



# City Regions Board

Agenda

Monday, 2 October 2023  
3.00 pm

Online via Teams

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **3.00 pm on Monday, 2 October 2023** - Online via Teams.

### **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:**

Emma West  
[emma.west@local.gov.uk](mailto:emma.west@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.

## City Regions Board – Membership 2023/24

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

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 4 )</b>	
Cllr Robert Alden (Vice Chairman)	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
Cllr Antony Mullen	Sunderland City
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Aled Richard-Jones	Wandsworth London Borough
Cllr Tim Warren	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Ellis Turrell	Wolverhampton City Council
<b>Labour ( 14 )</b>	
Cllr Satvir Kaur (Chair)	Southampton City Council
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Vice-Chair)	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Bella Sankey	Brighton and Hove City Council
Cllr Nazia Rehman	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Nadine Peatfield	Derby City Council
Cllr Fran Belbin	Sheffield City Council
Cllr Jason Brock	Reading Borough Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr John Cotton	Birmingham City Council
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Ross Garrod	Merton London Borough
Cllr Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council
Cllr Danny Adilypour	Lambeth London Borough
Cllr Daren Hale	Hull City Council
Cllr Nick Kemp	Newcastle City Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Ross	Hull City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Mark Jeffery	Portsmouth City Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Martin Fodor (Deputy Chair)	Bristol City Council
Cllr James Giles	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

<b><i>Substitutes</i></b>	
Cllr Matt Edwards	Bradford City Council
Cllr Geraldine Coggins	Trafford Council

## Agenda

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### City Regions Board

Monday, 2 October 2023

3.00 pm

Online via Teams

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 22 November 2023, 3.00 pm, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online



## Minutes of last City Regions Board meeting

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### City Regions Board

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

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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<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest</b>
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The Chair welcomed Members, officers and guests to the meeting.

Apologies were received by Cllr Hinchcliffe, Cllr Miller and Cllr Kaur. Cllr Bennett, Cllr Cook, Cllr Penberthy and Cllr Dacres attended substitutes.

No declarations of interest were made.

<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>
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The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

<b>3</b>	<b>Theme 1: Future of Cities</b>
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**Philip Clifford**, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper and provided an update on the recent urban summit and an overview of follow-up work.

Members made the following comments:

- A Member suggested that future urban summits be held at a more convenient time for councillors and felt that the recent urban summit was in very close proximity to the local elections, meaning not as many councillors were able to attend. The Chair suggested that future urban summits be held mid to end of February each year.
- The importance of focusing on urban areas more broadly, as opposed to just city-centres, was emphasised.
- A Member highlighted several economic issues regarding smaller urban areas.
- The importance of expanding the list of key stakeholders, their engagement and ensuring that their voices were heard was emphasised.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**4 Theme 2: Levelling Up**

## a) Supporting Economic Inclusion

**Bushra Jamil**, Adviser, introduced the paper which set out an overview of the six guiding principles to realise economic inclusion in employment and skills, and the key tasks and roles that local government would undertake.

Members made the following comments:

- It was noted that four of the six Economic Inclusion Principles set out within the report stated, 'Local Government may want to...' as opposed to 'Local Government will/shall...'. The need to make the wording stronger and clearer was emphasised.
- A Member highlighted the potential negative impact that data collection could have on local authorities and their represented areas.
- In reference to Principle 2, the importance of access to good quality broadband across the country was emphasised.
- In reference to Principle 3, it was suggested that economic growth be included.
- The need for more research and action into the current lack of transport and connectivity across all areas of the country was highlighted.
- A Member felt that there should be more emphasis within the paper on economic opportunity and opportunities through the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).
- The importance of investing in infrastructure and retrofitting for future generations was emphasised.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**Action/s:**

- Officers to check legal history to see if the title wording of four of the six Principles could be strengthened and to update the Board.
- Officers to progress collaborative work with the transport policy team to explore a) how transport challenges could be addressed, and b) how the cost of lack of transport connectivity could be quantified.
- Officers to consider bringing a paper to a future meeting of the Board focused on collaboration and partnership



working.

