

## Note of last City Regions Board meeting

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**Title:** City Regions Board  
**Date:** Monday 17 June 2019  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

The Chair noted apologies received, and substitutes in attendance.

No declarations of interest were made.

#### 2 Urban Cost Pressures Research Update

Steve Hughes and Matt Oakley gave a presentation on Urban Cost Pressures. The research from WPI Economics has the following key findings

1. That urban areas face more acute cost pressures in some areas is provable in terms of magnitude.
2. Attributing a value to these cost pressures is much more difficult, and more work needs to be done to understand it.
3. Need to be very wary about creating winners and losers when making an argument, can't escape the fact that urban areas are different
4. To argue that these cost pressures should be dealt with via fiscal devolution requires a number of questions to be answered:
  - Why shouldn't urban cost pressure be addressed through future funding formulas?
  - How do you insulate any devolved fiscal instrument from being consumed by funding formulas?
  - How will cost pressures evolve over time?

Members made the following points:

- The population of urban areas that visit during the day have different needs from visitors to rural areas
- Prevention funding is key to dealing with issues, currently local authorities are always planning for key issues to get worse.
- Students do provide certain benefits to the local economy and support smaller urban towns.
- Short term visitors can have a cost on infrastructure.
- Cost pressures will increase seasonally with tourists.

Steve Hughes and Matt Oakley responded:

- Findings on cost pressures can be county wide, which can be unhelpful for working

out the disruption of resources locally.

- A potential tourist levy can be considered, but there is no direct cost to what tourists actually cost a local area.

### **Decision**

Members noted the reported and the Appendix.

## **3 Employment and skills update**

Jasbir Jhas and Bushra Jamil gave members an update on recent activity including refreshing the LGA's Work Local paper. Members were asked for a steer on the next steps for this work area including youth participation, with an engagement strategy coming to the next board based on member comments.

Members made the following comments:

- A range of stakeholders are interested in seeing this move forward, local government can lead the way.
- The 2022 timeline feels a long time away, the LEPs have funding to maybe start a pilot

Jasbir Jhas and Bushra Jamil responded:

- There is potential for local areas to move this forward to start running local projects

### **Decision**

Members noted the report.

### **Action**

An engagement strategy will come to the next board.

## **4 Industrial Strategy Update**

Dan Gardiner provided an overview of the national developments and LGA activity relating to the key place-based elements of the Industrial Strategy over the current board cycle.

Members made the following comments:

- The government is not taking a local response to this and letting local authorities come up with their own responses without guidance.
- It would make sense to include the shared prosperity fund as the UK is currently leaving in the EU October in LGA Work.
- Local government should be challenging the local industrial strategies and get used to doing this regularly.

### **Decision**

Members noted the national developments and LGA activity delivered current board cycle.

## **5 Trade and Inward Investment**

Dan Gardiner detailed the progress made with the LGA's work on trade and investment over the current board cycle which has been overseen by the City Regions Board and the

People and Places Board.

Members made the following comments

- Very useful guide for local authorities in Wales. Authorities must consider investment possibilities due to severe pressure on local authorities.
- Working with DIT and Core Cities can help the role of local authorities on the international stage.

### **Decision**

Members noted the report.

## **6 End of Year report**

Thomas French asked members to note the report that details the key achievements in relation to the priorities for the City Regions Board in 2018/19.

### **Decision**

Members noted the report.

## **7 Draft Forward Plan 2019/20**

Philip Clifford introduced the paper, that provides an outline of initial thinking on next year's work programme priorities. Members were asked to feed in any comments for the forward plan

Members made the following comments:

- How we can facilitate the industrial strategy in the interest of local government.
- The Tourism Levy needs more context for local UK tax rather than the context of European hospitality.
- Climate emergency getting to such a point with residents that the issue needs to go up the agenda as a board.
- Devolution needs a range of options, to provide examples to local authorities.
- Poverty as an issue should be taken further into the priority of the board.
- Developing brownfield land needs to be considered .
- Licencing around Air BnB and new holiday accommodation needs to be reviewed.
- Regulation of housing and fire safety.
- Understanding the impact of the Private sector and 5p carrier bags.
- The Climate and its impact should be considered across all policy areas the board considers.

### **Decision**

Members noted the report after discussion.

## **8 Note of the Previous Meeting**

Members noted the minutes from the previous meeting Tuesday 2 April 2019.

## **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 Jason Zadrozny	Ashfield District Council
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Peter John OBE	Southwark Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	City of Wolverhampton Council
	Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Apologies	Cllr Sean Anstee CBE	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
	Mayor Joe Anderson OBE	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Sue Jeffrey	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
	Cllr Julie Dore	Sheffield City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council