

## Note of last City Regions Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	City Regions Board
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 23 September 2021
<b>Venue:</b>	Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams OR Victoria Room, 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 Chair's Welcome, Introductions, Apologies/Substitutes and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed Members, officers, and guests to the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

Apologies had been received from Sir Richard Leese, Cllr Phelim MacCafferty and Cllr Danny Thorpe.

Cllrs James Swindlehurst, Daniel Francis, Adam Marsh and Liam Billington attended the meeting as substitutes.

No declarations of interest had been received.

The Chair asked officers to send a letter of thanks to Sir Richard Leese for his hard work and dedication to supporting the work of the Board and chairing the Board. Members of the Board supported this.

#### 2 Terms of Reference

The Chair invited Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Officer, to introduce the report. Rebecca introduced the report and made the following points:

- Paragraph 10.3 within the report would be amended from '*Independent group: 1 member*' to '*Independent group: 2 members*'.
- The People & Places Board had suggested at their Board meeting on 14 September that information be added to their Terms of Reference related to climate change and equality. The two values could be added to the Terms of Reference for the City Regions Board, if Members of the Board wished.

Members of the Board made the following comments:

- Cllr Roberts suggested that in light of the recent government reshuffle, reference to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and

Local Government (MHCLG) be amended to The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) within the Terms of Reference.

- Cllr Merry suggested that issues related to adult social care be referenced within the Terms of Reference.
- Cllr Dixon asked that social and environmental implications be considered within Board papers in addition to equality and financial implications.
- Cllr Ford asked that health be referenced within the Terms of Reference in addition to wellbeing.
- Cllr Brock asked that paragraph 3.2 within the Terms of Reference be enhanced to emphasise further working with other LGA Boards from '*where appropriate*' to '*to enable them to continue and pursue their agendas*'.
- The Chair asked that reference to ecological emergency be included within the climate change wording within the Terms of Reference.

Rebecca noted Members' comments.

**Decision:**

- Members of the Board noted the Terms of Reference, with the view that the suggestions made would be considered and incorporated within the final Terms of Reference which Lead Members would agree at the next City Regions Lead Members meeting.

**Action:**

- Officers to amend the Terms of Reference to reflect Members' comments.

**3 City Regions Board Work Programme 2021/22**

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

Philip introduced the report which provided Members of the Board with a revised work programme for the 2021/22 political cycle for final sign-off.

Members of the Board suggested that the following items be added to the work programme, or referenced within current agenda items on the work programme:

- Large-scale retrofitting and the construction skills needed
- Active travel
- The dispersal of Afghan refugees and Asylum-Seekers.
- Devolution (health)
- Food and fuel poverty

Members of the Board made the following comments:

- Cllr Ford asked that the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board be referenced within the work programme as a Board that the city

- Regions Board regularly liaise with and work in partnership with.
- Cllr Dixon highlighted the excellent work that had already been undertaken by the Board and officers in relation to devolution.
  - The Chair asked that officers reference within the work programme who specifically the Board are reaching out to, targeting, and working with next to each of the items.

Philip responded to Board Members' comments:

- All of the LGA Boards were in the process of reviewing their work programmes. Officers could work cross-Board to prevent duplication and ensure that relevant links were made.

**Decision:**

- Members of the Board noted the report, with the view that the suggestions made would be considered and incorporated within the final Work Programme which Lead Members would agree at the next City Regions Lead Members meeting.

**Action:**

Officers to amend the Work Programme to reflect Members' comments and include a table of items with background information and relevant engagements.

**4 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

**5 Levelling Up Locally**

The Chair invited Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report and asked Members of the Board to comment.

**Decision:**

- Members of the Board noted the report and the subsequent actions that officers would undertake.

**6 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Learning from the Community Renewal Fund**

The Chair invited Paul Green, Policy Adviser, to introduce the report and asked Members of the Board to comment.

**Decision:**

- Members of the Board noted the report.

**7 Refreshing our employment and skills work**

The Chair invited Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, to introduce the report and asked Members of the Board to comment.

**Decision:**

- Members of the Board noted the report.

**Any other business**

Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser, said that both Tom Walker, Director – Levelling Up Unit, and Neil O’Brien, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up, would be invited to a future meeting of the Board.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Joanne Laban	Enfield Council
	Cllr Toby Savage	West of England Combined Authority
	Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
	Cllr Graeme Miller	Sunderland City Council
	Cllr Jason Brock	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Martin Fodor	Bristol City Council	
Apologies	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Danny Thorpe	Royal Borough of Greenwich
In Attendance	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton Council