- b) Update on the health and devolution working group with NHS Confederation

**Philip Clifford**, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper and provided an update on the newly formed health and devolution working group established by NHS Confederation and co-sponsored by the LGA following its first meeting in April 2023.

Members made the following comments:

- Cllr Ford, as the Board's representative, had attended a recent meeting whereby transport and the impact that a lack of access to transport had on health and wellbeing had been discussed. The working group had also looked at devolved authorities, the issues related to the meaning of devolution in different localities and the impact on health and wellbeing consequently. She confirmed that she would be attended future meeting of the group and would continue to feedback to the Board at future Board meetings.
- A Member asked a question which related to data-sharing. Cllr Ford responded and confirmed that data-sharing would be a key topic of discussion at a newly formed Joint Commissioning unit with health partners.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**Action/s:**

Officers to feedback Members' comments to the NHS confederation.

**5 Theme 3: Urban Resilience**

- a) Local Resilience Act

The Chair welcomed **Joe Fyans**, Head of Research at Localis, to the meeting and invited him to introduce the report. Joe presented a series of slides which set out information related to the independent think tank, Localis, which explored the potential of a 'local resilience act' to help strengthen local authorities' ability to respond to current and future risks arising from a changing climate.

Members made the following comments:

- A Member highlighted challenges related to current

energy demands across the country, and the significant need for more affordable housing.

- The need to combine adaption with mitigation, and share best practice was expressed.

With regards to the support that the Board could provide to Localis, Joe confirmed that more in-person events and stakeholder engagement would be beneficial.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**6 Theme 5: Growth Funding**

a) Supporting Economic Growth and Prosperity

**Philip Clifford**, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper and provided an update on the work of the Board in supporting local economies.

Members made the following comments:

- A Member made a comment which related to the impact of freeports and the way in which they could help the economy.
- The importance of the role of urban areas in driving growth and prosperity was emphasised.
- The need for clarity in relation to the future of LEPs, associated powers and assets was expressed.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

b) Growth Funding Update

**Philip Clifford**, Senior Adviser, introduced the paper and provided an update on recent work to improve the provision of growth funding from national to local government highlighting correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to the Levelling Up Fund.

Members made the following comments:

- The need for clarity in relation to the bidding process and comprehensive solutions to issues was expressed.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**Action:**

Officers to liaise with central government colleagues in relation to the streamlining of Growth Funding.

**7 Work Programme**

**Rebecca Cox**, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the Work Programme and talked briefly about upcoming work.

The Chair encouraged Members to attend the Annual Conference.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the update.

**Action:**

Officers to circulate a list of relevant Annual Conference sessions, including the Urban Fringe meeting to Members outside of the meeting.

**8 City Regions Annual Report**

**Rebecca Cox**, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the annual report which summarised the Board's activity over the past year. It set out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the Board in 2022/23 and looked forward to next year's priorities.

**Decision:**

That Members **note** the report.

**9 Theme 4: Green Jobs and Skills**

**Paul Green**, Adviser, introduced the paper which provided a summary of progress from the Local Capacity and Capability sub-group and proposed a policy narrative for a green jobs framework.

Members commented on the report. Their comments included information related to retrofitting, adaptation, sustainability, the importance of investing in skills and private-sector investment.

Paul responded to Members' comments.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

**Action:**

Officers to explore information related to joining up with the resilience setting further outside of the meeting and report back to the Board.

**10 Theme 5: Growth Funding**

## a) Councils' Future Role in Driving Growth and Prosperity

Items 10a and 10b were taken together. See item 10b for the minute taken.

## b) Presentation from WPI economics

The Chair welcomed **Steve Hughes**, Associate Economist at WPI Economics, to the meeting and invited him to present a series of slides on the interim findings of WPI Economics' research into councils' role in driving growth and prosperity.

Members commented on the presentation slides. Their comments included information related to the British Chambers of Commerce, culture in local authorities, responsiveness, opportunities, working with partner organisations, the importance of local authorities and the work that they undertake, growth and consolidation.

