



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

Agenda

**Tuesday, 21 March 2023**  
**11.00 am**

Hybrid Meeting - Eaton-Cockell Room, 18  
Smith Square and Online

There will be a meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board at **11.00 am on Tuesday, 21 March 2023** 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.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

### **Catering and Refreshments:**

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

### **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:**

Emilia Peters  
07776680346 / [emilia.peters@local.gov.uk](mailto:emilia.peters@local.gov.uk)

### **Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board – Membership

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
<b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr David Renard (Chairman)	Swindon Borough Council
Cllr Kelham Cooke	South Kesteven District Council
Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Mid Sussex District Council
Cllr Paul Marshall	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Carl Les	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
Cllr Graham Burgess	Gosport Borough Council
Cllr Imogen Payter	Havant Borough Council
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Darren Rodwell (Vice-Chair)	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
Mayor Philip Glanville	Hackney London Borough Council
Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council
Cllr Claire Holland	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Philip Bialyk	Exeter City Council
Cllr Emily Darlington	Milton Keynes Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Anthony Okereke	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Cllr Sharon Thompson	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Thomas Renhard	Bristol City Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Pippa Heylings (Deputy Chair)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Loic Rich (Deputy Chair)	Cornwall Council
Cllr Diana Moore	Exeter City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Jamie Osborn	Norwich City Council
Cllr Ed Gemmell	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Paul Hilliard	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Phil Jordan	Isle of Wight Council

## Agenda

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### Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

11.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 22 June 2023, 11.00 am, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

**Meeting:** Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

**Date:** 21 March 2023



## Active Travel England

### Purpose of report

For information and discussion

### Summary

The Department for Transport (DfT) has created a new executive agency, Active Travel England (ATE). ATE's role is to manage the national active travel budget, approve and inspect schemes and will be a statutory consultee on major planning applications.

Chris Boardman presented his vision for ATE to the Board in June 2022, shortly after his appointment as National Active Travel Commissioner. Since then, ATE has appointed a chief executive, Danny Williams, and has been rapidly strengthening its team to fulfil its remit. ATE has also started to award active travel funding to councils and started its inspection activities. Danny Williams and Brian Deegan, Director of Inspections, have been invited to give an update on their activities with councils and to also provide a look ahead at future work and funding. This is also an opportunity for members to reflect on local ambitions for active travel and how ATE can provide support.

**Is this report confidential?** No

### Recommendation

That the EEHT Board:

1. Notes the report and engages with Chief Executive and Director for Inspections to discuss ATE's work programme and how it intends to work with and support local authorities.

### Action

As directed by the Board

### Contact details

Contact officer: Kamal Panchal

Position: Senior Adviser

Mobile: 0771 7572640

Email: [kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk](mailto:kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk)

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) Telephone 020 7664 3000 Email [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

**Chairman:** Councillor James Jamieson OBE **Chief Executive:** Mark Lloyd CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

## Active Travel England



### Background

1. The Department for Transport created a new executive agency, Active Travel England (ATE), with its headquarters in York. The Government [formally announced](#) ATE in January 2022. ATE will have 100 staff with over 60 outward facing roles including inspectors, planners and a regional engagement team. ATE aims to be at full capacity in the summer 2023.
2. ATE now manages the national active travel budget, awards funding for projects which meet the new national standards set out in 2020. It inspects finished schemes and may ask for funds to be returned for any which have not been completed as promised, or which have not started or finished by the stipulated times.
3. ATE has begun to inspect, and publish reports on, highway authorities for their performance on active travel and identify any particularly dangerous failings in their highways for cyclists and pedestrians.
4. As well as approving and inspecting schemes, ATE will help local authorities, training staff and spreading good practice in design, implementation and public engagement. It will be a statutory consultee on major planning applications to help ensure that the largest new developments properly cater for pedestrians and cyclists.
5. Active Travel England's Framework states: "The DfT and ATE share the common objective of delivering increases in active travel to 50% of all journeys in urban areas. To achieve this ATE and the DfT will work together in recognition of each other's roles and areas of expertise, providing an effective environment for ATE to achieve its objectives through the promotion of partnership and trust and ensuring that ATE also supports the strategic aims and objective of the DfT and wider government as a whole.

### Funding

6. ATE's establishment follows the government's commitment of £2 billion for cycling and walking over this parliament and will exist to support their national Gear Change strategy to transform active travel. This includes £710 million of new active travel funding announced at SR21 of which £200 million of capital funding (via competition) was [recently announced](#) , alongside [£32.9 million of revenue support](#).
7. Previous to this there were [three tranches of funding](#).
8. However, the LGA has sought clarification from Active Travel England as to the future funding available to councils. Following on from the [written ministerial statement](#) by the Secretary of State for Transport on 9<sup>th</sup> March, it appears that funding has been reduced by approximately £200 million from 2023/24 to 2024/25. This is likely to be a setback for councils who are trying to boost cycling and walking in their areas.

9. In response to a recent ministerial question on whether the DfT has made an assessment of the level of funding that will be required to meet its cycling targets for (a) 2025 and (b) 2030, the minister gave the following response:
- The Department estimates that a minimum of £4.4 billion is likely to be required to meet its cycling and walking objectives to 2025; and further, that a minimum of £5.5 billion is likely to be required to meet the objectives to 2030. The actual amount will depend on a wide variety of factors.
10. The Skidmore Independent Review of Net Zero ([para 915](#)), and Chief Medical Officer's Annual report on air pollution ([p 134](#)) recommend and discuss the need for long-term funding for active travel, to ensure that more people will benefit.
11. Councils have long argued for long-term certainty of funding and that funding announcements are timely to align with local priorities and scheduling of works. Delays can lead to inflation impacting on the viability of planned schemes. The recent funding announcements have come later than councils expected – it is hoped that ATE will be able to provide more timely and longer-term certainty of funding in future with regards to the remainder of the funding.
12. In terms of funding allocation, ATE says it will focus its resources on councils that have the 3 core ingredients to succeed: strong leadership, ambition and a track record of delivery. ATE has developed a 1-4 score 'capability rating' based on a 2-step process involving an initial self-assessment followed by a review by ATE. This is for the 79 transport authorities (combined authorities, unitary and county councils) outside of London. Ratings are used to guide the initial allocation of Active Travel and Capability Funding. The ratings will be reviewed annually although it may be possible to have them changed sooner. The first set of ratings were published on 10<sup>th</sup> March and can be found [here](#). 4 councils were given a rating of 0, 40 awarded 1, 30 awarded 2, 5 awarded 3 and none were awarded 4.
13. The LGA broadly welcomed Government's measures, as announced in its [Gear Change vision document](#), to boost cycling and walking but has said that councils should be given the freedom to work with their local communities to get on with planning active travel infrastructure such as cycling schemes. As with any new body with inspection or statutory consultee powers, we would expect them to be proportionate in undertaking them, reflecting the wider remit of councils and the resources available to them.

