

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

Title: Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Date: Thursday 5 January 2017
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
1	<p>Welcome and declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chairman of the Board, Cllr Martin Tett, welcomed the members and received apologies.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
2	<p>The Department for Transport's priorities for supporting local transport</p> <p>Cllr Martin Tett introduced Patricia Hayes (Director General for Roads, Devolution and Motoring at the Department for Transport) who spoke to the Board on a variety of issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Bus Services Bill – including the Government's intention to reverse the amendments made in the Lords.• Street works permitting• Consolidating funding streams for local transport – including the allocation of the first tranche of additional money set out in the Autumn Statement by needs-based formula instead of a bidding process.• The Autumn Statement <p>Discussion</p> <p>Board members raised the following issues concerning bus services and congestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The viability of franchising as a solution to the increasing divergence between high frequency, high volume urban routes and less frequent, lower quality rural routes.• The potential for central and local government to work together to promote bus travel as a transport option.• The importance of reducing emissions through geener, more innovative services	

- The proper implementation of the traffic management act.
- The importance of devolving further transport powers to local authorities, including the enforcement of traffic offences.
- Lower relative investment in the north of England compared to other parts of the county.

Board members raised the following issues concerning roads funding:

- The lack of available funding for roads.
- The possibility of the Department for Transport (DfT) working with the LGA to pilot flexible approaches to using existing capital to fund road investment.
- The importance of cycling as part of a broad transport package.
- The role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in promoting transport priorities, especially in relation to sub national transport boards.

In response, Tricia Hayes raised the following issues:

- The potential for innovation in providing bus services, including de-siloed funding and community transport for non-viable routes.
- The importance of tackling emissions through the opportunities provided by the Bus Services Bill, as well as highlighting the Government's own work on the issue.
- Tackling congestion through streetworks management, permitting, decriminalised parking enforcement, working with policy and emergency services after accidents, improvement maintenance and smart cities agenda.
- The DfT's work with organisations such as the LGA and Transport for the North to explore further devolution of transport powers and other solutions to existing problems.
- The future potential for traffic management act implementation.
- The new funding pool available for transport infrastructure announced in the Autumn statement
- She updated the Board on progress with the allocation of funding for cycling infrastructure, including its heavy oversubscription and the potential for future investment.
- The importance of LEPs in promoting solutions which address economic development, transport and health needs simultaneously.
- She updated the Board on the DfT's work with Transport for the North and Midlands Connect, as well as other regional boards.

Tricia Hayes concluded by stating that she had received clear messages around commencement of part 6 of the Traffic Management Act, rural bus strategies and congestion.

Cllr Martin Tett invited Tricia to a future meeting of the Board.

Decisions

The Board:

1. **Noted** the DfT's priorities for the coming year.

2. **Discussed** areas of mutual interest between the Board and DfT.
3. **Explored** areas for effective collaboration.
4. **Invited** Tricia Hayes to a future Board meeting.

Action

Officers to **invite** the Director General for Roads, Devolution and Motoring to a subsequent board meeting.

3 Unlocking future growth and investment through public and private collaboration

Rachel Campbell (Senior Policy Officer & Head of Regional Programme for the British Property Federation) introduced the item. She explained that the BPF had produced a report on unlocking growth and investment through public/ private collaboration which was due to launch on 25th January. She summarised the key requirements for partnerships as being:

- A long term view from the private sector.
- Respect for the history of local authorities and their operating practices.
- An acknowledgment from the private sector of the different types of need found in local government.
- The consolidation of central government funding streams for economic growth and infrastructure investment.
- Making local growth central to future investment strategies.

Will Colthorpe (Chair of BPF's Development Committee) provided the board with the development sector's perspective on public and private collaboration. He explained that whilst the private sector has access to capital and expertise, it can suffer from a short term outlook, a shortcoming which can be offset by working in partnership with local government. He elucidated the following key elements for local authorities in supporting growth through such partnerships:

- Trust between the council and development partner, allowing for flexibility in design and implementation of projects.
- A positive attitude towards these partnerships and their potential benefits.
- A clear vision from councils, including key priorities and achievable targets.
- A supportive procurement process which prioritises the long term partnerships and smaller enterprises which are valued by councils.

