

City Regions Board

Agenda

Monday, 19 November 2018
1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Guidance notes for members and visitors

18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Welcome!

18 Smith Square is located in the heart of Westminster, and is nearest to the Westminster, Pimlico, Vauxhall and St James's Park Underground stations, and also Victoria, Vauxhall and Charing Cross railway stations. A map is available on the back page of this agenda.

Security

All visitors (who do not have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be given a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

18 Smith Square has a swipe card access system meaning that security passes will be required to access all floors. Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor, 7th floor and 8th floor** of 18 Smith Square.

Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.

Fire instructions

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.



Open Council

Open Council, on the 7th floor of 18 Smith Square, provides informal meeting space and refreshments for local authority members and officers who are in London.

Toilets

Unisex toilet facilities are available on every floor of 18 Smith Square. Accessible toilets are also available on all floors.

Accessibility

If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Guest WiFi in 18 Smith Square

WiFi is available in 18 Smith Square for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling “Wireless Network Connection” on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register, either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

City Regions Board
19 November 2018

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **1.00 pm on Monday, 19 November 2018**
Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: Lewis.addlington-lee@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Amber Chandler
Amber.Chandler@local.gov.uk | 020 7664 3235

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.83 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

City Regions Board

City Regions Board – Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Cllr. Abi Brown (Vice-Chair)	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Cllr. Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Cllr. Tim Warren	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
Substitutes	
Mark Weston	Bristol City Council
Labour (13)	
Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chair)	Manchester City Council
Cllr. Susan Hinchcliffe (Vice-Chair)	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr. Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Mayor Joe Anderson OBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr. Jon Collins	Nottingham City Council
Cllr. Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
Cllr. Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr. Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
Cllr. Sue Jeffrey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr. Roger Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton Council
Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Substitutes	
Sara Rowbotham	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Shama Tatler	Brent Council
Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Dan Price	Warrington Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr. Abigail Bell (Deputy Chair)	Hull City Council
Cllr. Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Substitutes	
Ben Dowling	Portsmouth City Council
Independent (1)	
Cllr. Clarence Barrett (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council

<i>Substitutes</i>	
Jason Zadrozny	Ashfield District Council
Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council

Agenda

City Regions Board

Monday 19 November 2018

1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Item	Page
1. Declarations of Interest	
2. Fiscal Devolution	1 - 4
3. Urban Leadership	5 - 6
a) Appendix A- Urban Leadership Scoping Paper	7 - 8
4. Industrial Strategy	9 - 14
5. Devolution Update	15 - 18
6. Trade, Inward Investment and International Engagement	19 - 26
a) Appendix A - LGA trade and investment survey	27 - 30
7. Note of the Previous Meeting	31 - 36

Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 25 January 2019, 2.00 pm, Westminster Room,
8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Fiscal devolution

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper outlines proposed next steps to support the future development of policy related to fiscal devolution.

Recommendation

Members of the City Regions Board are asked to consider the proposed work plan set out below and comment as appropriate on its focus and oversight arrangements.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members' comments into the development of future work related to fiscal devolution, as described.

Contact Officer: Philip Clifford
Position: Senior Adviser
Telephone No: 07909 898327
Email: philip.clifford@local.gov.uk

Fiscal devolution update

Overview

1. The City Regions Board commissioned two pieces of research in the 2017/18 board cycle to support internal policy development and discussion related to fiscal devolution:
 - 1.1. **Fiscal devolution modelling** – the Board commissioned econometric modelling to provide members with an overview of what specific instances of fiscal devolution might look like in practice.
 - 1.2. **Fiscal devolution messaging** – the Board also commissioned research to better understand public perceptions of fiscal devolution specifically and devolution generally. This research adds to the regular pieces of analysis that the LGA commissions, including polling of both residents and parliamentarians to gauge support for key policy proposals including those relating to devolution.
2. The People and Places Board and the Resources Board were kept informed of progress throughout the course of the year and all three boards have now discussed the findings of both pieces of research.
3. From their comments officers have proposed a work plan in three areas: acting on the findings of the devolution messaging report; progressing work on a tourism levy; and, exploring an e-commerce levy.
4. This work plan has now been considered and agreed by the Chairs of the City Regions and Resources Boards and the Chairman of the People and Places Board. It is presented below for consideration and comment by members of the City Regions Board.

Acting on the findings of the devolution messaging report

5. The findings of the devolution messaging report clearly resonated with members of all three boards. It has therefore been agreed that officers will work with Board Chairs to draft a paper that raises this subject as an issue for formal consideration by the LGA's Leadership Board.
6. This work will build on short term supportive messaging within the Spending Review campaign plan and additionally take account of any lessons or evidence from the City Regions Board's ongoing Urban Leadership work and the People and Places Board's Post-Brexit England Commission.
7. Over the coming months, one of the main strands of the Spending Review campaign will be to focus on explaining to the public the breadth of council services. Subsequently we will develop a plan of campaign activity over the next six to eighteen months that seeks to further highlight the expertise that exists within councils to the general public.
8. In the longer term it has also been agreed that the LGA will give due consideration to broader questions relating to the public perception of local government's culture and character, and the complexities of accommodating differential public service responsibilities across localities and institutions within a coherent national brand.

Progressing work on a tourism levy

9. There was strong interest from all three Boards in understanding in more detail how a tourism levy might work in practice. The Culture, Tourism and Sport Board has also explored this issue and it would make sense for future work to be aligned across all four boards.
10. As the freedom to introduce a local tourism levy is already an established LGA lobbying line it was proposed that any future work focuses on 'road-testing' the levy's theoretical and technical arguments within the wider context of councils' role in regulating and supporting the tourism industry. This work will also provide an opportunity to consider the extent to which Business Improvement Districts provide an effective vehicle to introducing a tourism levy within an area.
11. It was therefore agreed that the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board would be commissioned to take forward this work, subject to their agreement, with the three other boards kept updated on progress.

