



**Local  
Government  
Association**

# **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board**

Agenda

Tuesday, 27 October 2020  
12.00 pm

Via Zoom

To: Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board  
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

## **Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board**

27 October 2020

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There will be a meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board at **12.00 pm on Tuesday, 27 October 2020** Via Zoom.

### **Political Group meetings:**

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

### **Apologies:**

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

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk">Martha.Lauchlan@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.group@lqa@local.gov.uk">independent.group@lqa@local.gov.uk</a>

### **LGA Contact:**

Amy Haldane  
020 7664 3232 / [alexander.saul@local.gov.uk](mailto:alexander.saul@local.gov.uk)

### **Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage 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.

## Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Membership 2020/2021

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (7)</b>	
Cllr David Renard (Chairman)	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Patrick Nicholson	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Richard Burton	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Catherine Rankin	Kent County Council
Cllr Andrew Mackiewicz	Solihull MBC
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Darren Rodwell (Vice-Chair)	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Asher Craig	Bristol City Council
Mayor Philip Glanville	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
Cllr Rachel Blake	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Michael Mordey	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Christopher Hammond	Southampton City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Peter Mason	Ealing Council
Cllr Claire Holland	Lambeth London Borough
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Adele Morris (Deputy Chair)	Southwark Council
Cllr Peter Thornton	Cumbria County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Linda Gillham (Deputy Chair)	Runnymede Borough Council
Cllr David Beaman	Waverley Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Loic Rich	Cornwall Council
Cllr Diana Moore	Exeter City Council
Cllr Tim Hodgson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jamie Osborn	Norwich City

## Agenda

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### Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Tuesday 27 October 2020

12.00 pm

Via Zoom

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Item	Page	Time
<b>1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>		
<b>2. Board Membership, Terms of Reference and Outside Bodies 2020-21</b>	1 - 10	
<b>3. Planning Reforms</b>	11 - 14	
Minister for Housing, Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP to attend		
<b>4. The future of bus provision in England outside of London</b>	15 - 20	
Antonia Gracie and David Molony, National Audit Office and Neill Birch, Systra, to attend.		
<b>5. Climate Change and Environment Update</b>	21 - 28	
<b>6. Economic Recovery</b>	29 - 38	
<b>7. Other Board Updates</b>	39 - 44	
<b>8. Minutes of the previous meeting</b>		
To follow.		

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 9 December 2020, 12.00 pm, Via Zoom



## Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board 2020/21: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

### Purpose of report

For information and approval.

### Summary

This report sets out how the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to note the Board's membership and agree their Terms of Reference and nominations to Outside Bodies for the 2020/21 year.

### Recommendations

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board:

- Agree its Terms of Reference ([Appendix A](#));
- Note its membership for 2020/21 ([Appendix B](#));
- Note the Board meeting dates for 2020/21 ([Appendix C](#)); and
- Agree the Board's nominations to outside bodies ([Appendix D](#)).
- Agree the appointment of a Board Equalities Advocate for 2020/21

### Action

As directed by Members.

**Contact officer:** Amy Haldane

**Position:** Assistant Member Services Manager

**Phone no:** 07867514938

**E-mail:** [amy.haldane@local.gov.uk](mailto:amy.haldane@local.gov.uk)



## **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board 2020/21: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **Background**

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

### **2020/21 Terms of reference and membership**

3. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board's Terms of Reference and Membership are set out at [Appendix A](#) and [B](#) for agreement and noting respectively.
4. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Boards meeting dates for 2020/21 are also found at [Appendix C](#) for noting.

### **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Lead Members**

5. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
6. The Lead Members for 2020/21 are:
  - 6.1 Cllr David Renard, Chairman (Conservative)
  - 6.2 Cllr Darren Rodwell, Vice-Chair (Labour)
  - 6.3 Cllr Adele Morris, Deputy Chair (Liberal Democrat)
  - 6.4 Cllr Linda Gillham, Deputy Chair (Independent)

### **Equalities Advocate**

7. The Executive Advisory Board have asked each Board to identify a member to be an Equalities Advocate to raise the profile of any equalities issues within that Board's workstream. The advocates will work together to coordinate the messaging across the organisation and to report back to the Executive Advisory Board. Due to this cross-board work the decision has been made that these appointments should be politically-balanced



and therefore LGA Group Offices will be making appointments for each board over the next few weeks.

### **The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport team**

8. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with Policy colleagues and designated Member Services Officer, being those which you are likely to have regular contact with.
9. The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities relating to Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport, and also a number of other discrete issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA press office and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport issues in the media, directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.
10. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance if each engagement.
11. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

### **Communications and Events**

12. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
13. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

### **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board outside body appointments**

14. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all Boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA. A database for centrally recording all the information relating to appointments is held by the Member Services team.
15. A list of the organisations to which the Board will appoint member representatives for the 2020/21 meeting cycle is attached at **Appendix D**. Members are asked to agree to their respective political groups nominating representatives. Nominations are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA.
16. Political groups are asked to **appoint** councillors to current vacancies. These include;
  - 16.1 Canal & River Trust Council; and



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16.2 HS2 Environmental Forum.



## **Appendix A: Terms of Reference: Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board**

1. The purpose of the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board is to provide strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to these four broad policy areas, in line with the LGA priorities and any specific regulatory and LGA European lobbying priorities as they relate to this activity.
2. Boards should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement) operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The responsibilities of the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board include:

3. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
4. Developing a work programme to deliver the business plan priorities relevant to their brief, covering lobbying, campaigns, research, improvement support and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
5. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
6. Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA including making public statements on its areas of responsibility.
7. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
8. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
9. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.

The Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board may:

1. Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
2. Appoint member champions from the Board to lead on key issues.

### **Quorum**

One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

### **Political Composition**

Conservative group: 7 members  
Labour group: 7 members



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Independent group: 2 members  
Liberal Democrat group: 2 members

Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

**Frequency per year**

Meetings to be held five times per annum.

