

City Regions Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 15 June 2022
3.00 pm

Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams &
Victoria Room, 18 Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ)

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18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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City Regions Board
15 June 2022

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **3.00 pm on Wednesday, 15 June 2022**, Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams & Victoria Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ).

LGA Hybrid Meetings

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Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: labgp@lga.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Attendance:

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

LGA Contact:

Emma West – emma.west@local.gov.uk

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City Regions Board – Membership 2021/2022

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (5)	
Cllr Abi Brown (Vice-Chair)	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
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
Substitutes	
Cllr Matthew Atkins	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Liam Billington	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Adam Marsh	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (12)	
Mayor Marvin Rees (Chair)	Bristol City Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Vice-Chair)	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Samantha Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Graeme Miller	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Elise Wilson	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Jason Brock	Reading Borough Council
Cllr John Merry	Salford City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Shama Tatler	Brent Council
Cllr Danny Thorpe	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Bob Cook	
Cllr Nazia Rehman	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr James Swindlehurst	Slough Borough Council
Cllr Daniel Francis	Bexley Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Martin Fodor	Bristol City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council

Agenda

City Regions Board

Wednesday 15 June 2022

3.00 pm

Hybrid meeting (via Microsoft Teams & Victoria Room, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ)

Item	Page
OPEN SESSION	
1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	1 - 8
3. Business in the Community Update	9 - 14
4. The role of councils in addressing the rising cost of living	15 - 18
5. The Future of Cities	19 - 24
6. Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill Update	25 - 30
7. Levelling Up Locally	31 - 34
8. City Regions Board Annual Report	35 - 40
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION	
9. Forward look on employment and skills	41 - 74
10. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Future of Growth Funding	75 - 86
11. Any other business	

Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 30 September 2022, 2.30 pm, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Document is Restricted

Business in the Community Update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides members with a brief overview of the Board's work with Business in the Community including a summary of the recently published 'Partnerships in Place: The Business of Levelling Up' report. This information will help support a discussion with Chair of the Business in the Community Place Taskforce, Lord Steve Bassam (Appendix A).

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Board members are asked to consider as background reading Business in the Community's recently published report 'Partnerships in Place: The Business of Levelling Up' ahead of the meeting.

Action/s

Officers will use the discussion and the findings from the report to shape the Board's future levelling up work and will take forward any opportunities for future collaborative work with Business in the Community.

Contact officer: Esther Barrott
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 07464652906
Email: esther.barrott@local.gov.uk

Business in the Community Place Taskforce

Background

1. Business in the Community's (BITC) Place Taskforce set out to capture and showcase 'what works' in transforming the prospects of a place, creating a blueprint for business engagement in place-based transformation. The findings were shared in a [report](#) titled 'Partnerships in Place: The Business of Levelling Up' launched on 11 May 2022 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of BITC.
2. The report provides practical recommendations to business, local government and national government on the role that business can play in delivering the 'how' of the Levelling Up White Paper as well as the foundations that are needed, both nationally and locally, to truly transform communities. A summary of the recommendations can be seen in paragraph 7.

LGA's involvement to date

3. The Place Taskforce ran a call for evidence which closed in December 2021 and received 34 written submissions. The Place Taskforce ran an additional eight verbal evidence sessions with 17 speakers, conducted three formal interviews, visited Wisbech and Grimsby where there were discussion sessions with local stakeholders and visits to local regeneration initiatives and the LGA hosted a roundtable. These all informed the final report.
4. On 1 November 2021, the LGA hosted a roundtable providing an opportunity to bring the voices of local government leaders from across the country together on this agenda. The roundtable was co-chaired by Cllr Abi Brown and Cllr Simon Henig who were members of the Place Taskforce. Cllr Abi Brown was the LGA's City Regions Board representative. The roundtable focused on three themes: collaborative and partnership working, levers and measuring impact and developing a strategy and vision.
5. The LGA used the evidence gathered from the roundtable to inform their submission to the Place Taskforce's Call for Evidence. The LGA's submission was shared with City Regions members in the board paper pack ahead of the board meeting on 11th January 2022.
6. To coincide with the launch of the report, 'Partnerships in Place: The Business of Levelling Up', Business in the Community held a webinar in May 2022 to discuss the

recommendations in further detail. Cllr Henig from the LGA's People and Places Board and was a panel member at the event. Cllr Henig highlighted the importance of councils working in partnership with business as well as the need for early engagement between local government and the private sector to create a joined-up vision of a place owned by all the actors involved. Cllr Henig reinforced the importance of long-term and joined-up funding to enable more effective place-based regeneration.

Report summary

7. The following list is a summary of key findings and recommendations identified in the report, 'Partnerships in Place: The Business of Levelling Up'. The full report provides an explanation and context for each which is important for understanding their application.

Collaboration is essential

- 7.1 Recommendation 1: All sectors need to work together to form place-based collaboration.
 7.2 Recommendation 2: The Business Connector, Champion, and Ambassador Role are crucial in establishing and maintaining place-based partnerships.
 7.3 Recommendation 3: All partnerships need to deliver early action, understand the local issues and opportunities, develop a vision and action plan, and measure their impact.

Business leadership drives successful partnerships and place-based

- 7.4 Recommendation 4: Partnerships need to be driven by an independent chair transformation
 7.5 Recommendation 5: Businesses need to secure senior-level buy-in to effectively participate in partnerships.
 7.6 Recommendation 6: Business should play a key role in tackling the key issues in a place.