Exploring an e-commerce levy

12. Both the City Regions Board and the Resources Board expressed interest in exploring the design and potential benefits of an e-commerce levy, directly linking it to the consequences for high streets arising from the shift in retail activity towards firms with a predominantly digital footprint.
13. At the Autumn Budget the Chancellor announced that from April 2020, the Government will introduce a new 2 per cent tax on the revenues of certain digital businesses to ensure that the amount of tax paid in the UK is reflective of the value they derive from their UK users.
14. The LGA has called for measures to be taken on retailers who may not pay business rates on retail premises and we welcomed this as a first step. However, we believe a portion of the money raised from this measure should be used to fund local services and, in turn, are of the view that more needs to be done to develop the detail of how such a levy might benefit public services and local retail economies in practice.
15. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board has policy responsibility for town high streets. As this piece of work would require specific technical expertise, it is proposed that a research specification is drafted for consideration by Lead Members of all four boards, with a view to commissioning external research in support of future lobbying activity.
16. Subject to consideration regarding resource availability, it is proposed that the Resources Board would take this work forward with other Boards kept updated on progress.

Next Steps

17. **Members of the City Regions Board are asked to consider the proposed work plan set out above and comment as appropriate on its focus and oversight.**



Urban Leadership

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

The attached Appendix is a draft scoping paper that describes in more detail work to convene a range of interested and relevant parties and seek to advance a unified urban position with national stakeholders, with a view to influencing the forthcoming Spending Review.

This paper was discussed by officers from the LGA, Core Cities, London Councils and Key Cities on 16 November. A verbal update on proposed next steps and outcomes will be provided at the Board meeting.

Recommendation

Board members are asked to consider the draft scoping paper attached as **Appendix A** and comment on the project's proposed focus and next steps with the context of the Board's wider work programme, in particular work to advance the case for further fiscal devolution.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members' into future policy and public activity related to urban leadership

Contact Officer: Philip Clifford
Position: Senior Adviser
Telephone No: 07909 898327
Email: philip.clifford@local.gov.uk

Unified Urban Leadership – Scoping Document

Context

1. Brexit continues to consume an overwhelming proportion of the political and administrative capacity of Government and Whitehall. The pace of devolution has slowed, with no new devolution deals agreed since the Autumn Budget in November 2017.
2. Urban areas and their representatives, while individually possessing significant policy expertise and political capital have, since the last general election, struggled to craft a unified voice that gains traction at the national level, particularly with ministers in key departments such as HM Treasury, MHCLG and BEIS.
3. Within this context the LGA's City Regions Board agreed on 5 October to assemble a coalition of interested and relevant parties to consider and re-articulate those distinct concerns and opportunities that unite urban authorities to a national audience.
4. Recognising that the forthcoming Spending Review is likely to present the most significant opportunity to influence government policy in the medium term it was decided that this work should move swiftly in two phases:
 - 4.1. As an initial step, a piece of work that aims to agree joint lobbying lines arising from the overlap of existing policy positions of relevant authorities and representative bodies, with a view to producing an agreed position statement by the end of January 2019.
 - 4.2. Building on this, a more detailed report, underpinned by proactive public affairs activity that seeks to influence the forthcoming Spending Review, which is expected in April 2019.
5. This paper presents headline elements of this project with a view to supporting an initial scoping discussion with key partners and then quickly moving to engage a wider group of stakeholders to advance a unified urban leadership agenda.

Membership and Format

6. The Local Government Association is the national, cross-party body representing all councils, both urban and rural. Recognising this, and in line with the focus of this project, it is proposed that both policy priorities and direction should be determined by those representing urban areas.
7. In the first instance it is proposed that the political group leaders from the LGA's City Regions Board and a representative member from three organisations, Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils form a steering group to provide overall strategic direction for this work.

8. Recognising the limited availability of members and the tight timescales involved, it is recommended that day-to-day development of this work be undertaken by senior officers from each of the relevant organisations as a working group. It is proposed that the steering group be chaired by Sir Richard Leese, as Chair of the LGA's City Regions Board and the working group be chaired by an officer of the LGA.
9. The LGA is able to provide policy analysis, logistical support to facilitate joint working between members and political oversight through the City Regions Board. It may also be possible to secure external technical expertise to support the further development of joint policy, such as econometric analysis to underpin any financial proposals.
10. It proposed that the working group meets monthly to facilitate the development of the first phase of work, with light touch progress updates provided to the steering group for discussion via teleconference.
11. This approach can reviewed before the second phase begins. It is proposed that LGA officers provide both secretariat support and 'hold the pen' in the production of any policy or lobbying material.

Proposed Focus

12. Given the large swathe of relevant policy issues that might be pursued, the restricted timescales and the desire to secure a unified urban voice it recommended that this project seeks to identify two or three big issues with which to seek swift agreement on.
13. The Work Programme of the City Regions Board presents three immediate suggestions: the further devolution of skills and employment support; fiscal devolution; and, the ability of urban leaders to hold national government and its agencies to account for their public service and investment decisions.
14. Steering group members will have existing priorities in relation to devolution, inclusive growth and urban leadership and it is proposed that the first meeting of the working group agrees the priority issues for focus.

Next Steps

15. Once a core policy script has been agreed, it is proposed that the additional individuals and organisations are brought in to support the campaign, recognising those urban areas outside the membership of the organisations highlighted above, including councils in Wales and the distinct institutional leadership of the Greater London Authority and the eight Mayoral Combined Authorities.

Industrial Strategy Update

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides an update on recent developments with the key place-based elements of the Government's Industrial Strategy and proposes next steps for the LGA's work in relation to them.

Recommendations

Members of the City Regions Board are asked to note the recent developments in relation to:

1. The Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (**paras 2-8**);
2. The development of Local Industrial Strategies (**paras 9-16**); and
3. The design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (**paras 17-21**).

Members are then invited to consider and agree next steps for the Board's engagement on the Industrial Strategy (**paras 22-23**).

Action

Officers to proceed with next steps in line with Members' steer.

