

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title:	People & Places Board
Date:	Tuesday 28 November 2017
Venue:	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
7	Welcome Apologies, and Declarations of Interests	
	<p>The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Members to the Board.</p> <p>Apologies were noted by the Chairman.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
8	Industrial Strategy	
	<p>The Chairman invited Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, to introduce the paper. Philip began by informing members that the Industrial Strategy White Paper had been released the day before the board took place – on 27 November 2017 – and that the LGA were currently preparing their on-the-week-briefing in response to this.</p> <p>Philip stated that the paper outlined the agreed framework for engagement between this Board, the City Regions Board and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board in support of a co-ordinated response across the LGA.</p> <p>Philip advised Members that Joe Manning, Deputy Director of Industrial Strategy, from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) would be attending the meeting to present an overview of the themes included in the White Paper.</p> <p>Philip also discussed the LGA Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) survey, providing an overview of the common themes across the 14 responses to date, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transparency and governance;• Engagement of LEPs with the wider business community; and• LEP's current capacity to deliver. <p>In the discussion that followed, members made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members stated that it was vital to engage with the LEP Network to	

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advocate for a successful place-led Industrial Strategy.

- In light of Joe Manning's attendance, it was agreed that it was important to communicate to him that the Industrial Strategy gave the impression of a metropolitan focus with an emphasis on Mayoral Combined Authorities and that the White Paper lacked a rural voice.
- Members also raised the issue of funding for the Industrial Strategy.

The Chairman then introduced Joe Manning into the Board, who gave an overview of the [Industrial Strategy White Paper](#). In his overview, Joe discussed the following:

- The overall shape of the paper, emphasising that it was very much a working document and likely to evolve in line with the experience of what works well, and what doesn't.
- Joe discussed the White Paper's five foundations: Ideas; People; Infrastructure; Business Environment; and Places.
- Joe confirmed that it was vital for BEIS, as well as the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to remain in discussion with Local Government.
- Joe emphasised the need for a place-based-focus when formulating the Strategy, as all areas throughout the UK have different economic needs.

Joe also gave an overview of the current LEP review, and updated Members on the following:

- Andrew Jones MP is also now co-leading on the review, under his portfolio to Exchequer Secretary to HM Treasury. He is leading the review alongside Jake Berry MP and Margot James MP.
- The meeting with the first advisory group is due to take place in the coming weeks.

There then proceeded a confidential discussion covering a range of subjects, including: geography; funding; the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas; the relationship between the Industrial Strategy and future devolution deals; the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and cross-border working with councils in the devolved nations.

The Chairman thanked Joe for his time, and concluded that:

- There was clearly more work to be done to make the case to Government regarding the potential for greater devolution and economic growth in non-metropolitan areas.
- The Local Government Association should continue to push for more detail regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as this was now a matter of increasing urgency.

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- It was up to the People and Places Board to re-ignite government interest in the potential of rural areas, and to be ambitious in thinking.
- It may be beneficial to analyse what gaps there are in relation to the industrial strategy and rural areas.
- Local government's key role as partners in Local Enterprise Partnerships should not be forgotten.

Decision:

- Members of the People and Places Board noted the paper and update.

Action:

- Officer to take forward work in line with Members' steer.

- 9 Appendix A - Briefing for presentation from Joe Manning**
- 10 Appendix B - Letter from Margot James MP and Jake Berry MP regarding the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review**
- 11 Appendix C - Letter to Margot James MP and Jake Berry MP regarding the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review**
- 12 Post-Brexit England Commission**

The Chairman invited Daniel Shamplin-Hall, Adviser, to introduce the paper. Daniel updated Members on the context and proposed direction of a commission to establish a clear vision for a successful post Brexit England. Daniel gave particular detail on the following:

- That the commission would be delivered by LGA officers, supported by an external advisory panel.
- That the interim report would be submitted to the LGA 2018 annual conference and the final report published in early 2019.
- That a launch event would be scheduled for February 2018, and further Roadshows would be held throughout 2018.

The Chairman invited members to comment on the paper, where the following was discussed:

- Members commented that the paper did not mention the Trade Union Congress, nor was there any mention regarding micro-businesses or EU businesses.
- Members discussed the advisory panel, noting there was no mention of universities, further education institutions or

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apprenticeship providers. Members stated that their inclusion was vital.

- Members also commented that the paper leant more towards the public sector, and that there needed to be more representation from the private sector.
- Members discussed potential labour shortages, suggesting this issue was likely to worsen following Brexit, and therefore the importance of incorporating work on this issue.
- Members discussed the communication, marketing and publicity of the Commission, and the need for government to work with the LGA. Members went on to discuss the need for there to be a good communication strategy.
- In response it was suggested that there may be an opportunity to commission expert communications advice on this issue as part of work to better make the case for fiscal devolution
- Members discussed the timeline and panel selection.

The Chairman asked members to steer the officer on prioritisation of work areas; giving feedback, both the Chairman and Members put forward the following ideas:

- Members agreed the need for a mixture of sectors, places and individuals, but specific mentions included:
 - Agriculture;
 - Food;
 - Transport
 - IT
 - Businesses
 - Higher education
- Members also discussed the importance of getting both regional and sector opinions.

