

# Improvement and Innovation Board

## Agenda

Thursday, 28 July 2022  
11.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and  
Online

**To:** Members of the Improvement and Innovation Board  
**cc:** Named officers for briefing purposes

## **Guidance notes for members and visitors** **18 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

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The LGA also offers the Govroam network, a Wi-Fi network which gives Members seamless roaming internet access across multiple public-sector locations if you have also signed up for this service. This network is enabled throughout our Westminster building and allows Members and staff from other authorities who are part of the Govroam network to seamlessly connect to our Wi-Fi.

**Further help**

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Improvement & Innovation Board  
28 July 2022

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There will be a meeting of the Improvement & Innovation Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 28 July 2022** Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

### **LGA Hybrid Meetings**

All of our meetings are available to join in person at 18 Smith Square or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

### **Catering and Refreshments:**

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### **Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:**

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:labgp@lga.gov.uk">labgp@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@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>

### **Attendance:**

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

### **LGA Contact:**

Jonathan Bryant  
jonathan.bryant@local.gov.uk - 07464652746

### **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.

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The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

## Improvement & Innovation Board – Membership 2021/22

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 8 )</b>	
Cllr Peter Fleming OBE (Chairman)	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Philip Broadhead	Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council
Cllr Carl Les	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Laura Miller	Dorset Council
Cllr Phil North	Test Valley Borough Council
Cllr Alan White	Staffordshire County Council
Lord Gary Porter CBE (Observer)	South Holland District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Kam Kaur	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Bruce Laughton	Nottinghamshire County Council
<b>Labour ( 8 )</b>	
Cllr Judi Billing MBE (Deputy Chair)	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Cllr Asma Begum	Tower Hamlets Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Oliver Ryan	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Peter Mason	Ealing Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE (Observer)	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Anthony McKeown	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Steve Norman	Lichfield District Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 3 )</b>	
Cllr Liz Green (Vice-Chair)	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Mayor Peter Taylor	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Alan Connett (Observer)	Teignbridge District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Paul Crossley	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Independent ( 3 )</b>	
Cllr Neil Prior (Deputy Chair)	Pembrokeshire County Council
Cllr Alex Coley	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Mike Haines (Observer)	Teignbridge District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council

<b>Non-Voting</b>	
Philip Sellwood CBE	Independent Observer
Richard Priestman	Independent Observer

## Agenda

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### Improvement & Innovation Board

Thursday 28 July 2022

11.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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<b>3. Office for Local Government - Update from DLUHC</b>	
Verbal update from DLUHC official	
<b>4. Quarter 1 - Sector Support Programme Performance against KPIs 2021/22</b>	9 - 12
<b>5. Public notices</b>	
Verbal update	
<b>NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>6. LGA Innovation Zone Wrap Up</b>	13 - 20
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<b>9. Any other business</b>	

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 6 October 2022, 11.00 am, Hybrid Meeting -  
18 Smith Square and Online



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## **Innovation Zone – Wrap Up**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion

### **Summary**

This report provides an overview of the Innovation Zone process

**Is this report confidential? Yes  No**

### **Recommendations**

Improvement and Innovation Board (IIB) to review overview of Innovation Zone to consider approach to inform next year's delivery.

### **Actions**

Members to discuss the Innovation Zone planning and delivery, and wider conference, to reflect on what went well and where improvement can occur.

**Contact officer:** Henry Butt  
**Position:** Improvement Strategy Advisor  
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## **Innovation Zone Wrap Up**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The LGA's Conference took place on June 28<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the Harrogate Convention Centre.
- 1.2 The Innovation Zone (IZ) is a significant part of the LGA's Annual conference. The IZ offers a vibrant and creative space involving a series of open, walk-in, sessions highlighting exciting and innovative ideas of significance to the local government sector.
- 1.3 Sessions featured were being delivered by council representatives as well as public sector and private sector organisations, provided that their content links to local government and had a tangible impact on the sector.
- 1.4 This report provides an overview of the approach to IZ preparations, some reflections on the delivery of the zone and some questions to be considered to support planning for next year's IZ.