The unique resources of each partner need to be leveraged

- 7.7 Recommendation 7: Business, civil society organisations, and local government should each play a key role in setting a strategy for a place
 7.8 Recommendation 8: Business should utilise its knowledge & assets to benefit the partnership and the wider community.
 7.9 Recommendation 9: Businesses should advocate for their place on a national level.
 7.10 Recommendation 10: Businesses should harness their supply chain to engage more organisations in a partnership.

Government needs to do more to involve business in levelling up

- 7.11 Recommendation 11: Central government needs to facilitate effective local partnerships, that will work closely with Levelling Up Directors, through funding Connectors.

- 7.12 Recommendation 12: Town Deal Boards have the potential to be further utilised to deliver the levelling up missions, but central government needs to ensure they are truly business led and give them increased revenue funding to enable them to operate as an effective place-based partnership.
- 7.13 Recommendation 13: Levelling up funding needs to be flexible, long-term, localised and aligned with the levelling up missions to maximise the engagement of business and deliver transformative change.
- 7.14 Recommendation 14: A place-based approach by business could be empowered by incentives that direct attention and resources to places.

Next steps

8. The Board meeting is an opportunity for members to discuss with Lord Steve Bassam (see Appendix A for biography) the recommendations presented in the final report in greater detail. Lord Bassam will share the findings and comment on opportunities for future collaboration with the City Regions Board.
9. Members are invited to comment on the final report and have a further discussion with Lord Bassam considering how the recommendations can inform the Board's wider levelling up work programme.

Implications for Wales

10. While the UK Government has committed to level up the UK, economic development is a matter devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

Financial Implications

11. The Board's activities are supported by budgets for policy development and improvement. The LGA's financial contribution to the Taskforce was funded through the budget for policy development.



Lord Steve Bassam
Place Director, Business in the Community

Lord Bassam began his career working as a legal adviser in Deptford's Law Centre, moving on to several senior research roles in London local government. He served as an assistant secretary at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, before consulting in the private sector for KPMG and Capita.

Lord Bassam became involved in local politics in the early 1980s and quickly rose to become Leader of Brighton, and then Brighton and Hove City Council. In November 1997, he was created a life peer and introduced into the House of Lords. Bassam was promoted to the frontbenches as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office in 1999. In 2001, he was appointed a Lord-in-waiting where he served until 2009. During the same period, he served at various times as Government spokesman for several other departments, including Communities and Local Government, Culture Media and Sport, and Transport. He was Chief Whip for 10 years.

In 2018/19 he chaired and authored a report as Chair of the Lords Select Committee on The Future of Seaside Towns, which recommended the expansion of town deals and argued for improved connectivity and levelling up. In 2020, Lord Bassam was appointed as Co-Director of Business in the Community's Place Programme.

The role of councils in addressing the rising cost of living

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

This paper provides an overview of the LGA's current work on support for low-income households, led by the Resources Board and Rose Doran, senior adviser in the Children, Welfare, Equality and Democracy (CWED) officer team. It provides background information for members ahead of a discussion with Rose at the Board around opportunities for join-up.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Members are asked to consider the LGA's work to date on support for low-income households led by the Resources Board to inform a discussion with Rose Doran about opportunities for policy join-up.

Action/s

Members are asked to agree on a board member to represent the City Regions Board on a cost-of-living steering group.

Officers will take away actions around suggested future work and build them into the Board's work programme for the 22-23 cycle.

Contact officer: Esther Barrott
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 07464652906
Email: esther.barrott@local.gov.uk

The role of councils in addressing the rising cost of living

Background

1. Inflation is currently running at 9 per cent and is expected to increase further. Recent estimates by the [Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee](#) suggest that the conflict in Ukraine, combined with global supply constraints and rising energy costs could push 2022/23 peak inflation above 10 per cent.
2. Low-income households spend a greater proportion of their income on energy and food than households on higher incomes, which makes them more vulnerable to rising costs.
3. The [latest ONS data](#) shows upward pressure on pay and high levels of vacancies, but pay recovery is lagging inflation, with some sectors (e.g. retail) slower to recover than others. The positive unemployment data is counter-balanced with some complexities in the jobs market including increased numbers of people leaving the labour market, long-term sickness, and reductions in self-employment.
4. The Government has committed to tackling health disparities. Councils have highlighted the importance of addressing the wider determinants of public health as part of that work.
5. In December 2021 life expectancy in the most affluent areas was on average nine years longer than for those in the least affluent. Those living in the most-deprived areas were identified as spending nearly a third of their lives in poor health, compared with only about a sixth for those in the least-deprived areas.
6. In 2019 Sir Michael Marmot highlighted that if a household in the lowest income decile followed Public Health England's healthy eating advice, they would need to spend 74% of their income on food. A 2021 report by the Food Foundation found that healthy food is almost three times as expensive as unhealthy food. This is likely to become more of an issue as food costs continue to rise.
7. On 26 May 2022 the Chancellor acted on calls by the LGA, councils and partners to increase and extend the Household Support Fund to the end of the financial year. The LGA is calling on Government to accompany these measures with a longer-term solution to addressing wider cost of living pressures to build resilience through the wider welfare system which includes not just benefits but employment support, housing, health and financial inclusion.

