

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

Title: Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Date: Thursday 12 July 2018
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest
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2	Clean Air Strategy
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Shaun Gallagher and Alicia Pearce introduced the draft Clean Air Strategy which was published on 22 May 2018. They highlighted the key components of the strategy and noted its links to the Industrial Strategy, the Clean Growth Strategy and the 25 year Environmental Plan.

Members made the following comments:

Air quality monitoring is very expensive and local councils will welcome any funding to help. Raising awareness on air pollution is important but funding will need to follow.

Public perception is that air quality is not getting better

Vehicle engines continuing to run in traffic appears to be influencing town centre air quality.

Schemes like town centre power hook ups for canal and river boats can help with air quality.

Electric taxis could be a new problem for town centre planning.

If responsibility for policy development sits with national government, how can local government influence. Current powers are with national government.

Brexit should not be an opportunity to lower standards on air quality. Major cities are already regularly reported as breaching air pollution limits.

Shaun Gallagher and Alicia Pearce responded

While air monitoring is expensive, monitoring technology is improving and will become more accessible for councils.

While air quality in general is getting better, it is still a major health concern.

The Clean Air Strategy will be a partnership between national and local government, locally it could mean more powers and greater funding.

A lot of work is being done with taxis and charging points.

Decision

Shaun Gallagher and Alicia Pearce were invited to attend again as policy work develops.

Officers will be taking members comments forward to in the LGA response.

3 Modal shift and encouraging active travel

Andrew Jones introduced the report on the key results and messages of our modal shift survey. The aim of the publication was to highlight council good practice as well as identifying the barriers that prevent them doing more.

Andrew Jones highlighted the benefits of encouraging sustainable forms of travel but noted the evidence from councils that challenging existing behaviour is costly and often ineffective. The purpose of the work on modal shift is to promote good practice and support other councils to build on this success.

Members made the following comments

The report needs to include examples of what councils can do to be better but should also present clear policy asks of national government.

More work can be done to engage interested members in councils.

Buses are important and more work needs to be done in shaping a debate on encouraging them.

The language of Modal Shift is not helpful in talking about travel in an accessible way.

Talking about why we are changing behaviour rather than just how is helpful

New housing developments and buses is key. Developers are key to linking up bus travel.

How have local councils achieved behavioural change. Examples of best practice are needed on this. We need to understand the reasons for the disparity between the numbers of men and women cycling. Working with partners like Sustrans can help.

Decision

The Modal shift report will come back to a future board

4 Achievements and Board Priorities for 2018/19

Cllr Tett introduced the report and asked members to consider what the board should work on in 2018/19. He noted that Lead Members are keen to ensure that the Board can point to practical achievements from its work. He noted that out of area housing will be looked at this year.

Cllr Tett raised the issue of national industrial assessments. Where there was a risk that responsibility will be moved to local government but without the funding to carry out the work.

Members made these comments

The landscape of plastic waste and China.

More in-depth discussions on key issues . Could take place outside the board sessions.

Rough sleeping should be a priority..

Out of area housing and tenancy lengths.

Brexit should be built into the priorities

Town centres and Grimsey Review should be a part of future boards

Fire Safety is important, and we should continue to work with other LGA Boards on this issue.

Officers responded

Government will need to consult on implication of the national industrial assessments. Brexit is covered by a task and finish group and reports to LGA leadership board. However, Brexit will have an impact on board business, and officers will ensure that it is addressed within the themed areas.

Decision

Officers will be taking members comments forward to form the Board Priorities for 2018/19

5 Minutes of the previous meeting

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Adele Morris Cllr Rachel Eburne	Southwark Council Mid Suffolk District Council
Members	Cllr Alistair Auty Cllr Lynne Duffy Cllr David Renard Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop Cllr Colin Davie Cllr Tony Newman Cllr Helen Holland Cllr Ed Turner Cllr Peter Thornton Cllr Linda Gillham	Wokingham Borough Council Wychavon District Council Swindon Borough Council Broxbourne Borough Council Lincolnshire County Council Croydon Council Bristol City Council Oxford City Council Cumbria County Council Runnymede Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Simon Cooke Cllr Judith Blake CBE Cllr Gillian Campbell Cllr Michael Mordey	Bradford Metropolitan District Council Leeds City Council Blackpool Council Sunderland City Council