### **2. Approach and planning**

- 2.1 The IZ was led by a small project team including members of the Improvement Coordination and Strategy team, the Events team, Communications team and Campaigns team.
- 2.2 Applications for the IZ were made live in January 2022 (open for 4 weeks). A short application form was produced, incorporating the agreed theme of 'resilience and renewal'.
- 2.3 Applications were reviewed by members of the project team and internal subject experts to identify the most innovative, impactful and interesting sessions to schedule. The decision on applications considered the type of council applying, the region of the council, the backgrounds of the speakers, variety in the sessions offered and ensuring representation across political spectrum. In total more than 110 applications were received with 36 sessions ultimately selected to make up the IZ session programme.
- 2.4 The IZ also featured 7 "Spotlight On" Talks. These were more proactively selected based on known significant challenges in the sector and/or opportunities to include excellent speakers.
- 2.5 The LGA committed to regularly updating IIB members on the IZ's progress. This occurred through two progress updates delivered to the board in the early stages of planning (December) and towards the end (May). In addition, a

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Member's Working Group was implemented to allow for political oversight across the planning process including the approach to content, the space and activity on the day.

2.6 The IZ programme was promoted across a range of communications channels including LGA bulletins, social media and press releases including First Magazine.

### **3. Innovation Zone Delivery at Conference**

- 3.1 The IZ featured 3 stands for presentations to take place, as well as a coffee area and seating area. Stands included headphones to minimise noise disruptions when multiple presentations occurred at the same time. The IZ was part of the LGA Hub, which also featured the Campaigns area, which included further seating.
- 3.2 The IZ was opened by Cllr Peter Fleming, chair of the IIB, it featured an overview of the programme ahead and also launched the LGA's Annual Report, covering improvement activity 2021-2022. The opening culminated with a talk from Sarah Luke, of Embed, who spoke on how Resilience and Renewal could be used to achieve positive Equality, Diversity and Inclusion outcomes.
- 3.3 Sessions were planned with reference to the wider conference programme to chart the best times to hold them. On some days, session leads were asked to have a presence throughout the day to ensure there was always some activity in the IZ. This included augmented reality experiences, tech demonstrations and walkthroughs on tools and resources. Where possible, we attempted to have diverse sessions happening simultaneously, so delegates did not have to pick between similar clashing presentations.
- 3.4 The 7 Spotlight on Talks were promoted separately and were delivered exclusively of all other activity to ensure they had maximum engagement. Our Spotlight on Climate Panel was the most popular session across the 3 days with over 120 people attending that single session. The talks also included a notable presentation from Karl Lokko, discussing his life experience as a former gang leader turned activist.
- 3.5 Lead Members of the IIB and those in the Member's Working Group had an active role in the IZ. Members played a key role introducing Spotlight on talks, launching the IZ and promoting wider IZ activity across the conference.
- 3.6 The sessions across the 3 days were highly attended with many timeslots being standing room only (see appendix for images). A session time on the Thursday morning was particularly popular where nearly 300 people attended across the

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3 sessions being delivered (Social Housing Peer Challenge, How Drones can benefit Council Services and Connected Community Project: Pembrokeshire).

- 3.7 Feedback for the IZ was overwhelmingly positive gaining recognition from the [LGC](#) and delegates. Positive comments were focused on the energy of the zone in addition to the learning offered and the diversity of the programme.

#### **4. Considerations**

4.1 To help inform planning for the IZ in 2023 it would be fantastic to hear your feedback including views on the following:

- a. What do you think worked well about the IZ? (both in planning and in delivery)
- b. what would you like to see carried forward from this year?
- c. What could have gone better?
- d. Any reflection on the role of the IIB in the process?
- e. Any thoughts on the wider conference and its programme?

#### **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. The Innovation Zone is funded via existing LGA budgets.

#### **6. Implications for Wales**

- 6.1. Welsh councils are welcome and encouraged to apply to showcase their ideas at the Innovation Zone.

#### **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 The LGA is committed to increasing diversity at all levels of local government and will ensure there are opportunities to include those from underrepresented groups, within the conference programme.

#### **8. Next Steps**

- 8.1. Reflections from the IIB and other stakeholders is being captured. These will be used to inform the process of planning for next year's Innovation Zone at conference in Bournemouth.



**Appendix A – Innovation Zone Images**



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## Levelling Up and Devolution Support to Councils

### **Purpose:**

For information.

### **Summary**

This paper sets out the sector support programme for devolution and Levelling Up funded by the 2022/23 DLUHC Grant.

**Is this report confidential? Yes  No**

### **Recommendation/s**

That the Board notes the programme of support available to councils on devolution and levelling up.