Contact Officer: Dan Gardiner
Position: Adviser
Telephone No: 07775 538 953
Email: Daniel.Gardiner@local.gov.uk

Overview

1. This paper provides an update on recent developments with the three key place-based components of the Industrial Strategy - the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships, the development of Local Industrial Strategies and the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It then proposes next steps for the Board's work in relation to the Industrial Strategy for Members to consider and agree.

Recent developments

The Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

2. The conclusions of the LEP Review were published in July in the 'Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships' policy paper.¹ This paper outlined a number of changes that the Government wants LEPs to implement.
3. At the previous meeting of the City Regions Board, Members discussed concerns from the sector regarding the Government's uncertain position on future LEP geographies along with concerns over the potential dilution of democratic accountability arising from the Government's desired reduction in public sector representation on LEP Boards.
4. In response to the concerns expressed by Members, the Chair of the City Regions Board and the Chairman of the People and Places Board wrote to the BEIS Secretary of State seeking urgent clarity on both these issues. A response had not been received at the time of writing and officers have raised this with officials.
5. Following the submission of proposals for LEP geographies, the next step towards implementing the LEP Review was for all LEPs to submit a detailed plan for implementing the other changes outlined in the *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships* policy paper – these plans were due to be submitted before 31 October 2018.
6. Our current understanding is that Ministers will consider these proposals in the coming weeks and seek to reach swift agreement regarding any revision to LEP geographies. It is anticipated that Ministers will seek to agree all LEP geography changes before the consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is published, which is currently expected to be in December. There is therefore only a limited opportunity for further representations on this issue.
7. **Members are asked to note the update on the Government Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 22.**

Local Industrial Strategies

8. The key place-based announcement contained in the White Paper was the introduction of Local Industrial Strategies. The White Paper outlined that places in England with a Mayoral Combined Authority will have a Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) led by the mayor

¹ [Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) (July 2018)

and supported by LEPs. For parts of the country without a mayor, the development of the LIS will be led by the LEP.

9. In July, the Government announced that the North East, Tees Valley, West of England, Leicester & Leicestershire, Cheshire & Warrington and the Heart of the South West will be the second wave of areas to work with government to develop their Local Industrial Strategies. This follows the first set of LIS trailblazers in Greater Manchester, the West Midlands and the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor.
10. Following confirmation that the Government will aim to agree Local Industrial Strategies with all areas of England by early 2020, the Government has now published a policy prospectus on Local Industrial Strategies to guide locally-led work.² Key points covered in the policy prospectus include:
 - 10.1. Local Industrial Strategies will provide a strategic overview which will inform LEPs' approach to any future local growth funding deployed through them and help local areas in England decide on their approach to maximising the long-term impact of the new UKSPF;
 - 10.2. Agreeing a LIS with Government will be a necessary condition for Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and LEPs to draw down any future local growth funding being deployed through them;
 - 10.3. The Government has formally invited all remaining MCAs and LEPs to begin developing a LIS but this invitation is subject to places demonstrating commitment to implementing the changes outlined in the LEP Review in full;
 - 10.4. All MCAs and LEPs will have dedicated official support from an Area Lead within the Cities and Local Growth Unit and the Government will work with the LEP Network and others to establish a series of regional workshops over the coming months; and
 - 10.5. The prospectus outlines that Local Industrial Strategies should: set out a robust and open evidence base; map out specific opportunities and challenges; make clear how MCAs and LEPs will work in partnership with public and private stakeholders to achieve their ambitions; prioritise specific, achievable and long-term ambitions; and set out clear plans to evaluate progress.
11. In addition to the policy prospectus, the Government has also published progress statements on the development of Local Industrial Strategies in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands.³ These statements detail the work to date between the Government and local partners to develop a LIS in these areas.
12. Despite the publication of these documents, a lack of clarity remains on the key issues for councils that were discussed at the previous Board. These include:

² [Local Industrial Strategies: Policy Prospectus](#) (October 2018)

³ [Progress statement: Working towards a Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy](#) (October 2018)
[Progress statement: Working towards a West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy](#) (October 2018)

- 12.1. The links between Local Industrial Strategies and other key areas of local growth policy, including: the UKSPF, the LEP Review and the devolution framework;
 - 12.2. The extent to which Local Industrial Strategies will act as a vehicle to securing the necessary powers and adequate funding for local leaders to deliver successful and inclusive economies, particularly in areas outside Mayoral Combined Authorities;
 - 12.3. The extent to which local efforts to develop and deliver Local Industrial Strategies are supported across Whitehall departments; and
 - 12.4. The approach to future phasing of Local Industrial Strategies and how this will be structured to meet the proposed early 2020 deadline and ensure that areas involved in later phases are not disadvantaged both in relation to the support provided to develop their LIS and the powers and resources awarded following agreement of their LIS.
13. The commitment to a Local Industrial Strategy in all parts of the country is a significant achievement. The LGA will build on this and support where appropriate the development of these strategies and focus its policy and public affairs work to ensure a fair and consistent approach to their evaluation and endorsement across Whitehall.
14. The LGA is in the process of commissioning a provider to deliver a Local Industrial Strategy improvement support offer. This will incorporate the delivery of a series of masterclasses targeted at councils and the creation of 'toolkit' to support the development of Local Industrial Strategies across England. A provider will have been appointed by the time of the Board meeting. **Officers will invite the appointed provider to attend the Board and this will present an opportunity for Members to feed in perspectives on how the improvement offer can most effectively support councils in metropolitan areas.**
15. **Members are asked to note the update on the development of Local Industrial Strategies and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 22.**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

16. The LGA has been proactive in pressing the Government on the design and delivery principles to underpin UKSPF. We have published our principles in the [Beyond Brexit](#) report and made the case for urgent action in our LGA Conference report, [Brexit: Moving the Conversation On](#).
17. It is still expected that the Government's consultation on UKSPF will commence by the end of the year. This follows a Government-led pre-consultation exercise, and includes the LGA's session bringing together councils and the UKSPF team in August. Officers continue to meet regularly with Whitehall's UKSPF team. That said, detail on the likely structure, governance, funding, and allocation methodology from the UK Government is very light.

