

## Note of last City Regions Board meeting

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**Title:** City Regions Board  
**Date:** Wednesday 12 January 2022  
**Venue:** 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
1	<p><b>Chair's Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Members, officers, and guests to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllrs Toby Savage and Elise Wilson.</p> <p>Cllr Adam Marsh attended the meeting as a substitute.</p> <p>No declarations of interest had been received.</p>	
2	<p><b>Business in the Community update</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Lord Steve Bassam, Chair of the Business in the Community (BITC) Place Taskforce, and invited Esther Barrott, Adviser, to introduce the report.</p> <p>Esther introduced the report which provided Board Members with a brief overview of the BITC Place Taskforce and the Board's involvement to date to support a discussion with Lord Steve Bassam.</p> <p>Due to issues with connection, the item was deferred to the next meeting of the Board in March 2022. Lord Bassam provided his e-mail address to Board Members within the Microsoft Teams chat function in relation to any questions that they may have.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Members noted the report.</li></ul>	
3	<p><b>Green Skills and Employment</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Jacob Coburn, Adviser, to introduce the report.</p> <p>Jacob referred to recent discussions which related to the need to link together LGA activity on climate change and consider the employment</p>	

and skills elements, and said that the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport, City Regions and People and Places Boards were presented with a Green Skills and Employment report in November 2021 and had all agreed the next steps within it. Jacob introduced the report which built upon recent work, focusing on next steps and sought Board Member's views and agreement on direction outlined within the report.

Board Members made the following comments:

- A question was asked which related to gender inequalities.
- The importance of local co-ordination and area-based schemes was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to the natural environment, climate change and skills shortages in such areas.
- A question was asked which related to the work of educational facilities with regards to skilling up.
- The Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring that certain jobs and careers were attractive and appealing, especially to younger people.
- The Chair suggested reaching out to the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission for the purpose of sharing best practice and experiences.

Jacob responded to Board Members' comments and thanked them for their useful contributions.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

#### **4 Refreshing Work Local update**

The Chair invited Jasbir to introduce the item. Jas updated the Board on progress since the last meeting to refresh Work Local proposals for employment and skills devolution. Jas also introduced Tony Wilson, Director of the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) and Stephen Evans, Chief Executive of the Learning and Work Institute, who presented the labour market and skills analysis, and Cost Benefit Analysis they had been commissioned to undertake as part of the refresh.

Tony and Jasbir responded to Board Members' comments.

The Chair encouraged all Members of the Board to reach out to the appropriate and relevant government contacts to help LGA officers in their continued engagement work.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

#### **5 Update on Health Devolution**

The Chair welcomed Cllr David Fothergill, Chair of the Community

Wellbeing Board, to the meeting and invited Eleanor Law, Policy Adviser, to introduce the report.

Eleanor introduced the report which provided members with an update on developments relating to integrated care systems since the last meeting of the Board ahead of a further update and discussion with Cllr Fothergill.

Cllr Fothergill briefly updated the Board in relation to the development of the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), the LGA's response and the current position.

Board Members made the following comments:

- It was recognised that there needed to be a partnership of equals between health partners and local authorities.
- It was disappointing that elected Members had been excluded from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) given the important role of councils in delivering change and improving outcomes.
- The Chair said that the Board's reflections in relation to the Health and Care Bill could be shared with Cllr Fothergill following the meeting.
- A concern was raised in relation the way in which the new ICS structure could result in a step backwards for places like Greater Manchester where the existing devolution deal means they have an integrated health budget with the NHS already.
- The importance of local service delivery and supporting local residents was emphasised, along with ensuring the new ICS structures are accountable to local communities.
- ICBs must not replace, undermine or bypass Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs).
- The size of some ICSs may be a barrier to place-based delivery of services.

Cllr Fothergill responded to Board Members' comments:

- The Health and Care Bill offered a chance to shape Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) locally whilst ensuring that the Health and Wellbeing Board could deliver its strategic aims.
- There was an ever-increasing awareness of the significance of local authorities generally, as a result of efforts during the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Community Wellbeing Board has been lobbying on a number of areas including the issue of ICB boards and around ensuring that the needs of acute trusts do not dominate agendas.

The Chair suggested that officers contact Cllr Fothergill outside of the meeting with regards to ensuring that the work of the Community Wellbeing Board and that of the City Regions Board aligned to prevent work overlap.

**Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

**Action:**

- Officers to work with the Community Wellbeing Board to share the experiences of the City Regions members and liaise on how best to feed these into the development of future policy lines on health devolution.

## 6 **Levelling Up update**

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

Philip introduced the report which provided an overview of planned and current activity in relation to the now delayed Levelling Up White Paper.

### **Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

## 7 **Proposal for Urban Summit**

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

Eleanor introduced the report which set out a draft agenda and speakers for the urban summit.

Eleanor responded to Board Members' comments.

### **Decision:**

- Board Members noted the report.

## 8 **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 and the supplemental LGA Cross Board Communications table were agreed as an accurate record.

Cllr Gillian Ford requested that officers liaise with Community Wellbeing Board colleagues in relation to Adult Mental Health.

### **Appendix A - Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Abi Brown	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	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  
Cllr Joanne Laban  
Cllr Samantha Dixon  
Cllr Graeme Miller  
Cllr Jason Brock  
Cllr John Merry CBE  
Cllr Anthony Hunt  
Cllr Shama Tatler  
Cllr Danny Thorpe  
Cllr David Mellen  
Cllr Arooj Shah  
Cllr Carl Cashman  
Cllr Martin Fodor

Leeds City Council  
Enfield Council  
Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Sunderland City Council  
Reading Borough Council  
Salford City Council  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Brent Council  
Royal Borough of Greenwich  
Nottingham City Council  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council  
Bristol City Council

Apologies

Cllr Toby Savage  
Cllr Elise Wilson

West of England Combined Authority  
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Cllr Liam Billington  
Cllr Bob Cook

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council