**Reporting Accountabilities**

The LGA Executive provides oversight of the Board. The Board may report periodically to the LGA Executive as required, and will submit an annual report to the Executive's July meeting.



**Appendix B: Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Membership 2020/2021**

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (7)</b>	
Cllr David Renard (Chairman)	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Patrick Nicholson	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Nicholas Rushton	Leicestershire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Richard Burton	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr Catherine Rankin	Kent County Council
Cllr Andrew Mackiewicz	Solihull MBC
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Darren Rodwell (Vice-Chair)	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Asher Craig	Bristol City Council
Mayor Philip Glanville	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
Cllr Rachel Blake	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Michael Mordey	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Christopher Hammond	Southampton City Council
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Cllr David Beaman	Waverley Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Loic Rich	Cornwall Council
Cllr Diana Moore	Exeter City Council
Cllr Tim Hodgson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jamie Osborn	Norwich City Council



### **Appendix C: Meeting Dates 2020/21**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>Room</b>
Tuesday	27 October 2020	12.00 – 14.00	Via Zoom
Wednesday	9 December 2020	12.00 – 14.00	Via Zoom
Thursday	18 February 2021	12.00 – 14.00	tbc
Thursday	20 May 2021	12.00 – 14.00	tbc
Thursday	1 July 2021	12.00 – 14.00	tbc

## **Appendix D Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport: Outside Bodies**

<b>Organisation / contact details</b>	<b>Background</b>	<b>Representative for 2020/21</b>	<b>LGA Contact Officer</b>
<b>HS2 Environmental Forum</b>  Contact: Helen Smart Email: <a href="mailto:Helen.Smart@dft.gov.uk">Helen.Smart@dft.gov.uk</a>	Forum for Government departments and statutory bodies to advise on environmental policy for the HS2 project. Meets quarterly.	<b>2 positions</b>	Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser <a href="mailto:Kamal.Panchal@local.gov.uk">Kamal.Panchal@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Canal &amp; River Trust Council</b>  Contact: <a href="mailto:council@canalrivertrust.org.uk">council@canalrivertrust.org.uk</a>	Canals and rivers managed by British Waterways in England and Wales, transferred to a charitable trust - now named Canal & River Trust - in April 2012. Within the governance structure of the Trust, a Council has a remit to safeguard the long-term values and purposes of the Trust. The Council helps to shape policy, raise and debate issues, and provide guidance, perspective and a sounding board for Trustees. The full Council will meet two times a year.	<b>1 representative</b>	



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## The future of bus provision in England outside of London

### Purpose of report

For discussion.

### Summary

The board will hear from the National Audit Office (NAO) who have concluded their Value for Money study into the bus industry outside of London. The NAO introduced the report at a board meeting last year and members asked that they returned with their conclusions. We will also hear the initial conclusions from Systra on the work the LGA commissioned them to undertake on councils' role in the future of public transport. Members will be able to comment on the initial findings in order to influence the final report.

### Recommendations

That the board note the conclusions of the NAO and Systra reports.

Board members to reflect on NAO and emerging Systra research findings

### Actions

Officers to work with Systra to reflect Board's views on the buses research

**Contact officer:** Andrew Jones

**Position:** Policy Adviser

**Phone no:** 0207 7664 3178

**Email:** andrew.jones@local.gov.uk

## The future of bus provision in England outside of London in England outside of London

### Background

1. Public transport has a key role to play in addressing many of the social, economic and environmental policy issues that councils are seeking to address.
2. The rail industry has seen steady increases in passenger growth over the last two decades however rail journeys still only account for 21% of journeys by public transport. Bus is the dominant mode of public transport across England with 58% of journeys.
3. Passenger numbers in the bus industry have been in long term decline for many years with the number of bus journeys in England outside London falling by about [12% since 2008](#). As a result of reducing budgets many councils have also been forced to cut payments that support socially useful services since 2010. Before the onset of the pandemic local and national government support to the bus industry has reduced by an estimated £226m since 2010; this does not take into account the shortfall in funding in concessionary fares, which we estimated to be £700 million in 2019/20.
4. The COVID pandemic has decimated the business model of many operators with even the least affected routes only returning to around half of their passengers over the summer. The bus industry is facing a short-term crisis which has exacerbated its long-term decline.
5. The Government have said they are committed to producing a National Bus Strategy, which we are expecting this Autumn. They have also previously pledged to spend £5 billion on sustainable travel including active travel and buses (£2 billion has already been allocated for active travel). The additional investment on buses is expected to be split between investment in green buses, local infrastructure improvements such as road prioritisation and supporting services.

### NAO bus study

6. The NAO have released their [value for money study](#) of the bus market in England outside of London. Officers from the NAO attended the board last year to brief on the scope of their study and hear initial thoughts from board members for areas their work could pursue. Their final report was published last week and concludes that the government should be more ambitious and strategic when attempting to increase bus patronage.

7. It noted that the Department collects data on buses and can show it has funded valuable improvements, but to date it has not sought to demonstrate how its actions have contributed to supporting optimal value for money across the bus system. If it is to work with and through others at central and local level, make informed choices about funding, and be able to adjust its plans to ensure it meets its objectives, it will need greater clarity on what it wants to achieve and how it will know when it has done so.
8. When they attended the board meeting last year board members asked that the NAO return to brief us on their findings. NAO officers will brief the board on their key findings in order to inform the discussion of future bus policy alongside the research the board has commissioned.
9. Key recommendations from their report include:
  - 9.1. a clear, consistent vision of the future of bus travel, that encourages and supports local authorities to make long-term plans for their own local needs.
  - 9.2. a detailed, transparent delivery plan with clear objectives, responsibilities and accountabilities for the Department and others.
  - 9.3. good quality data and measures of success.
  - 9.4. an active role in supporting local authorities to access evidence and experience to support improvement.
  - 9.5. the amount and form of funding, for both local authorities and operators, that is necessary to achieve the objectives of the bus strategy.