**Contact officer:** Lusi Manukyan  
**Position:** Senior Adviser – Improvement and Policy  
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## Levelling Up and Devolution Support to Councils

### Background

1. The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper has expanded and extended opportunities for devolution, opening it for the first time to any area of the country that wants a devolution deal. In response to this and as part of our sector support programme, funded by DLUHC, the LGA has put in place support for councils to understand the new devolution framework and governance implications, as well as fulfil the Levelling Up missions, lead their place-shaping ambitions and enable further devolution.
2. We have developed a flexible programme support to councils as they consider options for devolution deals, and as and when they embark on negotiations. At the same time, the LGA continue to provide support to the existing combined authorities, including combined authorities with 'trailblazer' deals. Additional support will be available to councils through various existing programmes as detailed below.
3. This offer has been shared and agreed with officials from DLUHC. Officials have confirmed that despite the recent changes in the ministerial team, the government remains committed to the levelling up agenda and this is unlikely to change in the near future. To ensure that all LGA support around Levelling Up and Devolution remains relevant and sustainable regardless of any changes in policy, the LGA has engaged with a wide range of councils to better understand their needs, their areas of pressure, and any gaps in our current provision.

### Devolution support

4. Specific support has been put in place in response to council needs around devolution. This includes:
  - 4.1. **Combined Authority Officer and Peer networks**, which will expand as new combined authorities and other devolution areas are agreed and will commission additional support and resources.
  - 4.2. **Sector-wide devolution and levelling up resources**, through a regularly updated online Devolution Hub, Levelling Up Hub and devolution bulletin.
  - 4.3. **Peer support and peer to peer knowledge sharing** for councils on similar devolution pathways, including support for both members and officers.
  - 4.4. **A series of webinars and events** to support and inform councils considering and/or negotiating a devolution deal, including on:
    - practical steps to setting up a CA
    - using data locally
    - comms and engagement



- governance, accountability and scrutiny

4.5. **Support to councils to develop and communicate an evidence base for devolution deals**, including through LG Inform

4.6. **Additional bespoke support**, on demand to all councils that collectively want it (including those not directly referenced in the Levelling Up White Paper), with all areas announced in the Levelling Up White Paper being approached to discuss their improvement needs, including help to develop a business case and financial modelling to support proposals, advice on developing a communications strategy, or simply trusted and honest feedback.

**Levelling Up Support**

5. Following extensive engagement with councils, we have identified their biggest Levelling Up support needs, which include officer capacity, rising demands due to cost of living pressures, and involving communities effectively. For new devolution areas, the transfer of LEP functions is an opportunity to re-design their economic and business support provision. Therefore, the following new improvement support will be put in place:

Support project	Impact / outcomes	Type of support
<b>Building local government capacity to deliver Levelling Up</b>	Improved officer capacity to support key elements of LU through deeper understanding of opportunities, improved knowledge sharing and stronger inter-authority networks.	Facilitated networks, online roundtables and surgeries
<b>Supporting the transition of LEPs to local government</b>	Councils and emerging CAs are better able to manage a smooth transition of local enterprise partnerships, leading to more streamlined provision of economic support and better strategic engagement with local businesses.	Good practice guide, webinar
<b>Supporting skills and employment pathfinders</b>	Pathfinder areas are well placed to maximise the opportunities from LU and share learning for all areas interested in devolution.	Facilitated action learning sets, online content
<b>Strengthening pride in place through better community engagement</b>	Councils are better supported to engage their residents in developing LU policies and interventions that meet community need and ambition.	Peer-led facilitated learning workshops shared across regions



<p><b>Supporting councils to remove barriers to prosperity</b></p>	<p>Councils can commit meaningfully to the cross-Government debt strategy and respond to DLUHC guidance on improving council tax recovery. Councils can apply behavioural insights to identify and support people at risk of debt.</p>	<p>Maturity framework and webinar</p>
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**Support across all programme areas**

6. Levelling Up agenda cuts across multiple improvement programmes and support offers. This includes but is not limited to the following support:

- Political and officer leadership development
- Peer challenges
- Governance support
- Economic growth advisers, e-learning, events and online hub
- Procurement support, including on social value
- Workforce planning support and broader HR and workforce support and advice
- Net zero support offer
- Apprenticeship support
- Community engagement and comms support
- Equality, diversity and inclusion offer
- Place narrative offer
- Housing Advisors Programme and associated support
- Building safety support
- Support around Culture and Sport (not funded by the main DLUHC grant)
- Digital Connectivity and Cyber support (not funded by main DLUHC grant)

**Implications for Wales**

7. None – the devolution and Levelling Up agenda only affects areas in England.

**Equalities implications**

8. Positive – the programme aims to help reduce inequalities between different areas of England and address challenges in terms of access to skills and employment opportunities for all. Specific support will be put in place to help councils engage their residents in developing LU policies and interventions that meet community need and ambition.