8. The cost-of-living policy work sits within the LGA's Resources Board remit and is led by the CWED officer team. To date, the team have commissioned Shared Service Architecture to deliver a programme of action learning on the role of councils in supporting low-income households with the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis as we move into recovery from the pandemic.
9. A Debt Maturity Model is also being developed for councils and there is a wider programme of work planned for 2022/23 looking at the longer-term role of councils in the wider welfare system which will look at how local, discretionary support interacts effectively with Universal Credit and the mainstream benefits system.

Urban implications

10. As members are aware, people living in urban areas are particularly vulnerable to the rising cost of living. Recent research from debt collection company Lowell and the Urban Institute think tank found households in major UK cities have been left financially scarred by the coronavirus pandemic with high-cost debts and little in the way of savings. As a result, these cities are far more vulnerable compared with other areas to the further economic shock of the rising cost of living.
11. Centre for Cities explored the impact of the pandemic on cities and the rising cost of living further and found Slough, Hull and Blackpool are most likely to be worst affected by the rising cost of living as residents were least likely to have been able to save money during the pandemic and they have the highest shares of universal credit claimants. Urban areas which haven't returned to pre-pandemic levels of growth are at an increased risk of financial vulnerability and will therefore be disproportionately impacted by the rising cost of living.

Opportunities for join-up

12. The LGA is keen to develop an integrated approach to supporting councils and communities meet the rising cost of living. There are several suggested projects which the City Regions Board might like to get involved with.
13. Resources Board members and policy colleagues recently agreed to set up a cost-of-living steering group, with engagement from key researchers, think tanks, partners, and stakeholders to work to identify key priorities for councils, partners and communities, both in terms of impact and support.
14. Participants will identify and share their own relevant research, as well as advising on potential areas of focus and sources of evidence to inform the LGA's lobbying, research and improvement work. The Board might like to have a representative sitting on the steering group.

15. There is an opportunity to explore the role of councils in addressing the cost-of-living crisis in the 'productivity and prosperity' session of the Levelling up Locally Inquiry. The roundtable looks to explore the role of the private and public sector in addressing inter and intra-regional inequalities and consider the shift towards sustainable and inclusive models of prosperity.
16. The session will be used to explore what inclusive economies look like in practice and which financial models support this, as well as the role of local partners and services in building financial resilience within places.

Next steps

17. Members will have the opportunity to hear about the cost-of-living work undertaken to date from Rose and have a wider discussion about areas of possible join-up.
18. Members are asked to agree on whether they are happy for a member to represent the City Regions Board on a cost-of-living steering group.
19. Officers will take forward proposals and build these into the Boards work programme for the 22/23 cycle.

Implications for Wales

20. Benefits delivery and financial inclusion are devolved. However, we do share ideas and learning with WLGA colleagues and Welsh Councils where appropriate and will continue to do so for wider, integrated work on the cost of living.

Financial Implications

21. Any financial implications arising from this work will be met from the Boards' agreed programme budgets.



The Future of Cities

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides an update on progress towards an urban fringe event focused on the future of cities at LGA Conference and sets out plans for further work on the same topic.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Members of the City Regions Board are asked to note and comment on plans for the urban fringe and related work on the future of cities.

Action/s

Officers will continue to draw together essay and video submissions and the data analysis of UK cities, and plan for the urban fringe event at LGA annual conference.

Contact officer: Ellie Law
Position: Policy Adviser
Phone no: 07584 273764
Email: eleanor.law@local.gov.uk

The Future of CitiesThe Future of Cities

Background

1. At the last meeting of the City Regions Board on 22 March, Members reflected on the LGA's first Urban Summit, and agreed that officers would build on the discussions held at the Urban Summit to prepare for an Urban Fringe event at LGA annual conference.
2. Following the meeting, officers have met with representatives from Key Cities, Core Cities, London Councils, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to discuss plans for further work on the future of cities.

Issues

3. At the Urban Summit, attendees and speakers were asked to consider three questions:
 - 3.1. What are cities?
 - 3.2. What do we need our cities to be?
 - 3.3. What is the difference and how do we get them there?
4. These three questions were designed as a launching point to prompt thought and discussion about the future of cities, their role in driving the UK's economy, and their part in delivering the Government's levelling up ambitions.
5. Following the Urban Summit, officers have reached out to a wide range of people to write either an essay or record a short video on the question: "what do we want our cities to be, and how do we get there?". This list aims to capture a diverse range of voices, and includes city leaders, academics, think tanks, writers, artists, architects and city planners (see **Annex A** for a full list).
6. Officers have also met with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum to discuss how to involve the Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network, with the aim of including contributions from members of the network in the online collection.
7. These contributions will be brought together in an online collection, along with a piece of work looking at the data and demographics of UK cities. This collection will be launched at an [urban fringe event](#) at LGA Conference. The event will take place from 17:15 - 18:15 on Wednesday 29 June, in the King's Suite of the Harrogate Convention Centre.
8. At the event Mayor Marvin Rees as Chair of the Board will introduce and provide context to the collection of essays and videos. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, and Professor Greg Clark, Chair of the Connected Places Catapult during the event, as well as network with other attendees.

Officers are discussing sponsorship options with the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission.