**Systra research**

10. In order to inform the LGA's own policy position we wish to examine what role councils wish to have in addressing this issue. What role do they currently have in arresting the decline of the bus industry and supporting decarbonisation, how does this role fit with their wider role in managing transport networks within their area? Is their ambition in this space constrained by a lack of financial resources and officer capacity or expertise?
11. We commissioned researchers from the transport consultancy Systra to undertake research with both local politicians and officers to understand these issues and present us with some actionable recommendations in order to influence the Government's upcoming bus strategy.
12. They have undertaken detailed interviews with members and officers from six councils chosen to represent a variety of different geographies, authority types and political control. They have also held workshops with specialist interest groups of both members and officers.

13. The consultants (speaker biography at para 20 below) will be able to present their emerging findings to the board meeting in order to facilitate a debate amongst our board members and how the board can use them to inform our policy positions and work on influencing future national policy including the anticipated National Bus Strategy.
14. Following publication of the Systra findings, the LGA will also host a webinar for LGA wider membership.

### **Implications for Wales**

15. Public transport policy is a devolved issue.

### **Financial Implications**

16. None

### **Next steps**

17. Member comments on the draft conclusions will be fed into Systra's final report which the LGA will publish in the coming weeks.
18. The report will be published alongside further work publicising the findings amongst member councils. The work will also form part of our lobbying work on the Government's buses strategy.

### **Speaker biographies**

19. **Antonia Gracie, Audit Manager, NAO.** A qualified Chartered Accountant, with 20+ years' experience leading Value for Money studies for the NAO, covering Transport, Cabinet Office and Treasury, Health and Cross-government topics including performance measurement and accountability. I have also spent time managing the internal quality assurance function for our VFM work, and providing training and support for overseas national audit bodies on "value for money" or "performance" audit.
20. **David Molony, Audit Principal, NAO.** Extensive experience of Value for Money studies for the NAO, on Transport, Defence and cross-government topics, among others. David led the fieldwork and analysis for the NAO's study *Improving local bus services in England*.
21. **Neill Birch is SYSTRA's business director responsible for all their public transport consultancy activity in the UK and Ireland.** He has over 30 years' experience in both consultancy and hands-on operations, and has worked extensively across 15 different countries, predominantly on projects associated with local buses having worked for two of the UK's largest bus operators before joining SYSTRA. He is therefore well-placed both to advise on future policy and strategy for local public transport whilst ensuring that emerging solutions are well-grounded in practical operations. For the LGA research he



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is responsible for providing overall project direction and providing insights for our recommendations.





## Climate Change and Environment Update Report – October 2020

### Purpose of report

For decision.

### Summary

This report provides members with an update on the climate change work that is being carried out. It includes an update on the blueprint coalition, parliamentary activity, research and events and, the climate change improvement and support programme.

### Recommendations

That members consider the future approach to engaging with national Government of the climate change agenda and the alliances we should make in that endeavour.

That members reflect and provide any comments on the issues and work raised in this update.

### Actions

Officers to take forward any member comments for future policy work.

**Contact officer:** Hilary Tanner/Bethany Vella

**Position:** Senior Adviser/Adviser

**Phone no:** 0207 664 3039

**Email:** Hilary.tanner@local.gov.uk

## **Climate Change and Environment Update Report – October 2020**

### **Background**

1. This report provides an update on the key LGA activity undertaken on climate change since the previous EEHT Board. It includes an update on the blueprint coalition, parliamentary activity, research and events and, the climate change improvement and support programme.

### **Engaging Government in the Climate Change Agenda**

2. In the LGA's Comprehensive Spending Review submission we made the case that the Government should work with councils and businesses to establish a national fiscal and policy framework for addressing the climate emergency. We stated that the framework should outline responsibilities for the Government nationally – for example, aligning the regulatory system, including the planning system and national tax incentives – and the local responsibilities, together with a commitment to cooperate with local public sector bodies. There should be a process of engagement between central and local government and industry to enable councils to fulfil their role to translate a national framework into transformative local plans that deliver on this agenda and invest in solutions for a green recovery and future. In addition, we set out positions on: green jobs; retrofitting social housing; and investing in renewables.
3. Other organisations have been making complementary arguments. ADEPT (a network of local authority directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport) and other local government and environmental organisations have put together shared policy asks in '[A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level](#)'. It sets out the national leadership, policies, powers and funding needed to empower local authorities to deliver on climate action and a green recovery at scale.
4. The Blueprint has five immediate priorities for how government can accelerate a green recovery and set the foundations for longer term solutions to the climate crisis. These are outlined below and the group are looking to establish sub-groups in order to take some of the themes in the blueprint forward.
  - 4.1 Invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure
  - 4.2 Support reskilling, retraining and research for a net-zero well-adapted economy
  - 4.3 Upgrade our homes to ensure they are fit for the future
  - 4.4 Make it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely
  - 4.5 Accelerate tree planting, peatland restoration, green spaces and other green infrastructure
5. This raises a question of how we can work together with other organisations to raise and discuss climate change issues with Government. The comprehensive spending review



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could be a significant moment in the recognition and funding of a green recovery and if so it will be important to work with Government and other partners on the detail of policy solutions.

6. The Blueprint is a helpful document containing a range of proposals, some of which have not been discussed at any length by the LGA. We have been engaging with the group in a supportive capacity and there is an option for the LGA to formally sign-up to the five immediate priorities and/or the policy asks that support the five priorities. The benefit of doing this is dependent on it providing greater weight to the LGA's engagement with Government. However, before doing so we would need to consider the policy asks in the Blueprint in some detail and consider the longer term implications of being in a broad coalition, whose interests might not always align with those of councils. Please note that not all signatories have detailed policy positions of every issue.
  