**Financial implications**

9. The programme of support is funded through the 2022/23 DLUHC Grant.

**Next steps**

10. The LGA will continue to deliver a wide-ranging programme of support to councils on devolution and Levelling Up.



## **Improvement Support to Councils - One Public Estate**

### **Purpose:**

For information.

### **Summary**

The One Public Estate (OPE) programme has grown since its inception as a pilot programme in 2013 working with 12 council areas, to a large national programme now involving 97% of councils.

This report details the growth and progress of the programme, including the further £180m of Brownfield Land Release Funding currently being administered over three years, 2022/23 - 2024/25.

### **Recommendations**

That IIB notes the progress of the One Public Estate programme.

**Contact officer:** Ellen Vernon  
**Position:** Programme Director – One Public Estate  
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## Improvement Support to Councils - One Public Estate

### Background

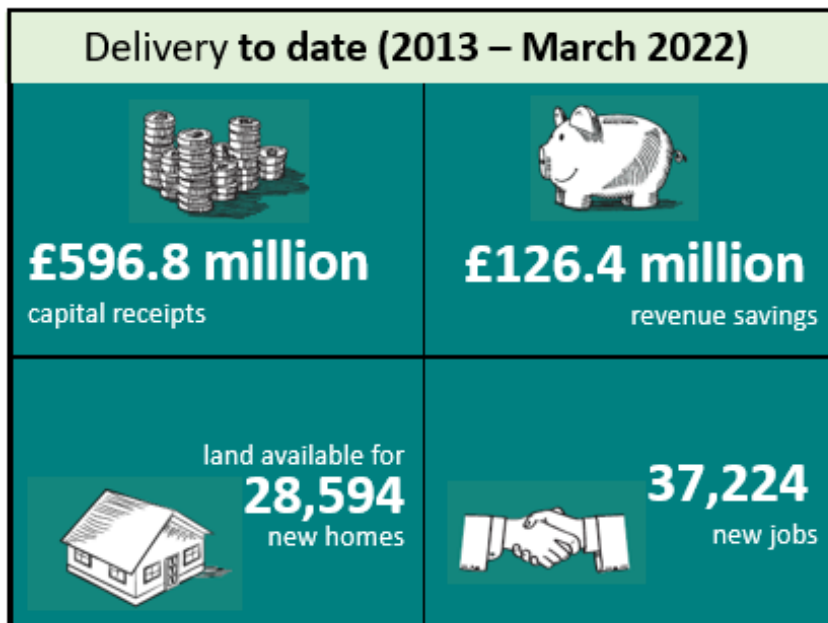
1. One Public Estate (OPE) was established in 2013 as a partnership programme between Cabinet Office and the Local Government Association (LGA) in 2013. The programme's aim is to encourage and support collaboration amongst public sector property owners to realise an efficient and effective use of the public estate, in order for local needs such as housing and regeneration to be met by repurposing surplus public assets.
2. Additionally, since 2018 the programme has delivered the Land Release Funds, more latterly re-branded Brownfield Land Release Funds (BLRF), on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC, formerly MHCLG).
3. One Public Estate is jointly delivered by the LGA and the Cabinet Office through a blended team, part working in the LGA and part in the Office of Government Property (OGP), within the Cabinet Office. The programme provides practical and technical support, alongside revenue and capital funding, to public bodies.
4. The OPE programme supports 69 council-led OPE Partnerships to develop and deliver portfolios of public property projects comprising:
  - OPE projects - revenue funding to support central and local government partners to collaborate on shared estate needs and opportunities, exploring options to improve efficiency in the public estate, and to release or repurpose surplus public land
  - LRF/BLRF projects - supporting the release of council-owned brownfield land for housing with capital funding to bring surplus local authority land that is suitable for housing to a point of viability and delivery
5. To date the programme has administered nine rounds of OPE revenue funding totalling c.£65m, and three rounds of B/LRF capital funding totalling c.£156m.
6. In July 2022 OPE launched the first £40m wave of the £180m Brownfield Land Release Fund 2, open for bids until 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
7. The programme continues to support both Cabinet Office, and DLUHC, to understand the needs and opportunities related to public land from a council perspective, and to explore, develop and design intervention approaches.