9. Following the urban fringe event, officers will explore commissioning further research on behalf of the board to develop the propositions in the essays and videos further, as well as to make the case for cities as vehicles for addressing long standing inequalities and delivering the Government's levelling up aims.
10. One option this research could look at would be quantifying annual net gain in GDP if city-specific challenges in the UK were addressed and setting out local/national interventions needed to attract private sector investment. This could then be situated in the context of the Levelling Up White Paper's first mission: *By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.*
11. As we take this work forward, we will look to raise awareness with civil servants, Ministers, and Parliamentarians ahead of more formal representations. Members' support in this activity would be welcome.

Implications for Wales

12. The Levelling Up White Paper presents a vision for the UK. While many of the investment and policy levers are likely different within the Welsh context there will be value in drawing on the experience of Welsh cities in pursuing this agenda.

Equalities Implications

13. The LGA's 'A Vision for Urban Growth and Recovery' paper explicitly highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had exacerbated existing inequalities in urban areas, and any future commissioned research on the future of cities would explore this and other issues relating to inequality further.

14. The essays and video collection will be drawn from a diverse group of people.

Financial Implications

15. Any policy activity arising from this paper will be met from the Board's policy and research budget.

Next steps

16. Members are asked to note and comment on the plans for the urban fringe event and the online product that will be launched at that event; and to help raise awareness of the launch and wider programme.



17. Officers will continue to draw together essay and video submissions and the data analysis of UK cities, and plan for the urban fringe event at LGA annual conference.

Annex A – invited contributors

Lord Kerslake, Chair of the UK2070 Commission

Professor Greg Clark, Chair of the Connected Places Catapult and Global Head of Future Cities & New Industries at HSBC Group

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Andy Street, Mayor of West Midlands Combined Authority

Ben Houchen, Mayor of Tees Valley Combined Authority

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

Dr Colleen Thouez, researcher looking at the role of city leaders in tackling issues such as international migration and climate change, New School's Zolberg Institute in New York

Yvonne Aki-Sawyers, Mayor of Freetown

Dr Suzanne Hall, interdisciplinary urban researcher looking at global migration and urban marginalisation, LSE

Andrew Carter, Chief Executive of Centre for Cities

Professor Kathy Pain, researcher focussed on sustainable city and regional development and co-director of the Globalization and World Cities Research Network

Sara Candiracci, Associate Director of ARUP's International Development group, leading work on Inclusive and Resilient Cities

Professor Karen Seto, researcher into urbanisation and the environmental consequences of urban expansion, Yale School of the Environment

Professor Ya Ping Wang, Chair in Global City Futures in Urban Studies at University of Glasgow

Ellen de Vibe, former Chief City Planner for Oslo

Bella Tonkonogy, Director of Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance

Catherine Taylor, editor of "The Book of Sheffield" – a short story collection exploring the city from different perspectives

David Hare, playwright of "Straight Line Crazy" – a play looking at the influence of controversial city planner Robert Moses

Cecilie Sachs Olsen, researcher exploring how artistic practice can be used as a framework to analyse and re-imagine urban development, and a member of zURBS, an urban research and art collective

Anna Marazuela Kim, art historian, cultural theorist and member of the Thriving Cities Group

Vivien Lovell, visual arts creator who has led many public art strategies including Public Art in Cardiff Bay and the Strategy and Art Programme for Birmingham City Council

Carolyn Deby, artist whose work "reveals the urban as a hybrid territory of wilderness, and equally as social space and technologically reconstituted 'nature'"

Sofie Wolfrum, editor of "Performative Urbanism" an essay collection exploring the relationship between the built form and the urban realm

Professor Nicolas Whybrow, Professor of Urban Performance Studies

Kader Attia, artist who explores ideas through representations of cities

Dr Amy Butt, architect and researcher looking at the relationship between the cities we inhabit and conceptions of the city in science fiction

Osaro Otobo, trustee of the British Youth Council and a member of the LGA's Levelling Up Local Inquiry steering group

Maria Crossan, editor of Decapolis: Tales from Ten Cities – a short story collection which 'imagines the city otherwise'

Jonn Elledge, journalist and former editor of CityMetric

Dr Rosmaria Kostic Cisneros, academic, dancer and co-author of "Mapping a City's Energy: Using Digital Storytelling to Facilitate Embodied Experiences of Urban Space and Place"

David Buck, Senior Fellow at The King's Fund, who works on public health and inequalities policy

Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities

Alice Charles, lead on cities for the World Economic Forum

Greg McClymont, Assistant Director for Cities at the National Infrastructure Commission

Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director of Eurocities

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill Update

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

This paper provides an overview of provisions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill relating to devolution and levelling up missions and asks members for a steer on the LGA's approach to lobbying on these issues.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

That Members:

1. Discuss provisions relating to devolution and levelling up missions within the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
2. Provide a steer on how they would like officers to respond to these topics, identifying any specific areas that they would like to see amended or which need further clarification from Ministers.

Action/s

1. Officers will continue to work with DCN, CCN and other groups such as Core Cities and Key Cities, to ensure a strong consensual voice for local government sector as the Bill proceeds through Parliament.