18. To further develop the LGA's lines on UKSPF, the following will need to be explored:

- 18.1. democratic accountability, governance and capacity to deliver UKSPF; and
- 18.2. that while European funding and its successor UKSPF is absolutely critical, it needs to be seen as part of a wider economic development landscape post 2020 which will see the end of the Local Growth Fund and other economic development and inclusive growth funds

19. The LGA will look do this through the following ways:

- 19.1. Officers will engage further with members on these issues through the People and Places Board, City Regions Board, Resources Board and the Brexit Taskforce.
- 19.2. LGA officers have planned meetings with our member authorities to understand the key priorities for our sector for a future UKSPF. These include: a workshop at the LGA Skills conference to focus on UKSPF (27 November); discussion at the next LGA convened Combined Authority skills and employment working group (21 November); plus a roundtable of Directors who lead on economic development and inclusive growth in early December.
- 19.3. LGA officers are also building on and updating our own research, including updating our 'fragmented funding' research so that we have a clearer picture of the funding outlook post 2020. In addition, we are also be exploring how our Work Local proposals (local labour market agreements) can be used as a framework for the development of UKSPF and related Local Industrial Strategy work.

20. Members are asked to note the update on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 22.

Next steps

21. With consideration to these updates and the LGA's work in this area to date, Lead Members of the City Regions Board proposed the following next steps for the Board's work on the Industrial Strategy:

- 21.1. Conclude the Board's pro-active engagement with the LEP Review given the limited opportunity for further representations on this issue and the relatively discrete implications for metropolitan authorities arising from any changes to LEP boundaries and governance;
- 21.2. Retain a focus on strengthening the democratic accountability and understanding the balance of responsibilities and capacity of LEPs as the recommendations of the LEP Review are implemented and the governance arrangements for the UKSPF are designed;

- 21.3. Invite a senior representative from the Cities and Local Growth Unit to the Board to present on Government progress with delivering the place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy and the UKSPF consultation;
 - 21.4. Continue political and official engagement on the Industrial Strategy, with consideration to the broad range of issues for the sector, and specifically those detailed in this paper relating to Local Industrial Strategies and the UKSPF; and
 - 21.5. Develop a plan for partnership work with the LEP Network with initial priorities to focus on being any outstanding issues from the LEP Review and the design of the UKSPF.
22. Board Members are invited to **comment on the proposed next steps** and **consider any further activity** that the LGA might undertake to address issues arising from the Industrial Strategy that are specific to metropolitan areas.

Devolution Update

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides members with an update on the LGA's devolution improvement support offer to established and aspiring Combined Authorities (CAs) and provides the latest on the Government's Devolution Framework, due to be published before the end of the year.

Recommendations

Members of the City Regions Board are asked to:

1. **Consider** the current scope of the LGA's Devolution Improvement and Support Offer and suggest any further areas for development
2. **Note** the context for the LGA's work relating to the Devolution Framework and **agree** for the People and Places Board to take the active lead in developing work in this area, with the City Regions Board playing a supporting role, as appropriate

Action

1. Subject to the comments from Members, officers will continue to monitor the progression of the Devolution Framework and develop the LGAs devolution improvement support offer.

Contact Officer: Ami Beeton
Position: Senior Adviser
Telephone No: 07867852592
Email: ami.beeton@local.gov.uk

Devolution Update

Improvement support to Combined Authorities

1. As members will be aware from the June 2018 meeting of the Board, the LGA has continued to develop and deliver a bespoke offer of improvement support for existing and prospective Combined Authorities (CAs). This support is funded by the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) improvement grant to the LGA.
2. The nature of the support provided varies in response to the needs of individual areas. However, key elements of the support provided to date include:
 - 2.1 **Mayoral Forum** – An opportunity for the Mayors to meet collectively with relevant government ministers and officers. The last forum was held earlier this year in February. The next Forum is currently being planned for early next year.
 - 2.2 **CA Chief Executive Network** - chaired by Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of Greater Manchester CA, the network continues to provide an opportunity for chief executives and chief officers to share learning and experiences, have space to discuss practical challenges and focus collectively on some of the key areas of policy development emerging within CAs.
 - 2.3 **Officer Networks-** There are a number of policy networks for officers which have been set up and are supported by the LGA. Three networks, each of which have already met at least twice, are organised by the LGA and are focused on the following policy areas:
 - 2.3.1 Finance
 - 2.3.2 Employment & Skills
 - 2.3.3 Housing & Planning
 - 2.3.4 A fourth network focused on transport issues is supported by ADEPT, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.
 - 2.4 **New Networks** – A couple of new networks have been set up since the June Board meeting and are due to meet for the first time in November. These are:
 - 2.4.1 HR
 - 2.4.2 Governance and Scrutiny –The Centre for Public Scrutiny will run this network on the LGA's behalf.
3. Each of these networks apart from the HR, but including the CEX network, have been given a budget to commission a piece of improvement work to support their policy area. The projects will need to be improvement focussed and be of interest and use to established and aspiring CAs. It is hoped that the projects will be scoped before Christmas and will be reported back to a future meeting of the City Regions Board.
4. The improvement support offer also includes bespoke and tailored peer support to each CA. Work is still in progress to create a peer led tool to support CAs in a similar way to the LGAs Corporate Peer Challenge process. This tool will use the principles of sector led improvement, but will be tailored and appropriate for CAs and likely to be launched in 2019/20.

5. Members are asked to consider the current scope of the LGA's Devolution Improvement and Support Offer and suggest any further areas for development.