## Inspection

14. ATE's framework states that it will achieve its aims by:
- Holding the active travel budget, including for behaviour change and cycle training, and assessing all applications for active travel capital and revenue funding, including from wider funds such as the City Region Sustainable Transport Fund, the Levelling Up Fund and RIS2, and awarding funding to schemes only if they meet the standards and principles set out in Local

Transport Note 1/20, or any later national design standards (Gear Change was clear that to receive government funding for local highways investment where the main element is not walking or cycling improvements, there will be a presumption that all new schemes will deliver or improve cycling infrastructure to the new standards laid down, unless it can be shown that there is little or no need for cycling in that particular road scheme. ATE will also assess these schemes);

- Inspecting schemes on completion to ensure compliance with the design standards and withdrawing funding for any which have not started or finished within the stipulated timeframe;
- Delivering training, developing best practice and sharing knowledge to raise standards in scheme design and delivery including stakeholder management;
- Reviewing major planning applications as a statutory consultee and being a repository of expert advice on how walking and cycling provision can be improved, including through the planning system;
- Inspecting highway authorities on their performance on active travel which will influence funding it receives for other forms of transport;
- Increasing skills and capacity in local authorities, promoting best practice and enabling authorities to learn from each other and raising performance generally;
- Influencing key stakeholders, and the public debate, to see the value to society, individuals and business of active travel.

15. A local authority good practice [toolkit](#) was published last August.

16. Brian Deegan will be able to expand on how the inspection and support role is working in practice and provide some thoughts on dealing with common issues.

## Planning

17. ATE's statutory duties and functions are to be a statutory consultee on planning applications for major new developments and on land used for highways.

18. From 1 June 2023, ATE will become a statutory consultee on certain planning applications, as listed below. This will help to ensure that when new developments are being considered, the opportunity to build in active travel routes is fully maximised. To that end, after 1 June, local planning authorities will be required to consult ATE on planning applications where developments meet the following minimum thresholds:

- 150 residential units (dwellings)
- 7,500m<sup>2</sup> commercial area; or
- Site having an area of 5 hectares or more.



19. This will apply outside of London. Inside the capital current arrangements between the Boroughs, the GLA, and Transport for London will apply unless otherwise agreed on a case-by-case basis.
20. Over the course of March and April 2023, ATE will undertake a series of roadshow events across the country to engage directly with local stakeholders, and in particular, planning officials. These events will provide an opportunity to hear about how the agency is developing, how the planning team will assess planning applications and other functions, including inspections and investments. If your planning officers are interested in the workshops then they should contact [Contact@activetravelengland.gov.uk](mailto:Contact@activetravelengland.gov.uk).
21. Following the 'go-live' of its statutory consultee function, ATE will also look to provide advice in the preparation of local plans and supplementary planning documents, as well as encouraging prospective applicants to take advantage of pre-application advice.

## Implications for Wales

22. ATE does not cover Wales. Improving and promoting active travel routes and facilities has been enshrined in law in Wales since 2013. The Active Travel Wales Act 2013 places a duty on Welsh highways authorities to make annual improvements. Further information on funding and support in Wales can be found [here](#).

## Financial Implications

23. There are no financial implications

## Equalities Implications

24. The Government updated its cycle infrastructure design guidance in July 2020 (Local Transport Note 1/20). There will be an expectation that local authorities will demonstrate that they have given due consideration to this guidance when designing new cycling schemes and, in particular, when applying for Government funding that includes cycle infrastructure.
25. LTN 1/20 states:
- “Cycle infrastructure should be accessible to everyone from 8 to 80 and beyond: it should be planned and designed for everyone. The opportunity to cycle in our towns and cities should be universal.
  - The ability to deliver a right to cycle requires infrastructure and routes which are accessible to all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or disability and does not create hazards for vulnerable pedestrians. Improvements to highways should always seek to enhance accessibility for all.”

## **Next Steps**

26. The LGA will continue to work closely with ATE at an officer level, with the aim of ensuring that ATE is able to undertake its work in an efficient and effective manner, and that its engagement with local authorities is as constructive and proportionate as possible.

## **Biography**

### **Danny Williams, Chief Executive, Active Travel England**

27. Danny Williams was appointed as CEO of Active Travel England in June 2022. Danny has spent over 25 years leading media businesses, including scaling a start-up and developing large and high-performing teams within global corporations. He was a member of the Mayor of London's 'Roads Task Force' and has been named by the Evening Standard as one of the top 1,000 most influential Londoners for several years running. In his spare time, Danny's passion project has been advocating for change in how villages, towns and cities approach walking and cycling.

### **Brian Deegan, Director of Inspections, Active Travel England**

28. Brian Deegan is the Director of Inspections at Active Travel England. Brian is one of the UK's leading experts in active travel design and helped write the 'Cycling Level of Service' and 'Healthy Street Check for Designers', as well as co-authoring 'London Cycling Design Standards' and the 'EU Cycling Strategy'. He is currently heading a team of inspectors ensuring design quality on several billion pounds of government investment in active travel infrastructure.

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## Building Safety Update

### Purpose of report

For noting.

### Summary

This report updates members on the LGA's building safety-related work since the last meeting.

### Is this report confidential?

No

### Recommendation

That members note and comment on the LGA's building safety related work.

### Contact details

Contact officer: Charles Loft

Position: Senior Advisor

Phone no: 020 7665 3874

Email: Charles.Loft@local.gov.uk

**Meeting:** Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

**Date:** 21 March 2023



## Building Safety Update

### Background

1. Since the Board's last meeting, the LGA has continued to monitor the implementation of the Fire Safety and Building Safety Acts, to plan related improvement work and continued to support remediation.

### Remediation

#### Joint Inspection Team (JIT)

2. Councils have a duty to investigate suspected category 1 hazards under the Housing Act, which could include buildings with flammable cladding. The LGA is continuing to encourage its members to consider whether any private buildings in their area might benefit from a JIT inspection.
3. Work is underway to expand the team's remit to cover buildings 11-18m high and non-cladding fire safety defects.