7. Below is table of current signatories:

Organisations	Councils
Ashden	Havant Borough Council
LEDNet	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Grantham Institute	Bassetlaw District Council
ADEPT	London Borough of Islington
Socitm	London Borough of Sutton
Friends of the Earth	Oxfordshire County Council
Greenpeace UK	
Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN)	
Solace	

8. **We would welcome the Board's consideration of the future approach to engaging with national government on the climate change agenda and the alliances we should make in that endeavour.**

#### Parliamentary Activity

9. There are a number of key milestones within the national context that we are aligning our policy activity with:
  
10. **Comprehensive Spending Review:** We submitted our response to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and outlined the vital role councils play in a green economic recovery and meeting climate ambitions. Key proposals in the Environment and Climate Change chapter include our calls for a national framework to address the climate emergency, crucial investment to achieve a net zero carbon economy – including skills – and adapt to the impacts of climate change and, producer responsibilities in waste and

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recycling reforms. Whilst smaller pots of grant funding for green projects have been made available, we have called for sustainable resources and funding flexibilities under local leadership to deliver low carbon solutions.

**11. Environment Bill:** The latest amendment paper for the Environment Bill has been published and there has been an extension to the time that the Bill Committee has to report, by 1 December. We will continue to monitor progress and seek to influence accordingly. We are calling for the following amendments in the Bill to be made:

- 11.1 Councils should be able to increase the application fee for land drainage consent as soon as possible to a level which more accurately reflects the processing costs and for future increases to the national fee to be kept in line with inflation.
- 11.2 The Bill should set out clearly producer responsibilities for paying the full net costs of recycling and disposing of packaging to councils.
- 11.3 Biodiversity Credits from developers should be retained by local authorities so that funding stays in the area where development takes place, and local people can have a say in how this funding can be used to improve the natural environment.
- 11.4 Decisions on tree felling should remain a matter of local determination. The proposed duty to consult is a new burden and must be fully funded. The impact of costs must be considered in a formal consultation with councils.

**12. Carbon Budget:** The Committee on Climate Change is due to publish its recommendations on the level of the Sixth Carbon Budget (the limit on UK emissions for 2033 – 37) and present a pathway to net zero by 2050, in December. An accompanying publication on local delivery for councils and city-regions will also be produced. The Blueprint Coalition has provided input into the local delivery report and we are engaging with the Committee to understand what the key findings and recommendations for councils will be.

**13. Upcoming White Papers:** We are continuing to work with policy colleagues on upcoming white papers that will have implications for councils addressing climate issues, such as the Planning and Devolution White Papers. Progress on the Energy White Paper and the direction of government is unclear. Grant funding for energy efficiencies within buildings have been made available recently but we are looking to the CSR to provide some clarity on the direction government are taking on energy.

#### **Climate Change Survey Headlines**

14. In February 2020, officers issued a climate change survey to help us understand the activities, concerns and barriers for councils in tackling climate change. The survey was due to close at the end of March but remained open until October due to Covid-19. We received 89 responses and below are the headline findings. We are looking to publish the results.



- 14.1 Almost all councils that responded have produced or have plans to produce a climate change strategy. However, very few have fully identified the resources to implement it.
- 14.2 Funding was identified as the largest barrier to tackling climate change. Lack of workforce capacity and legislation are also large barriers.
- 14.3 Legislative changes suggested to help tackle climate change focused mainly on planning, building standards and regulations and the Environment Bill.
- 14.4 Green economic planning, low carbon procurement and changing public behaviour were the most common areas where further skills and expertise development are needed.

## COP26

15. For the first time, the UK will host the 26<sup>th</sup> Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021, in partnership with Italy. This is the rescheduled date following Covid-19. The COP26 Summit will bring together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change.
16. In the lead up to COP26, Government identified five areas of focus towards a climate-resilient, net-zero economy, namely: clean energy, clean transport, nature-based solutions, finance and, adaptation and resilience. They also announced the UK Year of Climate Action 2020 which is now being reviewed with the postponement of COP26 to 2021.
17. The LGA are in conversations with civil servants at DEFRA on their plans for COP26. The Chairman also attended the first meeting of the COP26 UK Mayors and Regions Advisory Council in September, led by BEIS and co-chaired by the COP President, Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP and the Minister for London, Paul Scully MP. This provides an opportunity to raise some of our key climate asks at Ministerial level.
18. In addition, we are working on our own 'COP26 programme of activity' in the year leading up to the Summit to demonstrate and showcase the role of councils in delivering net zero ambitions and, support our lobbying. We plan to host a series of activities according to the five COP26 themes, starting with the Green Finance webinar in December (please see below).

## Research and Events

19. **Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance:** In collaboration with Local Partnerships, we have been doing work to understand the role of renewable energy to meet carbon reduction targets. Outputs include a discussion paper and a good practice guide. Jo Wall from Local Partnerships presented some of the detail in the discussion paper at the last

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EEHT Board and we have since published the [Renewable Energy Good Practice Guidance](#). It aims to help both members and officers of councils who are considering asset ownership to understand and manage the potential risks and benefits.

20. **Green Finance Practical Guide:** The LGA is working with Local Partnerships to develop support for councils to access 'green finance' for their green economic recovery and climate activity. It provides practical guidance for officers and members on different forms of finance to achieve sustainable outcomes and, draws on domestic and international notable practice. We intend to publish the report in line with our COP26 programme of activity where Local Partnerships will deliver a webinar in December.
21. **Adaptation research:** We are looking to develop some research and resources for councils in the area of adaptation to support our lobbying and councils' activities. We made a case for long-term investment to enable councils to have fully funded adaptation plans in the CSR and believe that further research will help to build on this and fill a gap in the lack of evidence that exists. This work is currently underway.
22. **Climate Action Group:** Working with colleagues in improvement, we have convened a group of senior local government climate change managers, with representation from all regions. Following an open call for participants, 27 councils put themselves forward and we had a successful first meeting in September. The group meets quarterly and will be helpful for informing our policy work and testing ideas with councils.