Devolution Framework

6. Since 2014, devolution in some parts of England has meant a transfer of power and funding from national to local government. In line with the government's preferred model for devolved governance, in all but two areas, Cornwall and London, this transfer of power has been contingent on the creation of a Mayoral Combined Authority.
7. There are now seven Mayoral Combined Authorities across England which are mostly concentrated in urban areas. Devolution deals have also been agreed with Combined Authorities in the North East, West Yorkshire and also with Cornwall.
8. The eighth Mayoral Election will take place in North of Tyne in May 2019. Recent signals from within government have strongly indicated that there is limited Ministerial appetite for further deals of this type.
9. The Cabinet reshuffle earlier this year has seen a further change in MHCLG leadership and potentially ministerial priorities. Several months later, it remains unclear when a direction of travel for devolution policy will emerge.
10. A commitment to develop a common devolution framework - interpreted as a mechanism to access local devolution in England outside the Mayoral Combined Authority governance model - was contained in the Conservative Manifesto.
11. Early indications suggest that it is likely to focus on public service reform and elements of devolution that sit outside the economic growth agenda, but is unlikely to be on a similar scale to the previously established process of negotiating devolution deals.
12. Government has indicated that it is planning to publish the Devolution Framework before Christmas 2018. We understand that no firm decision has been made in regards to the content of the framework, but a broad direction of travel as indicated above is beginning to emerge.
13. Lead Members of the People and Places Board have already expressed an interest in seeking to influence government thinking on this issue, reflecting the currently limited level of devolution to non-metropolitan areas.
14. Given this interest and within the context of a limited window of opportunity it is proposed that the People and Places Board take the active lead in developing future work in this area, with the City Regions Board playing a supporting role, reflecting the shared ambition for all places to be able to access devolution opportunities at their own pace.
15. Once the Framework has been published Members of both boards will have an opportunity to review and consider the LGA's future lobbying work in this area.
16. **Members are asked to note the update regarding the Devolution Framework update and agree for the People and Places Board to take the active lead in developing work in this area, with the City Regions Board playing a supporting role, as appropriate.**



Trade, Inward Investment and International Engagement

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper provides an update on the LGA's recent work on trade, inward investment and international engagement and proposes next steps for the board to consider in these areas.

Recommendations

Members of the City Regions Board are asked to:

Note recent developments in relation to the LGA's work to:

1. Build an evidence base of council trade and inward investment activity (**paras 9-12**);
2. Raise the profile of international relationships established by councils with localities across the world (**paras 13-16**); and
3. Support councils to better deliver trade and inward investment activity (**paras 17-22**).

Agree next steps for the LGA's trade, inward investment and international engagement activities (**paras 23-24**).

Action

Officers to proceed with next steps in line with Members' steer.

Contact officer: Daniel Shamplin-Hall
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 0207 664 3314
Email: daniel.shamplin-hall@local.gov.uk

Trade, Inward Investment and International Engagement

Background

1. Increasing exports and attracting greater levels of inward investment have a crucial role to play in driving local economic growth across the country post-Brexit. More broadly, councils have a strong track record of building connections with localities across the world, providing opportunities for knowledge exchange and shared innovation. As work to renew and reshape Britain's relationship with international partners has gained increased prominence, so too has the extent to which national policy and funding arrangements are able to fully support local activities.
2. Councils are uniquely positioned, with knowledge of their local economies as well as powers over infrastructure planning, to attract inward investment and work with local businesses to increase exports to foreign markets.
3. In recognition of this and within the context of Brexit, the Industrial Strategy and the pursuit of greater local devolution the LGA, steered by members of this Board and the People and Places Board, commissioned a review of the sub-national trade and investment policy landscape in late January 2017.
4. This review found that the institutional landscape in place to support trade and inward investment is needlessly complex and crowded. It also outlined the untapped potential for councils to play a strengthened role in helping develop and deliver more coherent and locally attuned support for trade and investment activity.
5. As withdrawal negotiations between the EU27 and the UK continue it is expected that issues relating to future trade deals will assume greater priority. This will place greater emphasis on the relationship the Local Government Association (LGA) has with the Department for International Trade (DIT) in order to press for a role of councils. In recent months there has been a notable and welcome uptick in engagement from DIT with the LGA and both the research commissioned to date and detailed below has played a key role in supporting this.
6. While it is likely to be several months before we have greater certainty over the UK's future trading position, the onus is on local government to continue to make the case for an active role in the development of future trade and investment policy.

7. With this in mind, officers have made progress across three strands of work that advance the Board's interests in this area:
 - 7.1. **Building an updated evidence base of council trade and investment activity**, by undertaking a sector-wide survey to better understand the depth and diversity of trade and international links established by councils and to understand the role that local government can play in building trade and investment links with cities and non-metropolitan areas across the world as the UK prepares to leave the EU.
 - 7.2. **Raising the profile of council trade, inward investment and international engagement activities**, principally through the LGA's engagement with the Department for International Trade and wider elements of the LGA's international work, including a recent meeting between the LGA and our French local government counterparts the AFCCRE.
 - 7.3. **Supporting councils to deliver trade and investment activity**, initially through the commissioning of a toolkit to support councils seeking to attract foreign capital investment in their area.
8. This paper updates members on progress within each of these strands of work and proposes next steps to take forward the LGA's work on trade, inward investment and international engagement.

Building an updated evidence base of council trade and investment activity

9. As previously agreed by the Board, officers have undertaken a survey to better understand the depth and diversity of trade and other international links established between councils and global partners, with a view to strengthening the role of local government in future trade and investment activity.
10. This survey sought to capture views from the sector on the following areas:
 - 10.1. The current local institutional arrangements in place to support trade and investment activity and the international relationships that have been established by areas;
 - 10.2. The effectiveness of external sub-national and national mechanisms and the ability of the local government sector to influence these; and
 - 10.3. The place and sectoral priorities for the national and sub-national trade and investment landscape following Britain's departure from the EU.
11. The survey deadline has been extended until 16 November and a full analysis of results won't be available until after the Board meeting. A note capturing initial findings from the survey is available as **Appendix A**, broad headlines include:

- 11.1. Many respondents demonstrated the extensive activity carried out by their local or combined authority to support trade and investment in their area and provided evidence to support this;
- 11.2. This activity has led to the establishment of a diverse range of international links across the world and particularly with China;
- 11.3. Views on the effectiveness of sub-national and national mechanisms at supporting trade and investment activity were mixed, with a further interrogation of responses required to establish whether there are specific types of council or areas where these mechanisms are less effective;
- 11.4. A majority of respondents indicated that they were aware of local evidence to suggest that trade and investment activity in their area was likely to alter as a result of the UK's departure from the EU; and
- 11.5. Respondents provided a range of asks of Government to strengthen the role of councils and local partners in this area, including the need for:
 - 11.5.1. adequate and sustained resourcing for this activity, particularly due to the dependence of current activity on EU funding streams;
 - 11.5.2. devolution of funding and functions relating to trade and investment; and
 - 11.5.3. clarity on institutional roles and responsibilities relating to trade and investment.