#### General Position

4. The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) [statistics](#) for 31 January 2023 show that there has been a slight change from the December figures in respect of:
  - 4.1. 95% (464) of all identified high-rise residential and publicly owned buildings in England had either completed or started remediation work to remove and replace unsafe Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding (99% of buildings identified at 31 December 2019, 98% of buildings identified at 31 December 2020 and 96% of buildings identified at 31 December 2021).
  - 4.2. All social sector residential buildings have either completed or started remediation. 99% have had their ACM cladding removed. No change from November.
  - 4.3. 443 buildings (91% of all identified buildings) no longer have unsafe ACM cladding systems – an increase of one since the end of December 2022.
  - 4.4. 407 (83% of all buildings) have completed ACM remediation works – no change since the end of December 2022. This includes 357 (73% of all buildings) which have received building control sign off – an increase of three since the end of December 2022.
5. On 28 July 2022, the government's £4.5 billion Building Safety Fund (BSF) reopened for new applications and remains open. Buildings over 18m with cladding issues are eligible to apply for the fund with guidance for applicants available [here](#). More

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

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information for leaseholders about the Building Safety Fund and what it covers can be accessed [here](#). Leaseholders can check if they qualify for the cost protections under the Building Safety Act using the government's new [Leaseholder Protections Checker](#) with [further guidance](#) available.

6. The new tranche of the BSF requires buildings to claim on the basis of a PAS 9980 fire risk assessment. PAS 9980 is a standard that takes account of the external wall system. This is a more sophisticated approach to remediation than the Tranche 1 BSF approach based on the now withdrawn consolidated advice note (CAN). The CAN approach was focussed on whether materials met a standard; the PAS 9980 is a more holistic approach to fire safety and therefore produces a more proportionate approach to remediation. As a result some buildings are now coming into the fund that would previously have been rejected, for example a building requiring replacement of the balcony decking rather than replacing the cladding.
7. [Building Safety Fund data](#) shows that as of 31 January, 358 buildings have either started or completed work under the BSF, including 83 in the social sector, only 11 have completed and had building control sign off, another 93 are complete but not yet approved.
8. As of 31 January 2022, the total amount of funding allocated for the remediation of non-ACM cladding is £1,767m (including social sector). £169m of this is for the social sector.
9. As of 31 January 2022, the Building Safety Fund's total expenditure (including Social and Private Sector spend) was £809m.

#### Remediation/Contribution Orders

10. AS previously reported, DLUHC has launched its [first attempt](#) to impose a Remediation Order under the Building Safety Act. The case has yet to go to tribunal. DLUHC hopes councils will use Ros, which offer a potentially faster route to remediation than the Housing Act.
11. The [first attempt to obtain a remediation contribution order](#) has been successful. Residents who had already been charged for remediation were able to claim the money back from the freeholder

#### Mid-rise scheme

12. DLUHC launched a pilot of a new fund for remediation of buildings towards the end of last year. This is being delivered through Homes England and targeted 73 buildings, selected by invitation from NFCC data produced for the mid-rise risk review exercise, using expert analysis to identify the highest risk buildings, with a range of activity to test most effective ways of drawing buildings into the scheme.
13. There has been a variable rate of how the buildings have been through the process and in some instances there has been no engagement by the freeholder.

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14. The whole scheme is being tested, with PAS 9980 being the guidance through which the funding would be delivered. At present it is a bit too early to be able to say anything meaningful about the outcomes and the sample size is too small to make firm predictions about how many eligible buildings will actually go through the scheme.
15. The plan is for the full scheme to open this year and the expectation is that 5,000 buildings will be eligible.

#### LGA role

16. The LGA continues to support the Remediation Partners work led by DLUHC, which seeks to encourage remediation through enforcement work by fire services and councils.
17. We have been given further detail of the £8m funding for 59 councils, selected as having ten or more high rise blocks in their area, to support enforcement on private 18m+ buildings across 2022/24:
  - 17.1. £2.4m been paid and remaining £6m will be paid in April – so covering 16 months
  - 17.2. Councils are expected to use the Housing Act and Building Safety Act enforcement powers and also: assist in getting buildings registered for the Building Safety Fund; help DLUHC with building data; support engagement with the local FRS; use the JIT; update Delta on enforcement and engage with the Department.
  - 17.3. The funding can be used to bolster existing activity, recruit to new posts, bring in new teams, bring in expertise - e.g. fire engineers. There is discretion on how they use the funding to support enforcement.
  - 17.4. DLUHC report very positive feedback. Almost half of the councils receiving funds have outlined their plans and explained the buildings they will be targeting, and one is starting to recruit to new roles. They hope to work with the LGA to identify those yet to respond
18. As of December DLUHC have been publishing enforcement data at end of each month.
19. LGA support has included promoting the JIT to councils, facilitating attempts to organise a meeting with Birmingham – which has one of the largest numbers of high rise private buildings, providing secretariat support to the London PRS enforcement group (and ensuring LFB participation) and publishing the document [Principles for effective regulation of fire safety in flats](#) and associated case studies.

### **Building Safety Act**

20. The LGA continues to work with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and Local Authority Building Control (LABC) to support the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) delivery of the new regime.

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21. The NFCC has been asked to update members on its work in relation to the new regime at the meeting.

22. The LGA has a number of concerns, including:

22.1. the lack of information available to duty holders (who must begin registering buildings with the new regulator in April and complete the process by October);

- Some councils will need to register large numbers of buildings but have yet to be given the detail of how to do so or what key information they will need to supply.
- We understand that for each building the BSR will require the following in order to register: address; details of accountable person; height; number of storeys; number of residential units; building completion certificate.
- The owner then needs to provide the following key information: structure - type and materials; external features and wall materials; fire safety (unclear exactly what this refers to but probably the risk assessment).
- Although the HSE provided the details above in a meeting with councils in London it has said it will not put the information on its website until the relevant secondary legislation has been passed. The anticipated date for that is 5 April – the day before the requirements come into force.
- While the act of registering a building should not be time consuming, the key information may take time to gather, bearing in mind that councils are already facing a significant task in complying with the Fire Safety (England) Regulations and, crucially, we do not yet know whether the digital system for registration will be glitch-free (experience suggests it will not). In addition the building completion certificate requirement is unclear in relation to older buildings.
- In addition councils will be expected to produce safety cases for each building by April next year. The third iteration of guidance on this process is not expected to be available until June this year. Quite apart from this delay, the shortage of fire risk assessors and structural engineers is likely to mean this deadline is a challenge.
- At present officers are unclear how arduous the registration (and key details) process will be.
- Following discussion at the Grenfell Working Group, the LGA is writing to the HSE to raise the above issues and ask that the BSR seek councils' views on this and consider whether the October deadline remains reasonable in consultation with the LGA, with a similar ask in relation to the Safety Case deadline.
- The HSE plans further engagement with duty holders under the Building Safety Act in 2023 focused on what they need to do to register their building(s). The LGA will continue to support this engagement.