Contact officers: Ellie Law / Esther Barrott
Position: Policy Advisor
Phone no: 07584 273764 / 07464 652906
Email: Eleanor.Law@local.gov.uk / Esther.Barrott@local.gov.uk

Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill Update

Background

1. The Queen's Speech on 10 May announced a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which was then presented to Parliament on 11 May. The Bill aims to drive local growth, empower local leaders to regenerate their areas, and ensure everyone can share in the UK's success. It will place a duty on the Government to set Levelling Up missions, and produce an annual report updating the country on the delivery of these missions.
2. The [LGA responded to the announcement of the Bill](#) by welcoming the steps it takes to extend devolution, and make good on the commitment in the Levelling Up White Paper to offer all of England the opportunity to benefit from a devolution deal by 2030.
3. The LGA response also emphasised that turning levelling up from a political slogan to a reality will only be achieved if councils have the powers and funding they need to address regional inequality, tackle concentrations of deprivation and make towns and communities across England attractive places to live, work and visit.
4. Following the publication of the Bill, officers have been analysing the sections of the Bill relating to the levelling up missions and metrics, and devolution and governance. Officers have met with the District Councils' Network and the County Councils Network to understand their views on the Bill and the implications for their members. While direct implications for the devolved governance arrangements of urban councils are fewer, given the close relationship between urban councils and their surrounding areas, members are invited to share their views on the Bill's governance proposals.
5. In line with the policy responsibilities of the City Regions Board this report focuses those provisions directly relating to devolution and the levelling up missions. The LGA's response to provisions relating to housing and regeneration is being led by the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board.

Issues

Levelling Up Missions

6. The Bill states the Minister must publish an annual report on the levelling-up missions which includes progress to date and future plans (Part 1, Section 2). Progress to date is measured using the latest data for calculating the mission and metrics. In this section it also sets out that the Government may decide a mission is no longer appropriate to pursue.

7. The Bill allows for the Minister to revise the mission progress methodology and metrics or the chosen target date (Part 1, Section 4).
8. Part 1, Section 5 of the Bill states that the missions must be reviewed within a five-year period. Each review must: consider whether pursuing the missions is contributing to the reduction of geographical disparities in the UK, decide whether the missions should continue to be pursued and if not what the new ones should be, and consider whether any additional missions should be pursued.

New County Combined Authorities

9. The Bill allows for the establishment of new County Combined Authorities (CCAs) (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 7). It sets out two conditions for establishing a CCA – firstly, that it must cover the whole of the area of a two tier county council, and the whole of one or more of the area of a two tier county council, the area of a unitary county council, or the area of a unitary district council, and secondly, that no part of the area of the CCA can be part of any other CCA, combined authority, or the integrated transport area of an integrated transport authority.
10. Before submitting a proposal to create a CCA to the Secretary of State, the authority or authorities in question must carry out a public consultation across the proposed area on the proposal and set out the purposes to be achieved by the creation of the CCA to the Secretary of State (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 42). The Secretary of State may make regulations setting out what information and materials must be included in or submitted with a proposal to establish a CCA. The proposal to establish a CCA does not need to be submitted by all authorities. However, if an authority doesn't submit a proposal, they still must consent to its submission (Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 60).
11. The Secretary of State may only establish a CCA if they consider that establishing it is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of some or all of the people in the area, considers the need for effective local government, reflects the identities and interests to local communities, that it will achieve the purpose(s) set out by the proposal made by the authorities, that the constituent councils of the CCA consent to its creation and public consultation has been carried out. The Secretary of State must carry out a public consultation unless it has already been carried out by the constituent councils and the Secretary of State considers no further consultation to be needed (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 43).
12. These CCAs are similar to existing Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) but differ in a number of ways. Constituent members of a CCA can be either county councils, or unitary councils within the CCA's area, but not district councils (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 8).

District councils can be non-constituent members, which are by default non-voting members unless the existing constituent members resolve otherwise.

13. The Bill allows for non-constituent members be drawn from a wider pool than just district councils. Local organisations such as universities, LEPs or business groups could be given non-constituent member status. The Bill also includes provision for associate members to be appointed to the CCA. An associate member is an individual person – such as a local business leader – that a CCA can appoint. (Part 2, Chapter 1, Sections 9 and 10). Associate members are also by default non-voting members of the CCA.
14. The Bill establishes that the Secretary of State may determine the maximum number of non-constituent and associate members of a CCA (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 11). It also states that the committee of a CCA must not consist solely of non-constituent or associate members (Part 2, Chapter 1, section 27).
15. The Bill establishes Overview and Scrutiny Committees for CCAs, and allows for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to receive allowances (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 13). At present, members of OSC for MCAs do not receive allowances. The Bill states that the Chair of OSC must be a person who is not a member of the same political party as the Mayor, or if there is no Mayor, the majority party. This suggests that if all members of the CCA are from one political party, the Chair of OSC must be an Independent Person.
16. The Bill allows for allows the Secretary of State to provide for functions of a county or district council to be exercisable by a County Combined Authority (CCA). These functions can be exercisable instead of the local authority, jointly with the local authority or concurrently with the local authority (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 16).
17. This is similar to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act (2016) which is the legal basis for existing Combined Authorities, but the 2016 Act says that this can only occur when either (a) in the case of an order in relation to an existing combined authority, each appropriate authority consents; (b) in any other case, each constituent council consents.
18. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill also requires the consent of the constituent councils, however, as the Bill explicitly excludes district councils from being constituent councils (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 8), this implies that powers could be transferred from a district to a CCA without requiring the consent of the district.
19. The Bill does not set out either in this section or elsewhere the types of powers that they would expect to be transferred under Section 16. In the explanatory notes of the Bill, it gives examples of transport, skills or economic development functions.