### **One Public Estate Programme Structure**

8. One Public Estate operates through a structure of 69 local OPE partnerships. Councils act as the accountable bodies for these OPE partnerships, convening a variety of public bodies in the locality in order to collaborate on public property matters.
9. The public bodies involved alongside councils vary by locality, depending on property ownerships and local ambitions, but typically involve blue light bodies, health bodies, and central government departments with a local presence (DWP, MOJ, MOD).
10. Each OPE partnership sets a programme of work to review local public property needs collaboratively, in order to identify opportunities for co-locations, public service hubs, and other efficiencies, and with the aim of releasing surplus public land for housing and regeneration purposes. Partners benefit from capital receipts and revenue savings where surplus land can be repurposed, as well as improved public service delivery from co-locating public services. Councils also benefit from the ability to repurpose public land to meet local housing and regeneration needs.

### **One Public Estate Support**

11. The OPE programme helps central and local government partners work together to explore and develop joint property projects. Thirteen government departments, 320 councils and hundreds of other public sector bodies, such as health and blue light organisations, are involved.
12. The OPE offer includes financial support, peer support, plus practical and technical advice and brokering from the OPE team. OPE grants typically fund feasibility studies, masterplans and other technical studies, plus local authority capacity.
13. To date the programme has administered nine rounds of OPE revenue funding totalling c.£65m and supporting c.750 projects. OPE projects range from station regeneration projects to public service hubs to garden communities.
14. These projects are realising significant benefits from OPE investment: delivering capital receipts for reinvestment and reducing running costs for improved public sector efficiency; providing land for homes and jobs; and improving public service delivery.
  - the ability to link public property to support place agendas – for example town centre regeneration.



15. Equally as valuable have been the softer benefits. These include:

- enabling local authorities to have some control over the supply of land for housing
- the ability to support SME's and local supply chains
- enabling local authorities to connect and engage with harder to reach parts of government
- the ability to share problem solving and best practise between councils and other public bodies

16. During 2021/22 OPE also provided support to 47 OPE partnerships in the form of the Opportunity Development Fund. This revenue support provided capacity for OPE Partnerships in areas of greatest need to refresh thinking around estate collaboration opportunities post pandemic and develop project pipelines for investment.

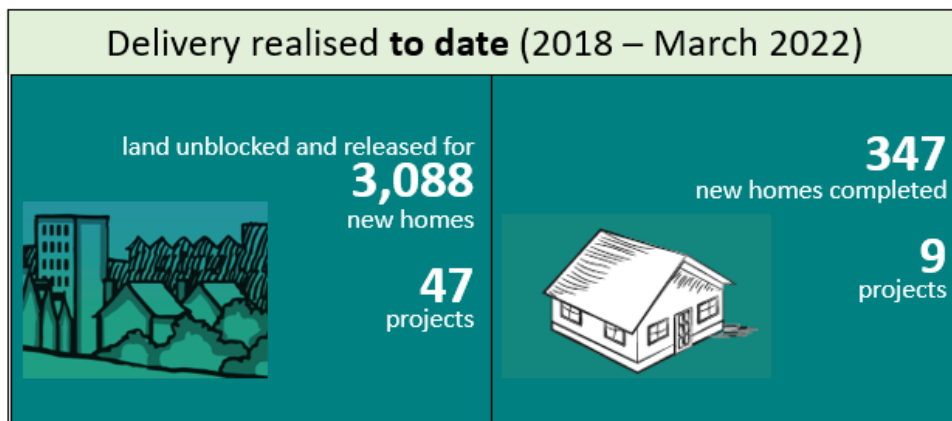
### Brownfield/Land Release Fund Support

17. Since 2018 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (and its predecessor MHCLG) have worked with OPE to deliver three rounds of Brownfield/ Land Release Funding, totalling £156m and supporting c.320 projects, through the network of OPE partnerships.

18. B/LRF unlocks council-owned sites for housing, particularly brownfield, providing capital funding to address viability issues. Councils are enabled to accelerate the release of land for new homes and deliver housing at pace - to meet local needs such as affordable or extra care homes. Typical works funded include: abnormal costs related to

contamination, demolition of obsolete buildings, abnormal utilities costs, highways requirements and so forth.

19. BLRF, awarded to councils in 2021/22, also supported 54 council projects to release land for Self and Custom Build plots.
20. In addition, OPE has helped DLUHC to pilot an Estate Regeneration scheme, providing capital to 14 council-led estate regeneration schemes.
21. LRF projects are expected to deliver 15,663 homes by 2024, with a typical cost of £11,8723 per home enabled. As of March 2022, a number of projects have now released land, with some also having homes now completed.