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22.2. Proposed rules around the definition of a building for the purposes of the Building Safety Act, which risk excluding crucial parts of structures from the BSR's overview, confusing duty-holders and potentially producing an unfunded transfer of work to the fire service.

- Throughout the proposal and passage of the Building Safety Act, references were made to the need to ensure that buildings were considered as a whole where they had mixed commercial and residential use.
- Following the passing of the Act, regulations have been passed that redefine 'building' for the purposes of the Act. As a result parts of some buildings could be excluded from the new regulatory system. The LGA is raising this issue with ministers.

22.3. Other issues include: the difficulty fire services are experiencing in increasing staff capacity to deliver the new regime; guidance and MoU governing local delivery of BSR functions including indemnity for local authority officers delivering BSR functions; decisions by HSE at Gateway One which cannot be supported by local authority building control services; the relationship between support for remediation by local PSH enforcement teams and the emerging role of the BSR.

23. The HSE launched its 'Be ready' building safety campaign on 27 February. The campaign aims to help and encourage everyone affected by changes to building safety law to:

be ready – understand what is coming and how to prepare

step up – take ownership and manage risks

act now – comply with new law

24. The campaign's first focus is on being ready for high-rise building registration, the first operational function of the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) to come into force under the Building Safety Act, 2022. Owners of high-rise residential buildings must register them with the Building Safety Regulator by 1 October 2023. Details can be found [here](#); and you can sign-up to receive detailed information [here](#).

25. The first Building Safety Conference is being hosted by the BSR on Wednesday 22nd March at the Methodist Central Hall, Whitehall. Attendees will hear directly from BSR about the important changes that will come into effect from April 2023 and how to prepare for them.

## Improvement

26. The LGA has commissioned a set of six case studies on Large Panel Systems (LPS) Buildings which aim to explain the various management strategies of different local authorities in England.



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- 26.1. These case studies will detail the unique circumstances in which each council found their LPS stock, the challenges they encountered and the solutions they then adopted, varying from maintenance to demolition of all LPS blocks.
- 26.2. The case studies will be published on the LGA website and will provide a resource for councils to utilise when facing their own challenges involving LPS building blocks. We anticipate further cases where LPS blocks require management and see the introduction of a new safety case regime for high rise buildings as a good time to share best practice.
27. A Building Safety [Leadership Essentials](#) event for councillors was held in person at Warwick University on 1-2 February 2023. We had a very strong turn out and responses have been positive.
28. We hope to run more leadership essentials courses next year, including on 18-19 October. For further information contact [Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk](mailto:Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk)
29. We have run 5 Building Safety webinars this year and now regularly get 100+ attendees. We plan to run more next year.
30. The LGA's new [Building Safety e-learning module](#), designed to help leaders and portfolio holders to understand the upcoming Building Safety regime has been launched. Members are encouraged to take it and if you do, please complete the evaluation.

## Implications for Wales

31. The Fire Safety Act came into force in Wales in [October 2021](#). The new regulations passed under the FSO only apply in England. Building regulations and fire and rescue services are devolved responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly Government, and the main implications arising from the recommendations of the Hackitt Review and the government's response to it are on building regulations and fire safety in England. However, the Welsh government has announced that it will be making the changes recommended in the report to the regulatory system in Wales, and the LGA has been keeping in contact to ensure the WLGA is kept informed of the latest developments in England.

## Financial Implications

32. Although the LGA has set up the Joint Inspection Team, the cost of doing so is being met by DLUHC. The Joint Inspection Team has secured funding for the next two years which will see it expand significantly. In effect, it will triple in capacity by the end of this financial year.

## Equalities implications

33. The group of people affected by building safety issues will be broad and include a wide variety of potential equalities issues, with social landlords for example having

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responsibilities to consider the need for personal emergency evacuation plans for people who are unable to self-evacuate from high-rise residential buildings.

### **Next steps**

34. Officers to continue to support the sector's work to keep residents safe and reform the building safety system, as directed by members.

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## Waste and recycling

### Purpose of report

For direction

### Summary

Waste and recycling services are one of the most visible services for residents and represent an area of high spending for councils.

This report provides a brief update on the Resource and Waste Strategy reforms and looks at other current and long-term issues relating to waste and recycling services.

**Is this report confidential?** No

### Recommendation/s

That the LGA EEHT Board is asked to:

- Review and comment on our approach regarding the current set of waste reforms, as set out in paragraphs 6 to 15.
- Review and comment on potential future work on waste and recycling policy set out in paragraphs 23 to 31.

### Contact details

Contact officer: Nick Porter / Hilary Tanner

Position: Senior Adviser / Adviser

Email: [nick.porter@local.gov.uk](mailto:nick.porter@local.gov.uk) / [hilary.tanner@local.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.tanner@local.gov.uk)

## Waste and recycling



### Background

1. Waste and recycling services are one of the most visible services for residents and represent an area of high spending for councils.
2. The EEHT Board last reviewed waste and recycling in response to Defra's Resources and Waste Strategy and subsequent consultations.
3. This report:
  - provides a brief update on these reforms, seeking the Board's views on progress and any comments on next steps.
  - looks at other waste issues, both current and longer term, that are concerning councils and seeks the Board's views on the LGA's position and activity on these issues.
4. The Board Chair met with the Minister Rebecca Pow MP on 9 March 2023 to discuss some of the issues set out in this paper.
5. LGA continues to engage with officials and the council waste professional bodies on all issues covered in the paper.

