adults on benefits. The majority of these are on ESA so there is a need to consider integrating this work with health. Most critically for the future, there needs to be an integration of employment support, skills, and health, and this can only be undertaken at a local level.

Members discussed the following issues:

- The need for continuity and long-term planning in this area.
- The difficulty of safeguarding jobs with an ageing workforce.
- The need to make the case more forcefully for devolution.

- The need to argue that skills should be treated as infrastructure.
- The need to engage more with educational providers.

5 Influencing Strategy

Ian Hughes assured members that officers will be using many different platforms to get across key messages and influence decisions during part conference season. Members noted the report.

6 City Growth Commission - update

Members noted the report and asked officers to ensure that work done by the world LGA is included in their report.

7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Members noted the minutes of the previous meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor George Ferguson CBE	Bristol City Council
Members	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Adrian Andrew	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
	Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Sir Albert Bore	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Jon Collins	Nottingham City Council
	Mayor Joe Anderson OBE	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Apologies	Cllr Andrew Geary	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Rankin	Preston City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Paul Bayliss	Derby City Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
	Cllr Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
LGA Officers	Carolyn Downs, Ian Hughes, Piali DasGupta, Jasbir Jhas, Donna Davidson	