20. The Bill allows for powers currently held by other public authorities to be conferred instead to the CCA, and for the public authority to then be abolished if it no longer has any functions as a result of these changes (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 17). However, it also states that Section 18 of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act (2016) regarding the devolution of health functions still applies, suggesting there is little proposed changed to the health devolution landscape.
21. Powers can only be transferred to the CCA if the Secretary of State considers that the change is likely to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of some or all of the people who live or work in the area. The Secretary of State if doing this must place a report before Parliament to say what the effect of the change would be and the reasoning behind the change.
22. The boundaries of a CCA may be changed, with the Secretary of State able to add or remove the area of a two-tier county council, the area of a unitary county council, or the area of a unitary district council (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 22). If CCA has a Mayor, both the Mayor and the relevant council area must consent, if there is no Mayor, the relevant council and the CCA board must consent to the change.
23. Once the position of Mayor has been created for a CCA, the Bill states that this cannot be revoked without establishing the entire CCA and with it the office of Mayor (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 24). This is also the case with existing MCAs. CCAs may also be abolished if the majority of constituent councils (and the Mayor, where one exists) consent for the Secretary of State to do so (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 23).
24. The Bill allows for the position of a Mayor to be created (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 25), and for powers that are similar to any exercised by the CCA to be conferred to a Mayor, although this may not include the power to borrow money (Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 27). The Mayor may request powers to be conferred to them by the Secretary of State, but this is contingent on them having consulted with the constituent councils. When making the request to the Secretary of State, the Mayor must make a statement saying that either all the constituent councils agree to these powers being given to the Mayor, or if not, the Mayor's rationale for proceeding without the consent of the constituent councils. This suggests that the Mayor will be able to request powers from Secretary of State even without the constituent councils agreeing to this transfer.
25. Although the Bill uses the term Mayor throughout, it also makes provision for the role to be known by alternative titles including county commissioner, county governor, elected leader, governor, or another title as created by the CCA. If the CCA wants to use another title, this must be passed by a meeting of the CCA. A CCA can also decide to change the

title of Mayor to another title, but must send notice of the change to the Secretary of State.

26. The Bill removes the previous moratorium on carrying out changes of governance within a short timeframe to enable areas to access deeper devolution even if they have only recently adopted a different governance model. The Secretary of State can now allow an authority to hold a referendum or submit a proposal within a shorter timeframe (Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 66).

Implications for Wales

27. New County Combined Authorities can only be created in England, and the Levelling Up White Paper focusses on ensuring that all areas of England are able to access a devolution deal by the end of 2030. However, as work to detail the scope and scale of powers needed to deliver the 12 Missions at a UK level unfolds the LGA will continue to look for opportunities to work with Welsh local government.

Financial Implications

28. Any financial commitments made as part of the actions identified in this report will be met from the Board's existing policy budget.

Next steps

29. The LGA is a cross-party membership body that seeks to represent the interests of all councils. Officers will continue to work with DCN, CCN and other relevant groups, such as Core Cities and Key Cities, to ensure that any policy or lobbying activity related to the provisions set out above are developed based on consensus and agreed with members.
30. Within this context members are asked to provide a steer on how they would like officers to respond to these topics within the Bill, identifying any specific areas that they would like to see amended or which need further clarification from Ministers.

Levelling Up Locally

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides a short update for board members on the Levelling Up Locally inquiry.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Board members are asked to note the work to date for the Levelling Up Locally inquiry.

Action/s

Officers will continue with the inquiry programme and feedback any emerging recommendations to lead members as the inquiry develops.

Contact officer: Esther Barrott
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 07464652906
Email: esther.barrott@local.gov.uk

Levelling Up Locally

Background

1. At the first meeting of the City Regions Board, members agreed to support a joint and independent inquiry with the People and Places Board into Levelling Up Locally. A similar paper was also approved by the People and Places Board at their first meeting. It was agreed by City Regions board members the inquiry would look at four aspects:
 - 1.1. Funding and alignment – The practical questions about how levelling up in the broadest sense might be paid for and, at a more granular level, the opportunities to align policy and funding interventions at the local level to improve the quality of public service outcomes and address concentrations of deprivation.
 - 1.2. Leadership – The role of local leadership in binding communities and anchor institutions together to strengthen resilience, align national priorities, and articulate policy interventions necessary to support balanced economic growth.
 - 1.3. Productivity and prosperity – The role of the private and public sector in addressing inter and intra-regional inequalities and the shift towards sustainable and inclusive models of prosperity.
 - 1.4. Place and identity – The questions of place and identity within a post-pandemic context and the potential of local social and cultural infrastructure to strengthen inward investment, encourage entrepreneurialism and address economic inequalities.
2. It was decided the inquiry would be an opportunity to broaden the conversation around levelling up beyond local and central government and hear from a diverse range of speakers from different backgrounds to develop the Board's policy lines around place-based leadership.
3. Officers are continuing to pursue a wider programme of work which forms the Board's response to the Levelling Up agenda. This independent inquiry is one piece of work within this wider programme.