### **Taking forward the Resources and Waste Strategy – Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), consistency in collection, Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**

6. The LGA has continued a wide range of engagement with the government and councils on the waste reforms initially proposed by the Resources and Waste Strategy and subsequent consultations, with our positions summarised online<sup>1</sup>.
7. Altogether, at a strategic level, we have continually raised issues on the need for an element of local flex in meeting collective ambitions, the impact of delays and uncertainty for councils on long-term planning (and contracts), and how all the different reforms come together in a coherent way on the ground.
8. A brief update with issues for each reform area is given below -

#### **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/climate-environment-and-waste/lga-response-resources-and-waste-consultations>

9. Defra set out its approach to EPR in a consultation response last year<sup>2</sup>. Obligated manufacturers and retailers must record packaging data and report it every six months. From April 2024 a new Scheme Administrator will collect payments from producers, and it will make transitional payments to councils. Government has also taken decisions on the scope of EPR, for instance not to include litter or commercial waste.
10. The LGA, working with professional waste networks and through membership of a number of DEFRA working groups, has made a range of representations on EPR. Key issues include:
- The need for a whole-system approach, with packaging producers working with councils and government
  - Ensuring councils have a role in the Scheme Administrator and can influence decisions on important principles including whether EPR funding should be used to incentivise '*efficient services*' and what this might mean in practice.
  - Ensuring that funding to councils reflects the real costs of collecting and processing waste

### **Consistency in collections**

11. At the time of drafting there is still no Government response on the consultation for consistency reforms, but it is widely expected to be published soon. Our submission<sup>3</sup> to the consultation sets out our views on the proposals – including those on: free garden waste; regularity of residual waste collections; consistency as aligned to EPR; and under what circumstances the Technically, Environmentally and Economically Practicable (TEEP) rules might allow the collection of mixed waste.
12. The consistency in collection consultation also includes proposals for mandatory weekly food waste collections, and Defra are progressing this with a view to implementation in 2025/26. The LGA has been involved in discussions with Defra and the waste networks around new burdens and practicality of delivery. We have raised issues around ensuring new burdens is sufficient in covering all costs; ensuring the set-up costs and ongoing revenue costs are sufficient, and that Defra considers in detail with councils the practical challenges of delivering this everywhere for 2025/26. We also know that some councils who are considering implementing food collections earlier than 2025/26 will want to ensure that they are not financially worse off by taking action before the implementation date.

### **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**

13. In January, Defra published next steps on DRS<sup>4</sup>. A new deposit return scheme for drinks containers will be introduced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2025. It

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<sup>2</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1063589/epr-consultation-government-response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063589/epr-consultation-government-response.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/consultation-consistency-recycling-collections-england-lga-response>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1130296/DRS\\_Government\\_response\\_Jan\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1130296/DRS_Government_response_Jan_2023.pdf)

will cover all containers between the sizes of 50ml and 3 litres made of steel, aluminium and plastic. Glass drinks containers are not in scope.

14. Councils will be able to participate in the DRS scheme by separating out containers and redeeming the deposit on them, but there will not be a digital DRS scheme. Generally, it is anticipated that individuals will deposit at reverse vending machines required in locations such as supermarkets. It is not clear yet how DRS will impact waste moving through the household collection route.
15. Other relevant issues for councils include the proposed use of permitted development rights to install reverse vending machines in public locations, which we have concerns over regarding council oversight. There will also be requirements on council trading standards teams to provide guidance and enforcement in relation to retailer obligations, and we have concerns over resourcing.

### **Other current ongoing issues**

16. Collection and disposal of soft furnishings containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS), most often sofas – Councils want to work pragmatically on this issue to best protect the environment and health. We've raised concerns about the Environment Agency guidance being too rigid, and creating significant additional costs for some councils to comply. There are also concerns on the sufficiency of funding to enable compliance, and the need to approach the issue strategically should future items need to be treated similarly.
17. Emissions Trading Scheme - In 2022 government consulted on including the waste sector in the carbon emissions trading scheme. If implemented, this would require waste incineration and energy from waste plants to purchase credits linked to their carbon emissions. The LGA response is online<sup>5</sup>.
18. Defra's Environmental Improvement Plan<sup>6</sup> - published in February 2023 includes targets on waste and recycling including a long-term target to halve 'residual' waste (excluding major mineral waste) produced per person by 2042.
19. DIY waste at household waste recycling centres – we are awaiting governments response following its consultation on booking systems and mandating free DIY waste disposal at household waste recycling centres, which included waiving the new burdens process. We have raised a range of concerns with this, including the need for it, and the cost impacts of not funding councils to undertake it<sup>7</sup>.
20. Electricity Generators Levy (EGL) – the LGA has made representations to HM Treasury on the application of the EGL tax to energy from waste, and how it applies to councils using plants subject to the tax. While we've received some concessions on

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-response-consultation-developing-uk-emissions-trading-scheme>

<sup>6</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1133967/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1133967/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-response-defra-call-evidence-booking-systems-household-waste>

deducting costs to be covered by the tax, we are concerned that council revenues could be impacted by the tax.

21. Office for Local Government - DLUHC announced that waste management is one of the four priorities area for the new Office for Local Government (Oflog) to review.
22. Coastal landfills - Research by the LGA's Coastal SIG group identified 26 coastal councils that have closed landfill sites at risk of spilling waste onto cliffs and beaches<sup>8</sup>. The landfill sites were opened before regulations came into forces requiring waste sites to be documented and well managed.

### **Future areas of work for consideration**

23. Linked to the range of current reforms underway, there are issues on which the Board might want to undertake further activity, depending on capacity. These are summarised below, together with some potential LGA activity:
24. Waste and net zero. Building on the proposed extension of the carbon emissions trading scheme (ETS) to waste services (see paragraph 17 above), the LGA improvement team are seeking to help councils explore how waste services can support decarbonisation ambitions, including through baselining current emissions. The LGA could build on this by working with improvement services to commission further resources for councils and sharing examples of innovation and good practice, linked to the impact of the current waste reforms.
25. Waste minimisation and household waste. Government is still due to publish its waste minimisation strategy, although we understand it will likely add little to the wider reforms. If waste and recycling reforms and trends have the impact expected it is likely that there will be less waste coming through, and that councils will be increasingly left with difficult to treat items. Longer-term planning around these kinds of issues will be necessary, and the LGA could seek to bring government, councils and other sectors (for example retailers, product designers and community and charitable organisations) together on the long-term trends and their impacts.
26. The LGA could refresh data on costs and call for other forms of funding. As part of the lobbying strategy, we could make the case for EPR type schemes for items such as single use vapes, following the "polluter pays" principle. DRS schemes have only been discussed in the context of drinks containers, but these could have a useful role to play in collecting items such as batteries and small electrical items.
27. Commercial waste. Data on commercial waste is poorly defined and inconsistent, compared to household waste. Defra figures indicate that the commercial and industrial waste sector accounted for 19% of all waste, compared to 12% for households<sup>9</sup>. Information on recycling rates from businesses is patchy at best. Defra has proposed that the consistency framework for recycling collections will extend to businesses as well as households. The EPR scheme for packaging originally intended

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/coastal-landfill-time-bomb-needs-urgent-action>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data/uk-statistics-on-waste#waste-from-commercial-and-industrial-ci-activities>

for payments to be made to business as well as councils. After review, Defra will not take this forward, but remain committed to exploring the options.