12. Members are asked to note the update on work to build an evidence base of council trade and inward investment activity and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 24.

Raising the profile of council trade, inward investment and international engagement activities

13. The LGA has taken steps to build a relationship with the DIT and ensure that the role of councils in driving trade and investment is a key consideration as the UK's future trading relationship with the world is developed following Brexit. This work has commenced with initial engagement at political and official levels between the LGA and DIT.

Most recently, the Chairman of the LGA's Brexit Taskforce, Cllr Kevin Bentley gave evidence to the International Trade Select Committee on the role of local government in post-Brexit trade on 14 November. At the time of drafting this report it is anticipated that the session will focus on the role of local government in facilitating international trade and the priorities for local government following the UK's departure from the EU.

14. In addition to engagement with DIT, the LGA is also seeking to use elements of its international work to promote the role of local government in supporting trade and

investment. Recently, the LGA held a meeting with the French LGA (AFCCRE) where local and regional politicians from both countries came together for a roundtable discussion.

15. This roundtable provided an opportunity for members to discuss a range of topics of shared interest with their counterparts, including the national-local relationship, financial and demographic pressures, reorganisation and relationships between rural and urban authorities. Members also had an initial conversation regarding a potential bilateral summit of local leaders organised by the UK and French national governments, including consideration as to how to develop a new type of economic partnership between localities over and above traditional twinning relationships.

16. Members are asked to note the update on work to raise the profile of council trade and investment activity and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 24.

Supporting councils to deliver trade and investment activity

17. Following the research that this Board and the People and Places Board have undertaken in this area, officers have had several discussions with officials at the Department of International Trade to understand how councils can be supported to attract inward investment.

18. The Department's Capital Investment Team have outlined a mixed level of success across the country in attracting Foreign Capital Investment (FCI) into infrastructure projects; while some areas are breaking new ground and successfully developing 'pitch books' to attract international capital investment, others require a greater level of support.

19. Recognising the work that is already taking place, and the support that some areas may need in this area, officers have begun the process of commissioning a piece of improvement work to outline the role councils can play in facilitating and attracting FCI. It will capture sectoral best practice and develop a set of resources to support councils and their private sector partners to maximise investment opportunities and consider how to develop a longer-term pipeline of projects to meet international investor need.

20. The supplier will work with a selection of councils, combined authorities, Government Departments and other stakeholders to produce a set of practical resources. It is expected that this product will include:

20.1. A detailed but accessible explanation of FCI and its flows across the world;

20.2. A set of case studies outlining examples of councils working successfully to attract FCI into their area;

- 20.3. An overview of the existing support available to councils from the regional and national teams within the Department of International Trade's Capital Investment Team and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy;
 - 20.4. An outline of the key areas in which international investors need support at a local level;
 - 20.5. An exploration of how councils in more sparsely populated areas could potentially "bundle" opportunities to meet the requirements of investors and the needs of their communities; and
 - 20.6. A set of policy recommendations for the Local Government Association and the Government on how to improve support local areas to attract capital investment going forward.
21. The project will be completed by March 2019. The supplier will be asked to present to both the City Regions and People and Places Board as part of its stakeholder engagement process.
- 22. Members are asked to note the update on support to councils to deliver trade and investment activity and comment on the next steps proposed in paragraph 24.**

Next steps

23. With consideration to the LGA's work on trade and investment to date, Members of the City Regions Board are asked to consider and agree on the next steps for the LGA's work on trade and investment. Proposed next steps include work to:
- 23.1. Develop a detailed set of policy proposals for consideration by the Board to guide the LGA's future work on trade and investment, using evidence provided by councils and feedback from relevant Boards;
 - 23.2. Establish a virtual sounding board of trade and investment lead officers from local and combined authorities to inform the LGA's response to emerging announcements from DIT and the Government on the post-Brexit trade and investment landscape; and
 - 23.3. Invite a representative from DIT to present at a future meeting of the Board on the potential role of councils and local partners in the post-Brexit trade and investment landscape.
 - 23.4. Continue to explore opportunities for bilateral co-operation with localities, including a potential summit between the UK and France in the New Year.



24. Board Members are invited to **comment on the proposed next steps** and **consider any further activity** specific to urban authorities that the LGA might undertake relating to trade and investment.



Appendix A

LGA trade and investment survey – summary of emerging findings November 2018

Background

1. This paper summarises responses to an LGA survey regarding local international trade and investment activity. The survey was circulated to council officers leading on economic development and was carried out between October and November 2018
2. The survey deadline has been extended to 16 November 2018 and, at the time of writing, 35 responses had been received.
3. It is proposed that, once the final deadline has passed, findings will be collated into a detailed final report. The findings will then be used on a non-attributable basis to inform the LGA's response to developments with national trade and investment policy as the UK prepares to leave the EU.
4. Outlined below are the headline findings emerging from the survey responses received to date.

Local institutional arrangements

5. In most areas, institutional leadership for promoting trade and investment activity sat with the Local Enterprise Partnership/Growth Hub (42 per cent), though in a number of areas this activity is led jointly by the LEP and the local authority.
6. The majority of local authorities (70 per cent) have a specific resource dedicated to trade and investment activity. This resource takes a number of forms, including: a dedicated council trade and internal investment team, a jointly-funded team with the Local Enterprise Partnership and council-led activity being built into existing economic development or business support functions
7. A number of respondents noted that all or part of the trade and investment activity delivered by their local or combined authority is currently financed by EU funds, specifically the European Regional Development Fund.