22. Case studies of OPE and LRF supported projects are attached at Appendix A.

### Activity in 2022/23

23. Reflecting the success of the LRF and BLRF1 funding being delivered by the LGA through OPE Partnerships, SR21 saw the announcement of a further £180 million of Brownfield Land Release Funding for spend over the three year SR period.
24. The OPE team refined the fund design and criteria to create BLRF2, ensuring the fund was accessible to council areas in need of levelling up, where such councils typically have low land values and had previously struggled to access LRF or BLRF funding. The key differences in the design and criteria of BLRF2 are:
  - the value for money criteria, based on land value uplift, has a lower threshold, meaning councils with lower land values are eligible for funding
  - the fund is now available to Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas, both the MCA and their constituent councils

- the three year time frame enables councils to plan when to bid to best manage their capacity and resources

25. The first wave of BLRF2, £40 million, was soft launched to councils on 30th June 2022, and formally launched on 8th July. The BLRF application window closes on 19<sup>th</sup> August, with project assessments and funding awards occurring during the autumn.

26. Further Waves are planned for years 2 and 3, anticipated to be £60m and £80m respectively.

27. The OPE programme is currently holding workshops with councils to provide briefings on the detail of the funds, plus advice on applying.

### **Summary and Forward Look**

28. The OPE Programme continues to see strong outputs from the activities and initiatives it is delivering, as evidenced within this report. The model of local OPE partnerships, and the programme's collaborative ethos, mean OPE is an effective and efficient route for reaching and supporting local councils.

29. Notwithstanding strong delivery, there are sectoral challenges. Post pandemic, public bodies continue to grapple with the amount, and nature, of property assets required going forwards. Capacity across many areas of the public sector, but particularly built environment professions, continues to present a challenge. Inflation and spiralling energy costs are of increasing concern in relation to public service delivery and built environment projects.

30. The OPE Programme is continuing to develop its OPE support offer in response to levelling up and other government priorities, and project opportunities surfaced through local OPE partnership pipeline development.

### **Issues**

31. There are no specific issues to raise in relation to the OPE programme. Sector wide issues are set out at paragraph 30 above.

### **Implications for Wales**

32. None – the OPE programme only covers English local authority areas. The OPE programme has previously engaged with Welsh Government colleagues to share experiences and learnings.

### **Equalities implications**

#### 33. Positive -

- the OPE programme seeks to support property projects which in general terms improve accessibility to public services for all, and which support local authorities' to best meet diverse housing needs where the market is unlikely to meet these
- the criteria to be assessed as part of the current BLRF2 application round include the degree to which the Public Sector Equality Duty is met by proposed schemes (PSED is 5% of the available score)
- the OPE programme seeks to ensure EDI aims are met operationally, for example through recruitment practises, providing subtitles on video formats, and so forth.

### **Financial implications**

34. The OPE programme is delivered by the LGA in partnership with Cabinet Office via a contract. The preceding year's contract (2021/22) was extended by 3 months to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, to enable a new contract to be put in place for 2022/23. A new contract covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and has provision for renewal twice, i.e. covering the time period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### **Next steps**

#### 35. The OPE programme continues to:

- Work with OPE partnerships to support previously funded property projects through to delivery
- Promote, engage, and administer the new BLRF2 fund
- Work with DLUHC to plan the future waves of BLRF2
- Work with OGP and DLUHC partners on exploring and developing further interventions and approaches to support housing delivery and public land efficiency.

36. From an operational perspective, the OPE programme successfully expanded and restructured the OPE team during 2021/22 to ensure the successful achievement of the larger BLRF programmes, alongside continuing support for OPE funded projects and OPE support offers.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **ONE PUBLIC ESTATE and LAND RELEASE FUND CASE STUDIES**

#### **One Public Estate**

##### **Mildenhall Hub – West Suffolk**

- £100,000 OPE award for place-making, feasibility and masterplanning
- Brought education, health and care, employment and advice, culture, leisure and community services collaboratively under one roof
- Opened September 2021 - additional support provided to unblock construction contract issues which were risking delivery during the pandemic
- Shortlisted for the Government Property Awards 2022 – Project of the Year



#### **Brownfield/Land Release Fund**

##### **Griffin regeneration area - Blackburn**

- £670,000 LRF1 funding - new highways access and land remediation
- Accelerated release of 140 family homes (56 delivered, 80+ in development)
- Reduced ASB
- Public realm and open space improvements
- Regeneration of dilapidated site