Update

4. At the City Regions board meeting in January 2022 members agreed to the following independent [steering group](#) members overseeing the inquiry. The steering group met for the first time to agree on the terms of reference and reflect on the recent publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in early March.
5. Following this, the LGA hosted the first roundtable on 22 March 2022 exploring the theme of funding and alignment.

- 5.1. The session was well attended with representatives from organisations including King's Fund, Manchester University, Wates Group, New Philanthropy Capital, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Welsh Local Government Association, Shared Intelligence, Social Investment Business, Association of Directors of Children's Services and WPI Economics.
- 5.2. Professor Philip McCann (professor of urban and regional economics at the University of Sheffield Management School) opened the session discussing the scale of investment required for the levelling up agenda, drawing on international perspectives. This was followed by a talk from Matt Whittaker (chief executive officer at Pro Bono Economics) who shared views around where the money for the levelling up agenda would be best spent and how we can ensure resources play to the strength of local institutions. A more comprehensive [write-up](#) has been published on the LGA website.
6. A second roundtable session was held on Monday 16th May 2022 exploring the theme of leadership.
 - 6.1. The roundtable was attended by representatives from a range of organisations including the Institute of Directors, Wates Group, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Oswald's Hospice, University of Manchester, Friends Provident Foundation, Torfaen County Borough Council, Reform, University of Cambridge, Centre for Local Economic Strategies, Nottingham City Council, Maslaha, Lewes District Council, British Youth Council, WLGA, IPPR North, Vale of White Horse District Council, COSLA and Essex County Council.
 - 6.2. The first speaker was Professor Joy Warmington, Chief Executive Officer at Brap who discussed the ways in which leadership approaches can deliver transformational change in tackling systemic inequality to deliver on the levelling up agenda. This was followed by Nick Gardham, Chief Executive Officer at Community Organisers who explored the transformational impact listening can have upon communities and the distribution of power within society. Patricia Wharton, community advocate, was the final speaker discussing how we can strengthen the talent pipeline so there is a continuation of people who have the skills and are representative of their communities to fill positions of leadership and Patricia also provided examples of what good local leadership looks like.
7. A third roundtable session exploring the theme of productivity and prosperity is scheduled for Tuesday 21 June and a final session on place and identity on 20 July. We would welcome members' support in raising awareness of the inquiry's work with Ministers and Parliamentarians in advance of the launch of the final report.

8. The final set of recommendations will be brought to both the People and Places and City Regions Boards in the autumn for members to sign-off.

Implications for Wales

9. The Government has committed to 'levelling up' the entire of the UK. While not all the policy and funding responsibilities covered by the inquiry are devolved matters, the Welsh Local Government Association have attended both roundtables to share relevant lessons and ideas. We will continue to engage colleagues in Wales throughout the Inquiry.

Financial Implications

10. Any financial implications arising from this work will be met from the Boards' agreed programme budgets.

Next steps

11. Officers will continue with the inquiry programme and feedback any emerging recommendations to lead members as the inquiry develops.

City Regions Board Annual Report

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report summarises the Board's activity over the past year and will be presented to the LGA Executive Advisory Board, alongside reports from all the LGA Boards, at its July meeting. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the **City Regions Board** in 2021/22 and looks forward to next year's priorities.

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendation/s

Members are invited to:

1. Note the achievements against the board's priorities for 2021/22; and
2. Note the board's proposed priority areas for 2022/23

Action/s

Officers to take forward actions as appropriate.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 0207 187 7384
Email: rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

City Regions Board Annual Report

Background

1. The City Regions Board was created to provide a clear voice and resource for non-metropolitan authorities within the LGA.
2. Members are asked to consider the achievements of the board over the last year against the use of allocated resources and to reflect on whether the board is continuing to meet its original purpose in response to the emerging priorities of non-metropolitan areas.

Priorities and Achievements

Levelling up and devolution

3. The Government's long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February 2022. The LGA published a [briefing note](#) and [full press release](#) in response to the Government's ambition to pursue 12 national missions and proposals relating to a new devolution framework, a plan to streamline growth funding, a new independent data body and the establishment of a new levelling up advisory council.
4. Following the announcement of a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in the Queen's Speech, the LGA on 10 May, the LGA issued a [response](#) emphasising that levelling up will only be achieved if councils have the powers and funding, they need to address interregional and intraregional inequalities, tackle deprivation, and make communities attractive places to live, work and visit. We will be working with parliamentarians and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to shape and amend this legislation to ensure it helps councils level up and delivers greater devolution.
5. The Board, along with the People and Places Board, launched an inquiry into how the Government's levelling up agenda might better strengthen local communities. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) is part of the Board's work around levelling up and looks beyond the Levelling Up White Paper to investigate the role of local leadership in shaping a recovery that works for all.
6. The Board agreed to an independent steering group helping to shape the inquiry's development including its evidence gathering; making contributions drawing on their own experience and expertise; and formulating a set of recommendations based around each of the themes. The steering group is co-chaired by Mayor Rees and Cllr Bentley of the People and Places Board and comprises of members from business, academia, think tanks, community groups and government organisations.