International relationships

8. The majority of local authorities (70 per cent) identified that there were specific countries with which local institutions have developed significant international links.
9. When asked for further detail on established links, respondents provided examples of links established with a range of localities across Europe, North America and Asia. The most frequently referenced location was China (37 per cent).
10. A number of respondents also referenced the international links established through and in partnership with the higher education institutions in their area.

Local activity

11. Respondents were asked to outline the key activities delivered by local and combined authorities to translate international links into increased trade and investment activity. The most commonly highlighted examples included:
 - 11.1. Delivery of trade missions and presence at international conferences, e.g. MIPIM
 - 11.2. Activity to support local businesses to export, including grant-funding for local businesses and business training
 - 11.3. Establishment of strategic partnerships between local institutions and international partners to promote inward investment and drive exports. Many are formalised through Memorandums of Understanding and include representation from both the public and private sectors.
 - 11.4. Support to existing multinational companies already based in areas and prospective international investors, including hosting of delegations and account management
 - 11.5. Development of sector-specific propositions tied to local strengths and delivery of associated activity, e.g. marketing, account management and lobbying
 - 11.6. Development and promotion of specific enterprise areas with associated incentives to drive inward investment to these areas.
12. 38 per cent of respondents indicated that their authority had succeeded in securing foreign direct investment in their area over the past 18 months, while 31 per cent indicated that their authority had succeeded in increasing exports over the past 18 months. A significant proportion (31 per cent and 44 per cent) indicated that they did not know.

13. A number of areas noted that their successes had been reported to DIT for inclusion within the national reporting framework.

Sub-national and national mechanisms

14. Responses from local and combined authorities were mixed on the effectiveness of sub-national and national mechanisms at supporting recent trade and investment activity.
15. For example, 54 per cent of respondents felt that their authority has the opportunity to influence the support provided through sub-national and national mechanisms to a moderate or great extent. 39 per cent indicated that they could only influence this support to a small extent or not at all.
16. This is therefore an area that the LGA will seek to analyse further in order to identify whether there are specific types of authority or regions which find it more difficult to influence the national and sub-national policy and support framework.

Looking ahead

17. A majority of authorities indicated that they were aware of local evidence to suggest that either trade (53 per cent) or investment (55 per cent) activity in their area was likely to alter as a result of the UK's departure from the EU.
18. The qualitative responses to the above questions principally referenced local evidence that Brexit is impacting on business decisions to invest, as well as a number of sector-specific points. The LGA will review the detailed evidence referenced in responses and incorporate an analysis of this evidence into the final write-up of the survey.
19. Respondents were asked to briefly describe up to three actions that the Government could most usefully take to strengthen the role of councils and local partners in promoting trade and investment following the UK's departure from the EU. A wide range of proposals were put forward that will be analysed in detail over the coming weeks – for now, captured below are the most commonly suggested actions:
 20. **Adequate and sustainable resourcing of local activity** – the Government should take steps to ensure that local trade and investment activity is put on a secure financial footing after Brexit, particularly as numerous local trade and investment support services are currently financed by EU funding streams. Several respondents noted that this approach to resourcing needs to extend to strengthening local DIT teams as well as local institutions. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was referenced by a number of respondents as an opportunity to address this resourcing issue.

21. **Devolution of powers relating to trade and investment** – a number of areas (with and without devolution) highlighted a need for further devolution relating to trade and investment to ensure that support services take full account of the particular strengths and challenges of areas.

22. **Providing certainty to local businesses and prospective investors** – tied to the survey question on local evidence of the impacts of Brexit on trade and investment, a number of respondents pointed to the need to provide certainty to businesses on post-Brexit arrangements to support trade and investment.

23. **Providing clarity on institutional leadership of trade and investment activity** respondents referenced the range of organisations and institutions working on trade and investment and the risk that this poses of confusing or undermining approaches to export support or inward investment promotion in the absence of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of different institutions.

24. **Specific policy responses to support trade and investment activity** – individual respondents referenced a wide range of potential policy responses that could be implemented locally and nationally to support trade and investment, and these will be analysed in further detail by the LGA. These included:
 - 24.1. The expansion of Enterprise Zones;
 - 24.2. Ensuring a coherent trade and investment work stream within emerging sectoral strategies relating to the Industrial Strategy;
 - 24.3. Delivery of international work to strengthen bonds between UK local authorities and other towns and cities across the world that supports trade and investment; and
 - 24.4. Strengthening collaboration between DIT and local partners, as with the [High Potential Opportunities](#) scheme.

Note of last City Regions Board meeting

Title: City Regions Board
Date: Friday 5 October 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

1 Welcome and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, including a roundup of the authorities and organisations members and officers were representing.

Apologies were noted.

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Membership and Terms of Reference for 2018/19

Benn Cain, Member Services Officer, introduced item two.

Benn stated that the first part of the paper details the Board's Membership, and that the second part of the paper lays out the terms of reference of the City Regions Board, which includes the political composition.

Benn went on to explain that the third part of the paper makes reference to outside bodies of the City Regions Board. Currently, the City Regions Board doesn't have any outside body appointments, however, if any are made throughout the 2018/19 political year, this report will need to be updated. This appointment will also need to be agreed by lead members of the board and the group political offices. Members will then have to agree nominations to outside bodies at the beginning of next year's cycle (2019/20).

Action

- Members noted the report and agreed to the terms of reference.

3 Draft Board Work Programme 2018/19

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced item three.

Philip stated that the report sets out a draft work programme for the 2018/19 political cycle, from September 2018 to July 2019. Philip gave an overview of the board's work-streams, and asked members to consider the draft programme. These work-streams include: the Government's Industrial Strategy; Local Industrial Strategies; the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) review; Brexit's impact on local government; devolution for local areas; urban leadership; and, the skills agenda.

