

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title: People & Places Board
Date: Wednesday 10 June 2020 & Wednesday 24 June 2020
Venue: Online Meeting, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Cllr Rachel Bailey declared an interest in item 4.

2 Economic Growth

Mark Bretton, Chair of the National LEP Network gave a presentation on the Role of LEPs in recovering from the profound economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Members made the following comments

- There are good relationships between LEPs and local government and this should be extended to other local partners. If some areas do not have a good working relationship, the period of economic recovery is the time to build it.
- LEPs need to consider rural transport for those who use it for work. Young People in rural areas will see a more stressed economic recovery from after COVID-19 and will need to see transport investment early on in the recovery.
- There is a problem with working from home from a statistical point of view, how do you measure local GVA if most people are working for employers based elsewhere?

Mark Bretton responded

- LEP boards have seen positive feedback around developing relationships with local government, but more can be done to include stakeholders.
- Transport is a consideration that is being looked at but needs to be widened to look at post 16 education transport needs.
- Re-skilling and re-training will be very important in the post covid-19 recovery.

Decision

Members noted presentation

3 Subnational Bodies

Ben Lucas from Metro Dynamics gave a presentation to members on research commissioned by the LGA into subnational bodies. Metro Dynamics highlighted the

lessons learned from the research and went on to recommend areas for further development that might be considered as part of the local recovery and devolution white paper.

Members made the following comments

- There are many different institutions branded as subnational bodies and it would be good to get clarity on what these bodies cover, as it often just feels like transport.
- There are concerns that subnational bodies do not cover rural issues and many rural authorities can be ignored when subnational bodies are formed.
- Scrutiny by and engagement with elected members can be patchy.
- It feels like elected urban mayors have a bigger say in these bodies than non-metropolitan local authorities.

Metro Dynamics responded

- The term subnational bodies is not widely used or understood. Part of the research has been to provide a definition that can be helpful. For example, the northern powerhouse is two subnational bodies covered by the brand of northern powerhouse.
- This research will include views from towns, rural areas and nonmetropolitan local authorities.
- Representative governance structures will be key in setting up any body and should mirror how local authorities consider scrutiny.

Decision

Members noted presentation.

4 County/District Collaboration

Daniel Shamplin-Hall introduced the item on district and county council collaboration and outlined the research that has been undertaken thus far.

Members made the following comments

- The report was welcomed as a helpful resource for councils looking to improve relationships within the two-tier system.
- Members agreed that positive working relationships between different officers and members from neighbouring councils is key to collaboration.
- Overall, residents do not raise concerns about governance structures; they talk about how well their local services are being run.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to publish the report.

5 Past the Peak

Philip Clifford introduced the report and asked members to send any comments they have to Officers after the meeting.

Decision

Members noted the report.

6 Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Members agreed the notes from the last board meeting.

7 Employment and skills recovery

Jasbir Jhas updated members on the policy work around employment and skills, including our asks around jobs and skills in light of the Covid-19 crisis. Bushra Jamil gave an update on youth participation, highlighting that unemployment, as a result of Covid-19 crisis, will disproportionately affect young people, and those facing disadvantage. There is an urgent need for relevant employment measures / support to be in place for these groups.

Members made the following comments

- Current Apprenticeship Levy restrictions need to be loosened to maximise the impact it has on local areas, especially if we are to be able to support local businesses through the crisis.
- Post Covid-19 recovery, young people leaving education may not be taking up university places and will need greater support, including additional careers advice, in their post education options. Child carers should be within scope of The Apprenticeship levy to help the children's social care sector. Rural areas are particularly affected by this, as is home schooling. Transport to access opportunities is an issue for many in rural areas.
- Positive that we are focusing on adult reskilling, but this need expanding.

Officers responded

- Member comments will be factored into future work.

Decision

Members noted the report and agreed the steer for work going forward

8 People and Places Board Update Paper

Sonika Sidhu presented the board update papers, highlighting policy work not covered in other reports.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Members asked for a briefing from the LGA Executive Advisory Board on LGA engagement with the government and the recovery board.

Members asked for an update on the broadband issues to come to a future board

9 End of year report

Thomas French introduced the report, that provides an overview of the issues and work the board has overseen during the last year. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the People and Places Board in 2019/20 and looks forward to next year's priorities.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Vice-Chair	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Deputy-chair	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Bob Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
Members	Cllr Rachel Bailey	Cheshire East Council
	Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcester City Council
	Cllr Hilary Carrick	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Diane Marsh	Gravesham Borough Council
	Cllr Eddie Reeves	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Bradley Thomas	Wychavon District Council
	Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Kyle Robinson	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
	Cllr Doina Cornell	Stroud District Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Helen Grant	Richmondshire District Council