### **Climate Change Improvement and Support Programme**

23. Across the country, councils are taking urgent actions in their local areas with partners and their local communities to combat the negative impacts of climate change and to deliver net zero carbon by 2050. The aim of the LGA's climate change support programme is to help councils and residents to reach their local carbon reduction targets by adapting, and mitigating the effects of climate change. An array of support offers for councils to help deliver their local climate action plans are as follows:
24. **Net Zero Innovation Programme:** Delivered through a collaboration between the LGA and University College London (UCL), the Net Zero Innovation Programme was launched in September and brings together local authorities, universities and other stakeholders to address climate challenges at the local level. Partnerships, funding support and a 'train the trainer' model are all key parts of this programme. 69 applications were received and successful partnerships have been identified.
25. **Greenhouse gas accounting tool:** In collaboration between improvement colleagues and Local Partnerships, our tool to baseline carbon emissions for councils was launched in September along with a webinar on how to use it. The tool collates data to consistently measure greenhouse gas emissions across the country, in order to measure and

compare impacts in a standardised way.

26. **Climate Change Web Hub:** The hub is regularly updated with new offers of support and good practice. It currently offers 28 case studies, 48 pieces of notable practice and captures examples of climate change actions from 100 councils. Since the onset of COVID, it has received nearly 5,000 views.
27. **Green webinars series:** A series of webinars have recently been delivered including [green reset](#), [greening procurement](#), and [sustaining green behaviours from the pandemic](#). The [Spotlight on Green Reset](#) webinar provided lessons on how a renewed focus on the environment can achieve a more sustainable recovery. This session achieved an audience of 388.
28. **Procurement:** Councils can use procurement to achieve wider financial and non-financial outcomes, including improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social value, and improved environment. [Climate emergency social value themes, outcomes and measures](#) have been published. They provide an extra emphasis and focus on providing councils with measures specifically dedicated to reducing and mitigating the risks of climate change in our communities.
29. **Scrutiny:** In collaboration with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, the LGA has launched a [publication which covers ten questions](#), with several supplementary follow ups, to ask if you are scrutinising climate action in your council. It lays out key issues on which local scrutineers can pose to those with decision-making responsibility. Webinar slides and a blog can be found [here](#).
30. **Leadership:** The third [Leadership Essentials climate emergency programme](#) will be held on October 22 and 23. This programme will help leaders and portfolio holders explore the crucial local leadership role in responding to the climate emergency. It explores levers for councils to reduce carbon emissions and provide opportunities to learn from experiences of others.
31. **Design in the Public Sector:** The new programme was launched on 10 August for councils to gain skills in design to tackle local climate change challenges.
32. **Climate change ebulletin:** The LGA launched our climate change e-bulletin in partnership with Local Partnerships. This collates various news, support offers and good practice which council climate change leads will be interested in.

### **Implications for Wales**

33. We will be looking to work collaboratively on any common issues and share learning with our WLGA colleagues.

**Financial Implications**

34. This activity is within the scope of the current work programme. No financial implications have been identified.

**Next steps**

35. Members to consider the options for signing up to the blueprint in paragraphs 3 – 7.
36. We will reflect on and update our climate change and environment work following comments from members.

## Economic Recovery

### Purpose of report

For discussion.

### Summary

This report sets out the work of the EEHT and other boards on economic recovery. It notes the challenge of moving from response to recovery as the Covid19 second wave hits. It sets out how the LGA is engaging with Government and with councils and highlights the work that has been commissioned to support councils address economic recovery and deal with increased vacancies in their high streets. The report asks Members to consider the work that the LGA is doing and whether, within limited resources, there are other areas to explore for example the effects of the differential economic impact of covid19 and how councils can respond.

### Recommendations

That the Board considers the work that the LGA is doing and whether, within limited resources, there are other areas to explore for example the effects of the differential economic impact of covid19 and how councils can respond.

### Actions

Officers will take action as directed

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## Economic Recovery

### Background

1. The economic conditions continue to be tough. GDP contracted by 19.8% in quarter 2 2020.<sup>1</sup> The latest figures for GDP were published by the ONS on 9<sup>th</sup> October and show that GDP grew by 2.1% in August 2020, the fourth consecutive monthly increase, but it remains 9.2% below the February 2020 level<sup>2</sup>. Quarter 3 has seen strong growth fuelled by pent up demand, the housing market, and government intervention (e.g. Eat out to help out)<sup>3</sup> However, forecasters expect the economy to decline by 10.1% in 2020.<sup>4</sup>
2. The employment data from the Labour Force Survey shows that the response to the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on part time workers, particularly women, and the self-employed. The number of part-time workers decreased by 332,000 on the year, and 202,000 in the June to August 2020 quarter. Self-employment fell by 240,000 on the previous quarter, a reduction of 5%. In the same period full employment increased by 92,000.<sup>5</sup>

The Claimant Count increased in September 2020 to 2.7 million. This is a monthly increase of 1.0% and an increase of 120.3%, or 1.5 million, since March 2020. The claimant count has increased in all areas year on year to September 2020, with a range of 7.5% to 1.9%.<sup>6</sup>

3. Redundancies increased by a record 114,000 in the June to August quarter, to 227,000 with the number of redundancies reaching its highest level since May to July 2009.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ONS GDP Quarter on Quarter Growth

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/timeseries/ihyq/qna>

<sup>2</sup> ONS GDP Monthly Estimate August 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/bulletins/gdpmonthlyestimateuk/august2020>

<sup>3</sup> EY Item Club Autumn Forecast 2020 <https://emeia.ey-vx.com/4838/145830/landing-pages/ey-item-club-autumn-forecast-2020-final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> HM Government, Forecasts for UK Economy September 2020

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/919323/Forecomp\\_September\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/919323/Forecomp_September_2020.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> ONS Employment in the UK October 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetype/s/bulletins/employmentintheuk/october2020>

<sup>6</sup> ONS Regional labour market: Claimant Count by unitary and local authority (experimental) October 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/datasets/claimantcountbyunitaryandlocalauthorityexperimental>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

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### Covid-19: response to the second wave

4. We are now in a second wave of Covid19, which is likely to have a further negative impact on the economy. Following the introduction of a tiered system of local response, Liverpool City region and Lancashire have moved into the highest tier (at the time of writing Greater Manchester are negotiating with Central Government the terms under which it will go into Tier 3); in these areas there are heightened restrictions on households meeting, and pubs and bars are only permitted to remain open to operate as restaurants, in which case alcohol can only be served as part of a substantial meal. There is also England wide advice to work from home if you can, which impacts on a range of businesses, particularly in city centres, that rely on office workers. It is likely that the tighter the restrictions the bigger the impact will be on reducing the spread of the virus, but this will be accompanied by reductions in economic activity.
5. The Government has sought to address the differential impact of local lockdowns with additional funding per head of population and also through a Job Support Scheme for businesses required to close their premises due to coronavirus restrictions that consists of paying two thirds of employees' salaries to protect jobs, and cash grants for businesses required to close in local lockdowns also increased to up to £3,000 per month. Some local leaders have expressed concern that this is not a sufficient financial response.