Pete Gladwell (Head of Public Sector Partnerships, Legal & General (L&G) Real Assets) provided the board with an investor's perspective on public/private partnership. He explained that social impact was becoming increasingly important in L&G's investment strategy. He summarised the key factors in a successful relationship as being:

- A clear investment strategy from local government which capitalises on its strengths and reduces risks, for example aggregation of sites to prepare for private sector investment.

- Collaborative investment between the public and private sectors

Discussion

Members supported the aims and objectives of the paper, highlighting the ability of such partnerships to increase commerciality, attract foreign direct investment as well as offset political instability and reductions in funding. They highlighted the need to communicate the benefits to the wider public sector, including accurate information about the often exaggerated risks involved.

Members also raised the following issues:

- The degree to which these lessons are applicable to smaller councils as well as large urban areas.
- The need to use public/private partnerships to increase the availability of private rent and housing availability.
- The need to avoid competition with the private sector by clearly communicating expected revenue.
- The need to develop the capacity of planning departments in local authorities to enable and support partnerships
- Members also expressed a desire for BPF to support the sector in lobbying for future planning department funding, cost recovery on planning fees and reform of Section 106.

Members were invited to the launch event on 25th January.

Decisions

The Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:

1. **Noted** the update and **provided** feedback to shape future work between the BPF and LGA.
2. **Discussed** and **highlighted** key issues in relation to councils' approach to public/private collaboration and adopting a more commercial mindset.
3. Requested that the LGA & BPF work towards supporting council to implement the recommendations.

Actions

Officers are to:

1. **Develop** work with BPG along the lines provided by members.

4 Clearing litter from Highways England trunk roads

Cllr Nigel Collor introduced the item and explained that Dover District Council felt that its current responsibility for clearing litter on Highways England trunk roads was placing unfair additional operational burdens and costs. Cllr Collor requested that the board support Dover District Council in lobbying the government for legislative change on the issue.

Discussion

The members of the board explained that legislative change was unlikely to occur and suggested a course of action that would include liaising with Highways England to create a common code of practice in order to mitigate and manage the problem.

Decision

The members:

1. **Considered** the presentation from Dover representatives.
2. Requested a meeting between the LGA & Highways England to be **arranged**, for which Cllr Judith Blake would be the lead member.

Action

Officers to **arrange** a meeting between Highways England and Cllr Judith Blake, in her capacity as Deputy Chair of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board.

5 General update

Cllr Martin Tett introduced the item, drawing the boards' attention to the work carried out since the last meeting.

Cllr Julian German requested that future general updates include more on sustainability and climate change.

Cllr Judith Blake thanked the board for its support on opening the bidding process for the European Capital of Culture.

Decision

The board **noted** the update.

Action

Officers to **include** more content on sustainability and climate change in future updates.

6 Confidential minutes of the previous meeting

The board **agreed** the minutes of 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 Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	OBE	
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
	Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Alyson Barnes	Rossendale Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Adele Morris	Southwark Council
Apologies	Cllr David Westley	West Lancashire Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw District Council
	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Hugh Evans OBE	Denbighshire County Council
In Attendance	Patricia Hayes	Director General for Roads, Devolution and Motoring, DfT
	Rachel Campbell	Senior Policy & Head of Regional Programme, BPF
	Will Colthorpe	Chair of the Development Committee, BPF
	Pete Gladwell	Head of Public Sector Partnerships, L&G
	Cllr Nigel Collor	Dover District Council
	Cllr Nick Kenton	Dover District Council
	Roger Walton	Director of Environment and Corporate Assets at Dover DC and Head of Environmental Services at Shepway DC