The Chair welcomed members to comment:

- Members of the board requested that Wales is included and referenced in all work, and made particular reference to paragraph 20.3 in this report.
- The Chair requested officers to further investigate public service reform, ensuring that work is being done through one of the LGA's governance structures. This led to a discussion amongst members around residents currently out of work – particularly in the 50-64 year old category. Members agreed that a joined-up approach in areas such as skills, health, adult social care and education needed to be used to tackle this issue.
- Members discussed the devolution agenda, and requested that the LGA start giving the Government deadlines to roll-out devolution packages. Members agreed that the stall in devolution is costing local economies significantly.

Action and Decision

- Members noted the report, and agreed that it be confirmed as the City Regions Board's work programme for 2018/19.
- Officers to explore further activity related to public service reform as part of the LGA's wider work programme.

4 Urban Leadership

Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, introduced item four.

Philip stated that the report advances the proposal set out in the City Region Board's Draft Work Programme 2018/19 to assemble a coalition of interested parties and representative bodies and make the distinct case for urban authorities on the national stage. Philip then went on to outline the four options laid out in the paper.

The Chair stated that this work has arisen out of numerous conversations with a number of organisations representing urban voices. To ensure that calls and lobbying do not become fragmented, this work will ensure representative organisations are collectively making a coherent case for urban areas.

Members then commented on the following:

- Members discussed the four different options. It was agreed that the first two (outlined in paragraph 10.1 and 10.2) largely duplicate previous work that might be easily be recirculated.
- Members discussed the merits of making arguments that benefit both local and central government, in order to work cohesively.

- Members also requested that any devolution work taken forward also include Wales. The Chair stated that the lack of devolution is a nationwide problem, due to the UK having a very centralised government.
- Members agreed that coordinating calls, lobbying and messages is vital.
- Members discussed the upcoming Spending Review, and discussions turned to timescales of this work. Officers confirmed that work on this work will be undertaken straight away and that other organisations are in agreement with this.

Action

- Members agreed to look at option 10.4, and then 10.3 in the first instance.

5 Industrial Strategy Update

Daniel Gardiner, Adviser, introduce item five.

Daniel stated that the paper provides an update on recent developments with the Government's Industrial Strategy and outlines proposed next steps relating to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy:

- the Government's Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships;
- the development of Local Industrial Strategies; and
- the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Given the pace of developments across these three areas of policy, officers will provide a verbal update on any further developments at the Board. Officers concluded that LEP geography is playing a big part of the review.

Following on from this, members discussed the following:

- The differences in merging and overlapping LEPs, including the advantages and disadvantages of both.
- Members stated that the government has ignored some parts of the country that have huge economic value and potential, using boundaries formulated in medieval times.
- Members discussed how devolved areas should be able to formulate their own LEP boundaries.
- It was discussed how LEPs need more flexibility, particularly around membership. Members agreed LEPs need further transparency and local accountability.
- Further discussions were held over LEPs membership.
- Members agreed that the board needs to take an active, watching brief on this work, as there will be a danger that if local government doesn't push for good place-based outcomes LEPs will fail to meet local economic needs.
- Daniel Gardiner, Adviser, then updated members regarding Local Industrial Strategies (LIS). Daniel stated that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have confirmed that every area in England will get a LIS by early 2020 (further details can be found in paragraph 19-20 in the report). Daniel also advised members that LIS policy has now been published, including for the West Midlands LIS.

Daniel drew attention to paragraphs 20-21 in the report, and asked members if they

agreed with these proposals.

Members then went on to discuss the following:

- The Chair stated that this was a significant win for the LGA.
- Members remarked on the potentially tight timeframe to submit LIS proposals.
- Members discussed the capacity of government in relation to the roll-out of LIS.

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, then updated members on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), drawing member's attention to paragraphs 23 – 31 set out in the report. Members raised a number of issues, including:

- concerns over the democratic accountability of LEPs, and their capacity to deliver;
- that while European funding and its successor UKSPF is absolutely critical, it needs to be seen as part of a wider economic development landscape post 2020 which will see the end of the Transforming Cities and Local Growth Funds; and
- that allocations and distributions will be a key issue going forward, particularly the need to address pockets of deprivation within larger administrative geographies.

The Chair thanked members for their input and the officers for their updates.

Action and Decisions

- Officers to progress policy work in order to address issues raised by Members.

6 Skills Taskforce - Verbal Update

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced item six.

- Jasbir updated members on the Work Local Campaign, and plans to get the newly established Skills Taskforce up and running which will be co-chaired by Cllrs Sir Richard Leese and Mark Hawthorne. A planning meeting on 18 October will agree the Taskforce's overall work plan.

Action

- Members noted the update.

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

Notes of the previous City Regions Board on 18 June 2018 were agreed by members.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
	Cllr Clarence Barrett	Havering London Borough Council

Members	<p>Cllr Robert Alden Cllr Tim Warren Cllr Sean Anstee Cllr John Beesley Cllr Martin Gannon Mayor Marvin Rees Cllr Timothy Swift MBE Cllr Debbie Wilcox Cllr Sue Jeffrey Cllr Roger Lawrence</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council Bath & North East Somerset Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Bournemouth Borough Council Gateshead Council Bristol City Council Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council Newport City Council Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council City of Wolverhampton Council</p>
Apologies	<p>Mayor Joe Anderson OBE Cllr Jon Collins Cllr Peter John OBE Cllr Julie Dore Cllr Linda Thomas Cllr Paul Crossley</p>	<p>Liverpool City Council Nottingham City Council Southwark Council Sheffield City Council Bolton Council Bath & North East Somerset Council</p>
LGA Officers		
Head of Policy	Ian Hughes	Local Government Association
Principal Policy Officer	Rebecca Cox	Local Government Association
Principal Policy Officer	Alex Thomson	Local Government Association
Senior Adviser	Philip Clifford	Local Government Association
Senior Adviser	Jasbir Jhas	Local Government Association
Adviser	Daniel Gardiner	Local Government Association
Member Services Officer	Benn Cain	Local Government Association

