

## Minutes of last People & Places Board meeting

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### People & Places Board

Tuesday, 8 November 2022

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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#### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	<b>Terms of Reference</b>
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#### **Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman welcomed Members and officers to the meeting.

Cllr Linda Taylor announced that she would need to get away sooner than ministerial meeting and the agenda order was revised to accommodate this

Cllr Shaun Gunner was in attendance, substituting for Cllr Martin Tett who l

The Chair asked that links to join future meetings be included in the cover e are sent out.

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **Action:**

- Future agenda dispatches to include link to join the meeting virtually

#### **Decision:**

- The Board's agreed the revised Terms of Reference.

2	<b>LGA Plan 2022-25</b>
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Rebecca Cox introduced the item and outlined the representation of the Board's work within the plan. In light of new ministers, members were asked to consider any changes going forward.

Members noted that the Work Plan has now been signed off by the Executive Board.

Members made the following comments:

- Concerns that there is no direct mention of housing and

communities and that a lot of issues in rural areas are around these.

- Facilitation of the consortia for councils should be included as there is a lot of scope to provide collaboration to provide services which can't be readily provided by a single authority.
- Promotion of better ways to keep corporate memory needs to be kept up to date and better practice identified.
- The theme of Climate Change and Local Environment needs to be separate to the others and needs to be better defined, to include other fundamental objectives. The term 'Circular Economy' should be introduced and points around adaptation need to be clearer.
- The key to measuring success around climate change is via carbon accounting.
- How do district authorities look at reports from Associate Members such as Fire and Police?

The Chair acknowledged the response and noted that flexibility is built into work going forward.

Rebecca Cox confirmed that issues raised within the discussion fall generally within the remit of the other Board and that they would be alerted to these concerns. The Chair referred to the motion passed at the LGA's General Assembly prior to the pandemic.

**Decision:**

- The LGA Plan was accepted.

**Action:**

- Officers to feedback comments to relevant Boards on issues raised and respond back to colleagues.

### **3 Britain's Leading Edge (Cllr Linda Taylor)**

Esther Barrott was invited to introduce the paper and welcomed Cllr Linda Taylor who had agreed to attend the meeting.

Members received a presentation on Britain's Leading Edge Research and noted an outline of the background of the group and the work being done to provide a voice to Government for peripheral areas without major cities. Evidence of how coastal and rural areas of England can be given equal opportunities to develop and grow has been submitted to Treasury Select Committee, March 2020 budget, HCLG Select Committee and BEIS Select Committee.

Cllr Taylor made several key points, including:

- Peripheral regions are the rich powerhouses of the UK, capable of providing clean, reliable and renewable energy.
- Rural green spaces generate fewer carbon emissions and provide important benefits for mental health issues.
- Can provide better domestic supply of food and drink and carbon energy.
- Average age in rural areas is rising faster than in other English

authorities which has implications for higher social care and local employment.

- The impact on residents is profound and it is harder for them to access services and jobs.

Members noted comparisons around pay and productivity in these areas against the rest of England. Demographic gains are particularly reliant upon better broadband connectivity and a devolution deal is necessary to enable infrastructures to be put in place to upskill and support these populations and enable businesses and services to prosper.

Cllr Taylor outlined the importance of collaboration and invited colleagues to contact the organisation with any feedback, questions or partnership suggestions. Members noted the website [www.britainsleadingedge.org](http://www.britainsleadingedge.org)

Cllr Bentley thanked the speaker and confirmed that colleagues could consider joining should they wish.

Members made several comments:

- Has the organisation been working with the APPG?
- How can planning assist with influencing changes in primary legislation?
- They noted parallels between the Board and the organisation and agreed that working together was vital and welcomed collaboration going forward.
- A stronger voice is needed to promote what rural areas can do, particularly around food, potential for offshore wind and fuel capacity, job creation and sustainability.
- They referred to possible collaboration with the LGA's Coastal SIG which has a lot of overlap.
- Concerns about devolution and achieving better outcomes for individual councils.

Cllr Taylor addressed members' comments and noted the benefits that having mayoral leadership within her own area has provided around bringing in investment.

The Chair thanked Cllr Taylor for an interesting and informative presentation.

#### **4 People and Places Board meetings Forward Plan**

Cllr Bentley invited Rebecca Cox to introduce the paper and members noted key points for consideration and discussion.

Colleagues were invited to comment and made the following points:

- Skills and improvement (on agenda for January) needs to focus on access and ways in breaking down structural barriers. As a key issue for the Board, it is important that non-metropolitan areas are considered, and all ages are included.
- Transport and connectivity of individuals links to the skills agenda.
- The cost of living crisis in rural areas is important and should be

considered as a separate item for the March 2023 agenda.

- Is there a plan for rural focussed green skills to be considered in the workplan?
- Members would like a discussion around impact on councils and communities around holiday and second homes at the meeting in March.
- Rural Poverty is a real problem and challenges are high.

The Chairman noted comments and colleagues agreed to accommodate the items requested for January and March 2023.

Rebecca invited Jasbir Jhas to comment, and members received an outline of plans around engagement and major key issues. Members noted changes within DWP and confirmation of the new Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education, Robert Halfon.

Jas confirmed that further information and discussion will take place at the Board meeting in January in order to inform the way forward and that an invitation would be conveyed to the Minister to attend the next meeting.

**Decision:**

- The People and Places Board meetings Forward Plan was accepted.

**Action:**

- Officers to include nominated items for discussion on future agendas as follow:
  - January Board – Cost of Living Crisis
  - March Board – Impact of Holiday and Second Homes on communities and councils
- Rural Proofing to be discussed by Lead Members at their next meeting on 12 December.

The Board moved onto confidential items. No media colleagues were in attendance.

**5 Green Jobs: Retrofit Skills Update Paper**

*Please refer to the confidential minutes documents for information relating to this item.*

**6 Learning from 20 Years of Place Pilots**

*Please refer to the confidential minutes documents for information relating to this item.*

**7 Levelling Up (Sarah Longlands)**

*Please refer to the confidential minutes documents for information relating to this item.*

## 8 Minutes of the last meeting

- Item 5 – last bullet point does not read well and should be amended for clarity.
- Item 6 – Role of councils. Cllr Bentley asked for revision to his comments to read that: “they work with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the airport and the local college to build an academy to produce skills for young people in the local area who would otherwise have never worked in aviation”.

### Decision:

- Members agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2022 as an accurate record, subject to minor amendments as above.

### Actions:

- Officers to amend the minutes as requested by Members.

## Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Emily Smith	Vale of White Horse District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Cllr Emily O'Brien	Lewes District Council
Members	Cllr Lynne Doherty	West Berkshire Council
	Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcester City Council
	Cllr Peter Butlin	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Hilary Carrick	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	Breckland Council
	Cllr Jordan Meade	Gravesham Borough Council
	Cllr Eddie Reeves	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Barry Wood	Cherwell District Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Caroline Leaver	Devon County Council
	Cllr Stan Collins	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Kevin Etheridge	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Cllr Sue Roberts	South Oxfordshire District Council
Apologies	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		