### Longer-term recovery

6. The economy is not expected to get back to its Q4 2019 size until the second half of 2023<sup>8</sup>. The Government has sought to protect the productive capacity throughout the crisis, but there is an expectation that the recovery will need to level up the economy and engender the expansion of green technology and green jobs. The space for discussions on how to achieve this has been somewhat crowded out by the need to respond to the current crisis. That said, some work has progressed at the national level:
  - 6.1. Alok Sharma, the Business Secretary, has held a series of roundtables on: the green recovery; increasing opportunity; backing new business; the future of industry; and the UK open for Business. The LGA Chairman has participated in the roundtables on increasing opportunity.
  - 6.2. Work has progressed in the Ministerial and official level Local Economic Recovery Group, with work on employment and skills, urban recovery, rural recovery and business innovation being undertaken by task and finish groups with representatives from councils, Mayoral combined authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS). The recommendations of the task and finish groups are now with MHCLG.

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<sup>8</sup> EY Item Club Autumn Forecast 2020 <https://emeia.ey-vx.com/4838/145830/landing-pages/ey-item-club-autumn-forecast-2020-final.pdf>

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In general, the recommendation of the task and finish groups have highlighted the need for national/local partnership to co-design locally delivered interventions.

7. At the local level too, councils have been working to develop recovery plans. Greater Manchester is an example: “As we seek to rebuild our economy, there is an unprecedented opportunity to do so in a way which does not forfeit the observed environmental improvements by building back better to tackle our climate emergency, and build a fairer society”. <sup>9</sup>

### Work of the LGA

8. The LGA has undertaken a significant amount of work to support economic recovery discussions nationally and also locally with councils. Our 2020 conference publication [Rethinking Local](#) sets out how local government can be a key partner in meeting these challenges. The Chairman has recently written to Luke Hall, new Minister for Local Government setting out the work that the LGA has undertaken (see **appendix A**).
9. In addition, the LGA has commissioned/will be commissioning:
  - 9.1. Research to capture innovative practice and expert views to help local authorities on what they can do to help put empty vacant units, especially in high streets and town centres, to alternate uses. The work will look at the factors that might influence councils to intervene and identify good practice; identify the soft and hard powers that exist for councils to deal with vacant units and the pros and cons of their use; and consider the sources of funding for council intervention.
  - 9.2. A programme of support and learning for local authorities on local economic recovery. Every local economy is different, however, there will be approaches and initiatives taken and planned which will offer learning for others; some will have made significant progress, others just starting. This work will support sharing of learning through guidance and good practice advice and an online toolkit. A virtual conference is also planned. from those who have made progress with other areas.
  - 9.3. Recent recessions have led to an increase in self-employment and micro-businesses. We are therefore considering a good practice guide for councils looking to support the development of micro-businesses from across the community.
  - 9.4. Many areas will be considering opportunities to invest and promote sustainable and climate friendly projects. To help councils the LGA has commissioned a good practice guide for councils considering green finance and funding for sustainable

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<sup>9</sup> GMCA, Living with Covid Resilience Plan <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-living-with-covid-resilience-plan-published/>

projects. This is currently in draft stage and will be published over the coming weeks and will be accompanied by a webinar later this year. Further work on green recovery is outlined in the item on climate change on this agenda.

### **Work of other boards**

10. The LGA also has an economic growth adviser programme, which is run under the auspices of the Improvement Board. The programme offers direct bespoke advice and support to local authorities to help them deliver economic growth in their area.
11. The City Regions Board has commissioned work to establish a Vision for Urban Growth and Recovery which will report in early Summer 2021.
12. The employment and skills agenda will be key to a successful recovery. Building on Work Local, the LGA's vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills service, and the work to shape Kickstart which has been done through the MHCLG task and finish group on skills, further work will be done to support councils to contribute to local jobs and skills recovery.

### **Implications for Wales**

13. The Welsh Government is managing the response to the pandemic in Wales.

### **Financial Implications**

14. There are no immediate financial implications

### **Next steps**

15. That the Board considers the work that the LGA is doing and whether, within limited resources, there are other areas to explore for example the effects of the differential economic impact of covid19 and how councils can respond.
16. That the progress made on our work on empty retail units and economic recovery plans is brought to the Board in December.



**Appendix A**



From the Chairman of the LGA  
Cllr James Jamieson

Luke Hall MP  
Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

15 October 2020

Dear Luke

I wanted to raise with you the issue of economic recovery, both in terms of the work that the LGA has done and how best we continue to engage with you, the Ministry and across Whitehall, on this matter. Our discussions with ministers and the engagement across Whitehall has been very productive to date and we are keen to continue this work.

Since the advent of the COVID19 pandemic we have all been aware that the economy has and will continue to be severely affected. The Government's investment in protecting the productive capacity of the country, through a series of interventions, including the furlough scheme, grants and loans to businesses, and temporary changes to the tax system, has been essential for many businesses and their employees. Councils have played an important part in the programme and we will ensure that our joint endeavour with Government continues over the coming months.

We have also prioritised thinking beyond the immediate crisis to how the economy can recover and be renewed in line with the Government's levelling up and green agendas.