28. The LGA could work with councils to explore the opportunities to make business waste services greener and better prepared for the future. There are examples from other countries of “zoning” and other approaches to managing business waste, and these bring other advances such as reducing the cost to business and rationalising collections (cutting the number of vehicles on the roads).
29. Recycling economy. Government is restricting exports of plastic waste to non-OECD countries and it will become mandatory for councils to collect flexible plastics (such as crisp packets, bread wrappers). This type of plastic can technically be recycled, but this is not done at scale and the cost of the recycling process means that it is not economically viable. Many stakeholders across Defra and industry agree on the need to develop more recycling infrastructure in the UK, but there is not an agreement on how to do this. Councils have pointed to the long lead in times for bringing forward new waste and recycling infrastructure and costs. The LGA has made this point when responding to consultations, but Board members may wish to make this a stronger key message (linked to the point above on refreshed data on costs and other forms of funding).
30. Chemicals. We are seeing greater awareness and evidence of the environmental damage caused by hazardous waste material and poor management of waste in the past. Councils are being asked to deal with complex legacy issues, without the resources to do so, the Environmental Improvement Plan (p128) signals that this will grow as an issue.
31. The LGA could seek to build on our experience of POPs in soft furnishings, which has highlighted the need for strategic early planning between government, councils, waste contractors and other partners. As part of the lobbying strategy, the LGA might also prioritise the case for the ‘polluter pays’ principle applying into the process of waste disposal.

## Next steps

32. The Board is asked to:
  - Review and comment on our approach regarding the current set of waste reforms, as set out in paragraphs 6 to 15.
  - Review and comment on potential future work on waste and recycling policy set out in paragraphs 23 to 31.

## Implications for Wales

33. Waste and recycling policy is a devolved matter in Wales and policy is set by the Welsh Government. There are no implications for Wales.



## **Financial Implications**

34. There are no direct financial implications for the LGA.

## **Equalities implications**

35. In delivering services locally, councils take account of equalities considerations. Equality, human rights and diversity are not strong themes of national debate on waste and recycling and Defra has not published an equalities impact assessment for the key components of the waste and resources strategy.



**Meeting:** Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board

**Date:** 21 March 2023



## Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board Updates

### Purpose of report

For information

### Summary

This paper provides updates on a range of issues within the remit of the Board that have not already been covered in other Board agenda items.

### Recommendation

That the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board note the update

### Contact details

Contact officer: Eamon Lally

Position: Principal Adviser

Phone no: 02076 643132

Email: [eamon.lally@local.gov.uk](mailto:eamon.lally@local.gov.uk)

## Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Update Paper



### Housing, planning and homelessness

#### *Supported Housing*

1. The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Bill made it through final stages in the Commons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March with the amendments we made around local authorities being included as statutory consultees being accepted. DLUHC have now set up a series of roundtables to look at the different aspects of the bill to improve their understanding. So far there has been an introductory meeting and a meeting to look at potential licensing implications. There are some concerns about how a licensing scheme could work in terms of whether it would be national or set out in pre-defined areas and how providers who work across multiple areas could be affected. There are also still some discussions around the scope of the bill and what the definition of supported accommodation is.

#### *Local Housing Allowance Freeze*

2. Frozen LHA rates have been identified as a huge driver of homelessness across the sector as they have not been reviewed since 2020 despite evidence of significant increases in rent amounts. Despite this, government have said LHA rates will not be reviewed as part of the spring budget. However, there was a debate in the House of Lords on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and debate in the House of Commons scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> March which we will be providing evidence for.

#### *Kerslake Commission*

3. We have submitted information on the LGA's progress and the progress of local authorities on the recommendations from the Kerslake progress report published in September 2022.

#### *Government consultation on the Building Safety Levy*

4. We have [responded](#) to the technical consultation on the implementation of the Building Safety Levy in relation to the scope of the levy; exemptions; the basis for calculating the levy and the proposal for local authorities to be the collection agency. We have also written to both the [Secretary of State](#) at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the [Chief Secretary to the Treasury](#) to urge them against requiring 309 local authorities to set up individual processes to act as a collection agency for the levy. Instead, we have suggested that a more streamlined, cost-efficient approach to raising the additional funds for building safety remediation, which would benefit both central and local government, would be to expand the scope of the current Residential Property Developer Tax (RPDT).

#### *Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill*

5. The Bill is now at Committee Stage in the House of Lords and we are continuing to [brief](#) peers. We continue to meet with peers to talk through LGA lines and our proposed amendments – a number of which have been tabled including those relating to: locally-set planning fees; removal of clauses relating to the sale of vacant higher value local authority housing in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and ensuring that the Infrastructure Levy delivers at least much affordable housing as is currently required in Local Plans.

#### *Consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

6. We have [responded](#) to the government's consultation on reforms to national planning policy. We welcomed a number of the proposals including removal of the requirement to maintain a rolling 5-year housing land supply and that housing targets will be a starting point with greater flexibility to consider local circumstances. However, we have been clear that advisory housing targets need to be aligned with the latest ONS data; that there needs to be a stronger emphasis on the role climate change plays in future development and that the government's proposed planning skills strategy needs to be brought forward swiftly. We have also raised concern that the absence of any detail on the type and scope of new National Development Management Policies, makes it impossible to comment on the impact they will have on the ability of councils to plan effectively at a local level and that clarity is urgently needed.

#### *Right to Buy report*

7. We published a report by Savills on Right to Buy. This was jointly commissioned with the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) and the National Federation of ALMOs (NFA). This showed that councils are predicted to lose a further 57,000 homes available for social rent through the Right to Buy scheme by 2030, as councils struggle to replace sold properties. In the associated [press release](#) we urged the government to use the Spring Budget to allow councils to set discounts locally and retain 100 per cent of sales receipts to avoid such a loss of desperately needed social housing stock. We also made clear that councils also need to be able to combine receipts with government grant funding, such as the Affordable Homes Programme, and transfer funding from sales to ALMOs or housing companies to give them greater flexibility over how new council housing is delivered.

## **Economy**

#### *Identifying local authority best practice in repurposing shopping centres*

8. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February Cllr David Renard Chaired a very well attended webinar presenting the initial findings of an LGA commissioned report undertaken by The Retail Group highlighting the social and economic opportunities and benefits of repurposing shopping centres to reflect the needs of the town centre, the community, the local authority, and the businesses located within their area. The report will be published in March and will be evidence based with case studies with The Retail Group suggesting measures and approaches councils can take to repurpose shopping centres or support the repurpose of shopping centres in their area.