Decisions

- Members agreed the advisory panel table, in-line with Member recommendations given.
- Members agreed the proposed timeline.

Actions

- Officer to update the advisory panel table, in-line with Member recommendations given.
- Officer to take forward work in line with Members' steer.

13 Appendix A - Post Brexit England Commission's External Advisory Panel

14 Fiscal Devolution

The Chairman invited Alex Thomson, Principal Policy Adviser, to introduce the paper. Alex informed Members that a similar version of the paper had been discussed by the City Regions Board, as well as giving an overview of its content, which included:

- Previous LGA fiscal devolution asks;
- A proposal to commission:
 - Strategic communications advice to support the call for more fiscal devolution to strengthen lobbying work; and
 - Econometric modelling to clarify specific instances of fiscal devolution and what this would look like in practice.

Alex asked for a steer from Members regarding the Board's potential involvement in this work in partnership with the City Regions Board. With this in mind, Members raised the following points:

- Whether it was appropriate to make a distinction between fiscal devolution and the allocation of resources towards services, such as housing or social care.
- Whether there was sufficient appetite to explore the possibility of raising new taxes given the sensitivities of business and communities.
- Whether or not it was possible to align the interests of non-metropolitan areas with those of the Members of the City Regions Board

The Chairman concluded that, while interesting, there was an insufficient groundswell of enthusiasm to formally endorse a partnership with the City Regions Board on this issue. However, he requested that the Board be kept up to date and stressed that this topic is one which may be relevant as part of the Post Brexit Commission.

Decisions

- Members agreed with the proposed work-streams.

Actions

- Officer to take forward work in line with Members' steer.

15 Appendix A - LGA's Fiscal Devolution asks

16 Skills and Employment (oral update)

The Chairman invited Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item. Jas updated Members on the following:

- The Work Local consultation concluded in September, with an excellent response rate that gave clear direction.
- The campaign plan was currently being developed to take forward Work Local. This will include details around lobbying, a communication plan, and engagement of key stakeholders.
- Jas stated she was currently updating the work to align more with the Industrial Strategy.
- Meetings have taken place with the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening MP. A meeting with Anne Milton MP, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills had also been agreed for early in the New Year.

Decisions

- Members noted the update.

Actions

- Officer to take forward work in line with Members' steer.

a) Appendix A - Work Local Consultation

17 Brexit (oral update)

The Chairman invited Ian Hughes, Head of Policy, to introduce the item. Ian briefed Members on the following:

- Messages to Government are landing regarding issues relating to EU Structural Funds and the potential impact on local government, but lobbying work will need to continue in order to ensure the UK Share Prosperity Fund is sufficiently reformed.
- In the forthcoming weeks, the Select Committee for Communities and Local Government, as well as the APPG on Devolution would be meeting to discuss Brexit and the LGA would be giving oral as well as written evidence to both.
- Additional in-house research on what a 'no-deal' situation will look like is being conducted, and what this will mean for local government.
- A further update will be given at the next Board.

Decisions

- Members noted the update.

Actions

- Officer to take forward work in line with Members' steer.

18 Sub-national trade and investment (oral update)

Daniel Shamplin-Hall, Adviser, introduced the item, recapping work on sub-national trade and investment which the board had supported in the 2016-2017 cycle. He outlined the research which had been commissioned and the report produced by Value Adage.

Following discussion at the last board, members had steered officers to develop the set of recommendations in the report and broaden engagement with the Department for International Trade and the British Chamber of Commerce. Daniel advised that discussions with officials had begun, but were progressing slowly and that the recently published [White Paper on UK Trade Policy](#) may provide the opportunity for a more focused approach.

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Decision:

- Members noted the update.

Action:

- Officers to proceed with work in line with Members' steer.

19 Digital connectivity (oral update)

The Chairman invited Daniel Shamplin-Hall, Adviser, to introduce the paper. Daniel outlined the issue before the Board and requested a steer from members regarding:

- The formation of a Digital Connectivity Task & Finish Group.
- And the Groups' draft Terms of Reference, which will be submitted to the next Lead Members meeting for consideration in more detail.

Daniel also updated Members on his discussions with ADEPT, who are in talks of supporting the group at officer level.

Decision:

- Members agreed to the formation of a Digital Connectivity Task & Finish Group, with a further update to be given at the next board meeting.

Action:

- Officers to proceed with work in line with Members' steer.

20 Leading Places (oral update)

The Chairman invited Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item. Philip updated the Members with the following:

- Phase Two of the project is progressing well, with the next national event taking place on 30 November 2017.
- The Local Government Association had also supported the Local Growth Academy a parallel programme in partnership with Higher Education Funding Council for England and the NHS Confederation.

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- Initial discussions with HEFCE regarding the future of both projects had begun and more detail was expected to be available at the next Board meeting.

Decision:

- Members noted the update.

Action:

- Officers to proceed with work in line with Members' steer.

21 Minutes of the last meeting

Members agreed to the notes of the previous Board.

Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Bob Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
Members	Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Charlotte Haitham Taylor	Wokingham Borough Council
	Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
	Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Azhar Ali	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council
	Cllr Helen Grant	North Yorkshire County Council
Apologies	Cllr Ralph Bagge	South Bucks District Council
	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		