7. As part of the inquiry, four roundtables are being held focussing on: funding and alignment, leadership, productivity and prosperity, and place and identity. To date, two of the four roundtables have taken place. A final set of recommendations will be published in the Autumn.
8. The Board has continued to work with the Community Wellbeing Board (CWB) on issues related to health devolution, and in particular the implications of the implementation of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). The Board heard from Cllr David Fothergill, Chair of the CWB at a meeting in January and Cllr Fothergill and Mayor Rees met again in March to discuss progress. The Board raised concerns in January about the exclusion of councillors from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and were pleased that Government revised guidance to permit councillors to sit on ICBs.
9. The Board agreed to work with the CWB to develop a set of LGA policy messages. The aim of this will be to ensure that ICSs build on, enhance and support existing health devolution areas, in recognition that these only cover a minority of local authorities; do not create a barrier for any new devolution deals to include health devolution; enhance and support the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, recognising that this will be different depending on the complexity of the ICS footprint; are locally accountable; and that their decision-making is transparent to local people and their elected representatives.

Local growth

10. The Board, alongside People and Places, have supported Business in the Community (BITC) Place Taskforce to launch a [new report](#) looking into the role of business and cross-sector partnerships in place-based regeneration. Cllr Abi Brown represented the City Regions Board on the taskforce. The report provides practical recommendations to business, local government and national government on the role business can play in delivering the 'how' of the Levelling Up White Paper, as well as the foundations that are needed to transform communities.

Urban Summit

11. The Board held its first Urban Summit on 9 March. The event, hosted by Mayor Rees, brought together a broad cross-section of academics, international experts, politicians and business representatives to explore the challenges facing cities today, and look ahead to the role for cities in delivering the Government's levelling up agenda and tackling the challenges of the future.

12. The event heard contributions from speakers including Professor Greg Clark, Chair of the Connected Places Catapult, Lord Kerlake, Chair of the UK2070 Commission, Dr Coleen Thouez, a Senior Fellow from the New School's Zolberg Institute, Dorthe Nielsen, Executive Director and Acting Secretary General of Eurocities, as well as leading councillors from Salford, Nottingham, Southwark, Lancaster, Richmond and Bradford.
13. Following the summit, officers have developed plans to build on the discussions at the Urban Summit, including an urban fringe event at LGA Conference which will launch a collection of videos and essays on the topic of "what do we want our cities to be, and how do we get there?".

Employment and skills

14. In May, we published [Work Local: Unlocking talent to level up](#), our employment and skills devolution proposals which build on the Levelling up White Paper and recommends ways Whitehall can improve its approach to employment and skills policy for all places right now and deliver a coherent devolution approach. Analysis reveals devolution could each year result in a 15 per cent increase in the number of people improving their skills or finding work in a local area.
15. Following the Government's Skills for Jobs White Paper, it launched two consultation and legislated to establish new Local Skills Improvement Plans. The LGA responded to the consultations on the [National Skills Fund](#) and the [FE Funding and Accountability System](#), and engaged parliamentarians to support the LGA position on the [Skills and Post 16 Education Bill](#) which has now been enacted.
16. We proactively brought together DfE and councils outside of devolution areas to ensure that the £270 million Multiply adult numeracy programme (funded through UKSPF) was routed via councils in non-devolution areas rather than contacted nationally through the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
17. We published a [report](#) to showcase the work of councils to support and develop education, employment and training pathways, including the wider wrap-around support for young people experiencing disadvantage.

Community Renewal Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund

18. The LGA has worked with the sector to capture learning from the UK Community Renewal Fund. Following the delay in the announcement of the successful bids, we [lobbied successfully for an extension of the fund](#), with the Chairs of the People & Places and City Regions Boards writing to the Secretary of State, outlining the sector's

concerns. We have commissioned Shared Intelligence to capture the learning from the fund to help inform our wider work on growth funding

19. In April 2022, the Government published the [UKSPF prospectus and allocations](#), which [allocated £2.6 billion over three years](#), as well as [the allocations for the Multiply adult numeracy Programme](#). We launched a [UKSPF Hub](#) to support local authorities to develop their investment plans.
20. The announcement confirmed that the fund would be driven by local authorities, funding to support capacity building and the removal of competitive bidding processes. These are some of the key asks that we have been consistently lobbying on since the EU referendum.
21. We have continually engaged with councils and combined authorities to understand the implications of the prospectus, and identified some of the key concerns, including the funding gap between the end of European Social Fund programmes and the commitment of the People & Skills priority in 2024/25, as well as the need for a longer-term funding solution. We have raised these issues through [the press](#) which was featured in the Financial Times. The Chairs of the People & Places and City Regions Boards wrote to the Secretary of State setting out the sector's concerns regarding the funding gap.

Programme of work and priorities

22. The Board will advocate for Work Local model to be a way of mechanism for enabling the sector deliver a local employment and skills offer to support the levelling up agenda.
23. The Board will also continue to work to ensure that the Government puts councils at the heart of its Levelling Up agenda, and that reforms to health systems are aligned with the principles of devolution and local leadership.
24. The Board will build on its emerging discussions around the future of cities.
25. The Board will continue to seek feedback on the UK Community Renewal Fund process to help the development of the design of the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and ensure that councils play a key role in managing growth funding through the Levelling Up Fund and UKSPF.

Next steps

26. Officers to take forward actions as appropriate to draft a work programme for the board.

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