*Identifying and promoting green growth opportunities*

9. The LGA has commissioned Green Economy to produce a report highlighting the social and economic benefits of having businesses located in a local authority area that provide low carbon and environmental goods and services. The report will be evidence based with case studies and suggest measures councils can take to make their area more attractive for these businesses to locate in. Focus will be on the supply of goods and services required for the Net Zero transition. [Webinar presenting findings on Friday 17 March](#)

*Economy update*

10. According to the [ONS](#) monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated to have grown by 0.3% in January 2023, after falling by 0.5% in December 2022. This was an unexpected rise in GDP. However, over the three months to January 2023 real gross GDP has remained flat. The increase in GDP in January 2023 was due to growing service sector output, with production output continuing to fall.
11. The [latest available labour market data](#) shows that employment has continued to grow in the three months to December 2022, but is still below the pre-pandemic level. The data suggests that the increase in employment has been driven by people moving out of economic inactivity and into part-time work.
12. The UK annual consumer price index (CPI) was [10.1% in January 2023](#) and has shown a decline each month since its recent peak in October 2022 at 11.1%. The Bank rate was increased to [4% in February 2023](#), with the next announcement due on 23 March 2023. The future direction of the Bank rate movement is uncertain and will depend on the Bank of England's (BoE) view on the economy and expected levels of inflation.

**Waste**

13. We have written to Defra and the Environment Agency on behalf of the Board to set out our concerns about the challenges of managing soft furnishings containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and will be meeting with the responsible Minister – Rebecca Pow MP – on 9 March to discuss this and other priority waste issues.
14. Further information from Defra sets out detail of the new deposit return scheme for drinks containers. The LGA's media response highlighted the need for clarity on how the deposit return scheme will work alongside other reforms, and called for measures to prevent waste in the first place to be given priority.
15. We continue to engage with Defra on the resource and waste strategy reforms, including putting forward our priorities on a new group with Defra, packaging producers, and waste industry on the roll out of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and on the new burdens and implementation concerns around weekly food waste. We are still waiting for the government's response on taking forward the

consistency in collection reforms, which includes issues such as garden waste, and dry recyclables linked to EPR.

16. Annual fly-tipping statistics were released at the end of January. The LGA's media response highlighted the need for tougher penalties from the courts and for manufacturers of frequently fly-tipped items to contribute to the cost of clear up. The Environment Agency annual waste crime survey contains new questions this year on smaller scale fly-tipping, which will help give a clearer picture of the link to organised crime.

## **Environment**

### *Environmental improvement*

17. On 2 March the LGA hosted a joint conference with Natural England and Berkley Homes on Biodiversity Net Gain. Over 600 people attended in person, EEHT members Cllr Pippa Heylings and Mayor Philip Glanville both spoke on the panel including the CEO of Natural England, Senior Defra officials, developers and others. Councillor Richard Clewer, the Leader of Wiltshire Council, spoke on a panel on next steps and the factors needed to make biodiversity net gain a success.
18. The Defra has released further information about the implementation of biodiversity net gain in new development from November 2023. New guidance has been published and funding of up to £16.71 million will be made available to local planning authorities between now and November 2023 to prepare for implementation. This will be followed by further new burdens funding following commencement of the requirement from November. We are making representations around concerns that councils should have flexibility to carry funding over to future years, and that spending levels should not impact future allocations.
19. Defra is expected to issue further guidance and regulations on the development of local nature recovery strategies, ahead of the appointment of responsible authorities (councils or Natural England) in April 2023. Following LGA representations, Defra has confirmed that it will run further engagement of councils that will not be responsible authorities for developing the strategies.
20. Defra's 25 year Environmental Improvement Plan sets out government goals for improving the environment and policies to support the implementation of the plan. Defra have engaged with the LGA and councils on the plan and its commitments. The communications around the launched focused on measures to challenge councils role in improving air quality.

## **Climate Change**

### *Advancing local and central government collaboration in climate change adaptation*

21. We commissioned Local Partnerships to undertake a project to investigate, capture, understand and present what local government needs from the update to the National

Adaptation Programme. The project has now completed and a [webinar to present findings is booked in for 28 March](#).

#### *Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum*

22. On 9 February the first Ministerial Local Net Zero Forum took place with members of the Climate Change Task Group, joined by senior councillors from the groups, met with Lord Callanan. Agenda was mostly taken up with a discussion on the Skidmore review but it was agreed the meeting would take place twice a year with the LGA co-chairing

#### *Smith Square debate on Climate Change*

23. On Thursday 16 March there is a [Smith Square Debate on Climate Change](#) with panellist including Lord Deben, Terri Wills, Jack Richardson (Onward) and Luke Murphy (IPPR). The debate is free to attend and will be fully online due to the planned rail strike that day.

#### *Energy Efficiency Taskforce*

24. Government have announced that the Energy Efficiency Taskforce will be jointly chaired by Lord Callanan and the Nat West CEO. Early indication is that there will be a place for local government, and we are engaging with politicians and officials to make the case that this be the LGA as the political representative of councils, linked to the work of the Local Net Zero Forum.

#### *Climate Change Task Force*

25. On 13 March the Climate Change Task Group is meeting with Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Local Government and Building Safety). His responsibilities include, amongst other things; Climate change, net zero and energy efficiency (building regs) and Planning casework. Items to be discussed at this meeting include;

- Advocating for local government's role in achieving net zero
- Opportunities for net zero funding consolidation
- Net zero homes and buildings

## **Energy**

#### *ECO4 Flex webinar*

26. On 1 March we ran a webinar with DESNZ, Ofgem, OVO, EDF and Walsall Borough Council on accessing ECO4 Flex funding. [Presentations are available online](#). The webinar was well attended with around 160 attendees

#### *Ofgem Local institutions consultation*



27. Ofgem has published its proposals for the [future of local energy institutions and governance](#) arrangements on grid issues. The LGA is currently reviewing and plans to respond ahead of the 10 May deadline.

## Transport

### *Lambeth Kerbside Strategy*

28. Lambeth Council launched its pioneering [kerbside strategy](#) recently, a strategy that aims to deliver the transition to electric vehicles, the uptake of wheeling and walking, building climate resilience through interventions such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, to reduce floods or trees to provide shade reducing heat. The LGA has organised a free [webinar](#) on 30th March for LGA member councils to hear from Lambeth Council about its new strategy that aims to reclaim at least 25 percent of this space from vehicle parking and introduce sustainability measures to fulfil climate, social and public health ambitions.

