

## Note of last City Regions Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	City Regions Board
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 16 June 2021
<b>Venue:</b>	Online via Microsoft Teams

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes and Declarations of Interest</b>  The Chair welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.  Apologies had been received from Cllrs Anthony Hunt, Elise Wilson, Joanne Laban and Anita Lower.  Cllrs Roger Harmer, Julia Lepoidevin, Barry Anderson and Samantha Dixon attended the meeting as substitutes.  No declarations of interest had been received.  It was noted that Cllr Gareth Roberts would act as Lead Member in Cllr Anita Lower's place until end of Board cycle.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Levelling up</b>  The Chair invited Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser, to introduce the report.  Rebecca introduced the report which set out the Government's announcement of a Levelling Up White Paper in place of the previous Devolution (and Local Recovery) White Paper which had implications for LGA's policy and lobbying activity.  The Chair suggested inviting Neil O'Brien MP or Tom Walker, former lead MHCLG civil servant, to a future meeting of the Board.  Board Members made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's important to focus on both councils' successes and desired outcomes.</li><li>• From a London perspective, we must continue to make the case to government that they can't level up some places whilst levelling down others, particularly not a Capital city.</li></ul>	

- One of the big issues that regions will face post-Covid is tackling health inequalities. We need to highlight the good work that we're doing to improve job outcomes.
- MP's need to better understand the involvement and role of local authorities.
- It's important that government's conclusions are evidence-based with regards to the levelling-up fund, we must continue to push government for greater transparency.

The Chair referred to the movement to a centralised approach and more use of competitive processes. He emphasised the significant need to demonstrate delivery and robustness and ensure that councillors continued to support their communities and residents in the best way possible.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**Action:**

- Officers to liaise with Neil O'Brien/Tom Walker's office with regards to inviting them to attend a future meeting of the Board.

### **3 Moving our employment and skills work forward**

The Chair invited Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report.

Jas introduced the report which aimed to support a Board discussion to take stock of the Board's employment and skills activity over the past year, agree to re-position messaging around new Government policy, and plan activity over the coming year. The paper was discussed at the People & Places Board on 8 June.

Board Members made the following comments:

- Is there more information available with regards to the work that local authorities are undertaking with young people within their local areas? In Bradford, we are co-ordinating KickStart. Collaborative working and gathering metrics together would make us more powerful when putting a case to government.
- I would like more information in relation to green jobs and what it means to work in a green job.

The Chair referred to the work of the Board, particularly in giving advice to Members on how they can better deliver on the employment and skills agenda, linking the levelling-up agenda to public service reform and government's white paper on health and tackling health inequalities.

Jas responded to comments made by Board Members:

- In relation to Adult Community Learning (ACL), the upcoming funding consultation could mean that we have a lot to lose in relation to Adult Skills and MCAs.
- With regards to inequalities, we will take a look at past work and ways of working moving forward.
- In terms of reinvigorating the metrics, we've got lots of great examples of gateway councils and councils working with/supporting young people, we can undertake some analysis work in relation to this. Now is a good time to undertake the analysis work as an Apprenticeship survey will be submitted to councils soon so we can include the positive work taking place within the survey text.
- In relation to the meaning of green jobs, this is an issue coming out within government's Further Education white paper and conversations have been taking place within the House of Lords regarding the challenges that construction jobs present. We are in discussion with an organisation regarding what green jobs actually mean and re-training people that are transitioning from one career to another, there is a project we'll be involved in with the Learning & Work Institute who are providing some funding for this project, so hopefully this will mean that we have some live activity that could sit alongside our policy work.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**Action:**

- Officers to undertake analysis work in relation to examples of gateway councils and councils working with young people.

#### **4 Publications update**

The Chair invited Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report.

Philip introduced the report which set out a brief overview of four reports due for publication in the coming weeks.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

#### **5 Annual report**

The Chair invited Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser, to introduce the report.

Rebecca introduced the report which summarised the Board's activity over the past year. It set out key achievements in relation to the priorities for

the City Regions Board in 2020/21 and looked forward to next year's priorities.

- A Board Member suggested that more extensive work be undertaken in relation to media and communications in coming months/years.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**6 A vision for urban growth and recovery**

The Chair invited Eleanor Law, Policy Advisor, to introduce the report.

Eleanor introduced the report which sought clearance on the text of the 'A Vision for Urban Growth and Recovery' report and approval for officers to prepare the report for publication and launch.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**7 LEP review and letter**

The Chair invited Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report.

Philip introduced the report which referred to government's announced intention to review Local Enterprise Partnerships.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**8 UK Community Renewal Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

The Chair invited Paul Green, Policy Advisor, to introduce the report.

Paul introduced the report which provided an update on the work undertaken by the LGA regarding the UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**9 Youth Participation update**

The Chair invited Bushra Jamil, Adviser, to introduce the report.

Bushra introduced the report and said that a project had been

commissioned to develop a better understanding of the barriers and challenges that existed for Councils in fulfilling their statutory duties for young people.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**10 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

**11 Any other business**

The Chair invited Emma West, Member Services Officer, to provide a brief update to Board Members in relation to planning for a smooth transition to hybrid working and use of 18 Smith Square post-Covid. Emma provided an update and noted Board Members' comments.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the update.

**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 Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Toby Savage	West of England Combined Authority
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Shaun Davies	Telford and Wrekin Council
	Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Danny Thorpe	Royal Borough of Greenwich
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
	Cllr James Swindlehurst	Slough Borough Council
	Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Elise Wilson	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
In Attendance	Cllr Roger Harmer	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council