We have engaged with MHCLG, and more generally across Whitehall, through a ministerial Local Economic Recovery Group, with representation from senior local politicians, city region Mayors and Local Enterprise Zones (LEPs). This has been supported by an officials' group, with representation from chief executives from councils, combined authorities and LEPs.

Through these groups we have been keen to work towards a national framework for economic recovery and establish a clear role for local government and the communities they serve. The continuing epidemic has made it challenging to settle a future plan, but together we have made

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good progress in establishing key issues, including employment and skills, housing and planning, transport, and the green recovery and we have identified opportunities for action in each of these areas.

The LGA has undertaken a significant amount of work to support economic recovery discussions national and also locally with councils, who are themselves developing local economic recovery plans. Our 2020 conference publication [Rethinking Local](#) sets out how local government can be a key partner in meeting these challenges. It is worth recapping key elements of this work:

### **Employment and Skills**

- Working with Core Cities and the LEP Network the LGA prepared a paper on employment and skills which was presented to Ministers. The paper contained calls for a range of programmes to support those affected by the pandemic as well as a plea for partnership working and flexibility on local delivery. The Government subsequently announced the Kickstart Programme and additional support for apprenticeships. We are continuing to work with officials through the Local Economic Recovery Group on employment and skills to shape delivery of the Kickstart programme and have published a report on [what good looks like](#).
- In June 2020 the LGA published a report "[Local green jobs – accelerating a sustainable economic recovery](#)" which mapped the opportunity to create 700,000 new jobs in areas such as clean electricity generation and providing low-carbon heat for homes and businesses. This paper has received significant coverage and positive reviews and must inform a, still absent, national framework for addressing climate change and a green economic recovery.

### **Housing and Planning**

- The provision of more housing is a national ambition. We know that house builders have traditionally been susceptible to economic downturns and there is a role and opportunity for national and local government to provide counter-cyclical support. In June 2020 the LGA published "[Delivery of council housing: Developing a stimulus package post-pandemic](#)" which made the case for investment in a new generation of high-quality social homes. The Government has brought forward its £12bn Affordable homes programme, which we had called for and welcomed. Our work has shown that with the right investment, and with flexibilities in Right to Buy, councils could be enabled to do more to address the housing crisis.
- In July 2020 the LGA published "[Local Planning Authorities: Developing a recovery and resilience planning package post-pandemic](#)" which set out a number of recommendations for incentives, powers and flexibilities that would enable planning to contribute to the conditions required for locally led economic recovery. We remain concerned that the Government's proposals on planning, as set out in the White Paper, will not address the problems inherent in the housing market and I would welcome further discussions on these issues.

### **Public transport**

- We had the opportunity to raise the issue of the sustainability of public transport and to share a paper with Ministers and officials at DfT and MHCLG. Our paper noted that for the buses sector to recover Government funding should be directed through councils who will be able to commission a network of services according to local

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circumstances. In areas with other modes like light rail it will allow bus, tram and light rail to be properly integrated with bus services. We also noted that any future funding mechanism to support public transport should be directed through councils who could commission transport networks that reflect the wider social, economic and environmental aspirations of local people and businesses.

### **Inclusive growth**

- I contributed to the Business Secretary's roundtable discussions on how to level up economic performance across the UK. The LGA contributed a paper on [driving inclusive growth in local areas](#) which covered: the link between affordable housing, skills attainment and job creation; procurement; infrastructure and transport. This report contains a wealth of good practice and points to the important role that local government plays in this area. which also plays into the levelling up agenda.

### **Tourism**

- Working with Core Cities, Key Cities and the LEP Network the LGA prepared a paper on supporting the tourism and hospitality sectors which was presented to Ministers. The paper contained calls for a range of programmes to support those affected by the pandemic as well as a plea for partnership working and flexibility on local delivery. It supplements the LGA's publication on developing a pipeline of [skills for the visitor economy](#).

### **Green recovery**

- In our [Comprehensive Spending Review Submission](#) we renewed our call for the Government to work with councils and businesses to establish a national fiscal and policy framework for addressing the climate emergency. This framework should outline responsibilities for the Government nationally – for example, aligning the regulatory system, including the planning system and national tax incentives – and the local responsibilities, together with a commitment to cooperate with local public sector bodies. There should be a process of engagement between central and local government and industry to enable councils to fulfil their role to translate a national framework into transformative local plans that deliver on this agenda and invest in solutions for a green recovery and future.

### **Task and Finish Groups**

- In addition to Employment and Skills, we have been working with officials, councils, combined authorities and LEPS on task and finish groups covering urban, rural and business recovery. These groups have brought forward a series of recommendations and it is now important that we get to discuss these issues in a forum that brings together Ministers and local leaders.

### **Policy changes and flexibilities to statutory duties**

- I wrote back in May to Simon Clarke MP, the then Minister for local government, setting out a number of areas where changes to policy would enable local government to support its communities and businesses more effectively during the pandemic. A number of changes were subsequently made, particularly around the planning system, and I would welcome a discussion on making these changes permanent. It was also good to see that a number of funding streams were brought forward. In other cases,



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we continue to work with the Ministry and departments across Whitehall on what policy and legislative changes can be made to support a shift economic recovery.

We have made good progress and the LGA is committed to working with you to develop new ideas and ensure a joint endeavour to aid economic recovery and to create the conditions in which national and local government can work together to address the very challenging conditions that cities, towns and rural areas will face as we emerge from the pandemic.

I would welcome discussions with you on how we continue a forum in which local leaders, Mayors, LEPs and Ministers can discuss and steer the design of the measures needed to ensure a successful economic recovery and help influence the Spending Review and the future White Paper on Devolution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Jamieson".