### *EV chargepoints funding*

29. OZEV has [announced](#) the expansion of the LEVI pilot scheme to 16 new areas, and the launch of an £8 million LEVI Capability Fund which to help equip councils with capacity and skills to scale up their plans for developing their charging strategy. The Government also brought forward a further £7 million funding for the existing On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, bringing the total funding this year to £37 million.

### *Bus funding*

30. Following extensive lobbying from the LGA and bus groups the Government [have extended](#) funding by 3 months for the Bus Recovery Grant and the £2 bus fares gap until the end of June 2023. Whilst this additional funding will help [we said](#) that bus services cannot survive on a hand to mouth existence and the Government must use the time this funding buys to work with councils and operators to develop a long-term, reformed bus funding model with significant new money. Cllr Renard raised the issue of bus funding at his recent meeting with the local transport minister, Richard Holden MP.



## Minutes of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

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### Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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#### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#)

Item	Decisions and actions
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<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest</b>
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The Chairman welcomed members to the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Darren Rodwell.

Cllr Anthony Okereke was in attendance as a substitute.

No declarations of interest were made.

<b>2</b>	<b>Adapting to climate change, local government and the third National Adaptation Programme</b>
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The Chairman introduced Robert Mason, Deputy Director from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), who gave a presentation on adapting to climate change and the third National Adaptation Programme.

Members made the following comments:

- It should be made clear that adaptation is a long-term financial investment
- Councils lacked the long-term financing and flexibility to be able to take action
- It was queried if migration of people had been considered as part of the programme
- It was essential for infrastructure to adapt to the impacts of climate change with health risks such as overheating in buildings during

warm days.

- There was a skills deficit for the work needed to adapt to climate change
- There were discussions on whether it should be a statutory requirement for local authorities to adapt to climate change, with concerns that local authorities lack the resources to be able to act. It was suggested that they should only be required to do so if they are given the necessary support.

Robert Mason thanked members for their comments, emphasising that local and central government need to be partners on this. Due to their location, climate risks, and therefore their needs, varied between councils.

The Chairman thanked Robert Mason for his attendance

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report and update.

### **3 Workforce capacity in local government**

The Chairman invited Heather Wills, Principal Adviser (Improvement), to present the report which summarised the LGA's policy and improvement activity to address workforce capacity challenges in local government and sought the Board's feedback on priorities for future activity.

Members made the following comments:

- Further responsibilities to respond to the needs of migrants arriving in local areas and to address issues with building regulations and housing standards causing increased pressures on staff. New duties should be accompanied by associated resources and powers
- Long term solutions such as apprenticeships should be a priority
- An overall workforce strategy may be beneficial to the local government workforce
- International recruitment should be considered to help address workforce concerns, but there are difficulties associated with this
- Much of the workforce had been leaving local government for the private sector
- Investing in improving the workforce should be framed being

necessary to enable local government to play its role in government's levelling up agenda, economic development and climate change

- Local government had been appealing to staff for its stability and good pensions, other benefits should be highlighted such as work life balance

Heather Wills responded with the following comments:

- International recruitment had been used in some service areas but presents long-term challenges and the LGA supports councils to "grow their own".
- It was also acknowledged that workforce issues needed to be urgently addressed
- With many various services within local government, there would be work across government departments
- An updated version of the report incorporating feedback from policy Boards would go to Resources Board and then Executive Advisory Board.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

#### **4 Housing Standards**

The Chairman invited Jo Allchurch, Senior Adviser, to present the report which summarized the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to housing standards broadly and how the LGA delivers those priorities.

Since the writing of the report, a workshop on housing standards at the LGA conference in July had been confirmed. It was anticipated that guidance will be published on out of area placements later in the week.

Members made the following comments:

- Members were concerned at the social housing rent cap which had hindered councils' ability to build housing stock particularly with the rise in inflation
- It was highlighted that councils' positions relating to housing varied depending on the stock and types of buildings, and therefore it was suggested that resources and demand of councils should be considered with an evidence based approach
- The issue of Section 21 notices in private sector housing had

meant councils are required to house people. Members stressed the urgency of this issue and supported the mapping of enforcement activity

- There were queries relating to the social housing decarbonisation fund and accreditations for installers of installation.

Jo Allchurch responded acknowledging the cumulative impact of government interventions and encouraged members to provide examples from their councils to help form the evidence based decisions.

**Action:**

Jo Allchurch to follow up queries relating to decarbonisation and accreditations with Members.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

## **5 Building Safety Update**

The Chairman invited Marshall Scott, Graduate Trainee (Adviser), to give an update on the LGA's building safety work which included the monitoring of the progress on the Fire Safety Act and Building Safety Act, remediation, and improvement work.

Members discussed the report.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

## **6 EEHT Updates / Other board business**

The Chairman invited members to comment on the report which outline updates within the Board's remit.

Members made the following comments:

Following queries on having a political tier of the Net Zero Forum, it was reported that there was work on this with a meeting potentially starting in February. Advisers would follow up a query relating to funding of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).

**Decisions:**

Members **noted** the update.

## 7 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

### Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Pippa Heylings Cllr Loic Rich	South Cambridgeshire District Council Cornwall Council
Members	Cllr Kelham Cooke Cllr Mark Crane Cllr Jonathan Edwards Cllr Paul Marshall Cllr Carl Les Cllr Linda Taylor Cllr Martin Gannon Mayor Philip Glanville Mayor Paul Dennett Cllr Claire Holland Cllr Philip Bialyk Cllr Emily Darlington Cllr Anthony Okereke Cllr Vikki Slade  Cllr Diana Moore	Ash- Mid Sussex District Council  West Sussex County Council North Yorkshire County Council Cornwall Council Gateshead Council Hackney London Borough Council Salford City Council Lambeth London Borough Council Exeter City Council Milton Keynes Council Royal Borough of Greenwich Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Exeter City Council
Apologies	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
In Attendance	Cllr Tom Renhard Cllr Ed Gemmell Cllr Phil Jordan Cllr Paul Hilliard  Robert Mason	Bristol City Council Buckinghamshire County Council Isle of Wight Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
LGA Officers	Jo Allchurch Calum Davidson Joe Difford Eamon Lally Charles Loft Kamal Panchal	



Emilia Peters  
Nick Porter  
Marshall Scott  
Jacqueline Smale  
Amelia Sutton  
Heather Wills