Cllr James Jamieson  
Chairman



## **EEHT Update paper**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper provides updates on a range of issue within the remit of the Board

#### **Recommendation**

That the Board note the update

#### **Actions**

Officers will take action as directed

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## EEHT Update Paper

### Housing, planning and homelessness

1. We have responded to the Government's '[Changes to the current planning system](#)' consultation. We raised concerns that the standard method for assessing local housing need does not accurately reflect local need or support government ambitions to level up and build more on brownfield land. We also raised concerns that implementation of First Homes will displace other types of affordable homes and that proposals to raise the threshold for affordable housing requirements will have a significant impact on affordable housing delivery. and that proposals to raise the threshold for affordable housing requirements will have a significant impact on affordable housing delivery.
2. We are developing our response to the Government's [Planning for the Future White Paper consultation](#) due on 29 October. We've held two joint workshops with the District Councils' Network (DCN) and County Councils Network (CCN) with presentations by MHCLG and feedback discussion groups and have been engaging with our Planning Sounding Board to get input from around the country. Councils are concerned about the wide-ranging proposals such as a shortened 30-month Local Plan timeframe; land in future Local Plans being allocated into one of three areas - Growth, Renewal, Protect; a new Infrastructure Levy; and the reduction of councillor and community input.
3. The Housing, Communities, and Local Government Committee will be holding a parallel inquiry to [investigate the Government's proposals to reform the planning system](#). The inquiry will examine how well the proposed reforms would support the Government's wider building strategy, including their target of 300,000 new homes a year. We will be providing evidence to the Committee by the 30 October deadline.
4. We have briefed MPs for parliamentary debates on [planning reform and housebuilding targets](#) and [motions related to planning](#). On homelessness, we have briefed on debates on No Recourse to Public Funds and the stay on possession proceedings.
5. We also ran a successful parliamentary briefing session on housing and planning, which I spoke at. This was attended by over 20 MPs and peers.
6. We [submitted evidence](#) to the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) inquiry on 'Energy Efficiency of Existing Homes'.
7. We recently published our research and hosted a webinar on [Improving the private sector: a guide for councils](#) which looks at the role of councils in improving the quality and standards of homes that best meet the needs of local residents and places. There is a report, a set of case studies and a toolkit which together form a good practice guide for councils.



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8. We contributed an essay to the [Localis Building for renewal: kickstarting the C19 housing recovery](#) report. This outlined the important role that councils could play in kickstarting housing delivery, given the right flexibilities, powers and funding. I also stressed the importance of a local, plan-led system in ensuring that councils and the communities they represent have a say over the way places develop.
9. The LGA published a joint guidance note on how [voluntary sector organisations can seek to work strategically with councils](#) to tackle local homelessness issues.
10. We have commissioned Local Partnerships to provide a briefing on the lessons learned for local authorities' homelessness and rough sleeping services from the COVID-19 emergency response. The briefing will be published in early November.
11. [The LGA has now published its research on Fragmented Funding](#), which found that English councils received at least 448 government grants between 2015/16 and 2018/19. Our report calls for the Government to use core funding to allow councils to plan with certainty and flexibility as opposed to using short-term grants to meet demand pressures.
12. Councillor David Renard, chaired a webinar on managing homelessness as we exit lockdown. This featured Police Constable Hayley Langmead, who gave an insight into the multi-agency approach to supporting people sleeping rough in Essex, and learning for other councils.
13. Councillor Adele Morris chaired a webinar about the importance of creating great places to live, work and play, especially in the wake of COVID-19 and I also took part in an external webinar on council direct delivery of new homes.

### Moving traffic offences

14. The board celebrated a major lobbying win with the decision by the Government to allow councils to access all the powers contained within the Traffic Management Act 2004 part 6. This commitment was made in the Government's plan for active travel and will allow councils to enforce moving traffic offences like weight limits, banned turns and one-way streets. The LGA and member councils have been calling for local authorities to be able to access these powers since the implementation of other parts of the act over a decade ago. LGA officers are now working with civil servants to work on the details of implementation.

### Pavement Parking

15. The Government is consulting on whether to legislate for a default ban on pavement parking which the LGA has welcomed. We have consistently called for a default ban in legislation. The government are also consulting on whether the problem could be solved



through TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) reform or decriminalising enforcement of obstruction of the highway.

16. Our view is that these changes could also be helpful but the long-term solution for this issue is a ban which will be consistent and easy to understand. It is currently the way the issue is managed in London. Our initial view is that the government undertakes all the options: reform and simplify the TRO process, decriminalise the enforcement of obstruction and transform the default position. We will be responding to the consultation and would welcome any feedback from members.

### **Decarbonisation of Transport**

17. The Board's decarbonisation of transport project has published a number of policy briefings to help councils understand the practical steps they can take to decarbonise their transport networks and reach our net zero targets. The briefings were compiled with support from academics from the University of Leeds after a series of workshops with councils that took place last year. The briefings offer a challenging message to our sector given the scope of changes that will be needed in order to meet the country's net zero carbon target by 2050. The briefings are on the following topics:

- 17.1. Getting carbon ambition right
- 17.2. The role of buses
- 17.3. Accelerating the uptake of electric vehicles
- 17.4. Climate smart parking policies
- 17.5. The role of land use, localisation and accessibility
- 17.6. Travelling less and the role of online opportunities
- 17.7. Growing cycle use

18. The briefings can be accessed at <https://www.local.gov.uk/decarbonising-transport>. Each briefing is also being accompanied by a supporting webinar which can also be accessed through the web hub. We have four remaining webinars remaining on the following dates:

- 18.1. Climate Smart Parking Policies - 12 November 2020
- 18.2. Land Use, Localisation and Accessibility - 17 November 2020
- 18.3. Travelling less and the role of online opportunities - 24 November 2020
- 18.4. Growing Cycle Use - 10 December 2020

### **Flooding**

19. The House of Commons EFRA Committee inquiry into the management of flood risk in last winter's floods resumed after a pause due to the break in Parliamentary activity. I gave oral evidence to the Committee on 2 September and shared the experiences of local government, highlighting the impact on areas that suffered from repeated severe



floods. This generated further questions and we sent in a third and final written submission to the committee.

### **Implications for Wales**

20. There are no implications for Wales

### **Financial Implications**

21. There are no immediate financial implications

### **Next steps**

22. The Board is asked to note the items for information in this report