Steve responded to Members' comments.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

**18 Any other business**

The Chair thanked Members for their kind words and equally expressed his thanks to all Members who stood down/ had not been re-elected.

The Chair encouraged Members to attend the first meeting of the next cycle in person.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Mayor Marvin Rees	Bristol City Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council

Members	<p>Cllr Robert Alden Cllr Barry Anderson Cllr Joanne Laban Cllr James Moyies Cllr Bev Craig Cllr Nazia Rehman Cllr Kerrie Carmichael Cllr Jason Brock Cllr John Merry CBE Cllr Anthony Hunt Cllr David Mellen Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald Cllr Martin Fodor</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council Leeds City Council Enfield Council Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Manchester City Council Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Reading Borough Council Salford City Council Torfaen County Borough Council Nottingham City Council Royal Borough of Greenwich  Bristol City Council</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe Cllr Graeme Miller Cllr Satvir Kaur</p>	<p>Bradford Metropolitan District Council Sunderland City Council Southampton City Council</p>
In Attendance	<p>Cllr Simon Bennett Cllr Bob Cook</p>	<p>Wolverhampton City Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</p>



## City Regions Board Terms of Reference

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

**Is this report confidential? No**

### Summary

The City Regions Board provides a forum for urban authorities to debate economic growth and public service transformation in their areas. Members are asked to consider the Board's proposed terms of reference and make any comments.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

### Recommendation(s)

**That members make any necessary amendments to the terms of reference for the Board.**

### Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 07921 604 237

Email: [rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk)

## City Regions Board Terms of Reference

### Background

1. The LGA's policy boards are asked to review and agree their terms of reference at the beginning of every Board cycle. Board members have made a number of changes to the terms of reference over the lifetime of the Board to reflect the changing policy landscape, for example reflecting the role of urban leaders in climate and net zero issues.
2. The City Regions Board provides a forum for urban authorities to debate sustainable economic growth, including the importance of decarbonisation and biodiversity recovery, and public service transformation in their areas. Excluding urban policy, the Board works jointly with the People and Places Board.
3. Where our work crosses the remit of other Boards, such as in health devolution, members have worked with their colleagues on the relevant Boards to ensure our work supports the LGA's wider policy objectives while also amplifying the interests of urban authorities. This may result in a joint undertaking or a standalone piece of work, but in all instances LGA officers will work closely together to avoid duplication or confusion of the LGA's policy lines.
4. At the LGA Board's July meeting, as part of a portfolio update to some LGA Boards, members agreed that the People and Places and City Regions Boards take on 'strategic transport and housing' as part of their remit. This change is underlined in paragraph 4 below. Discussions with the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board (formerly Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport) and People and Places Board to ensure the work programmes are complementary.

### Terms of reference

5. The purpose of the City Regions Board is to represent the interests of urban areas and city regions, including those which are part of Combined Authorities or seeking devolution deals. Its remit includes devolution, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, skills and employment support, strategic transport and housing issues, wider public service reform. It will also consider the role of urban leaders in responding to the climate and ecological emergencies, working with the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero (LINZ) Board, and the opportunities within the Board's work programme to promote improved health and wellbeing.
6. The Board should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all urban councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector. This includes working closely with relevant LGA Boards.
7. The City Regions Board's responsibilities include:
  - 7.1. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
  - 7.2. Developing a work programme to deliver the business plan priorities relevant to their brief, covering lobbying campaigns, research, and improvement support in the context of the strategic framework set by Improvement & Innovation Board and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.



- 7.3. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.  
Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA including making public statements on its area of responsibility.
  - 7.4. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
  - 7.5. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
  - 7.6. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.
8. The City Regions Board may:
- 8.1. Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
  - 8.2. Appoint member champions from the Board to lead on key issues, with responsibility for liaising with portfolio holders on key issues that require rapid response/contact with councils.

## Quorum

9. One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

## Financial Implications

10. Membership of the City Regions Board is drawn from the Core and Key cities, SIGOMA and London Boroughs, and is reflective of those in Combined Authorities or seeking devolution deals.
11. The Board has 22 members and its make-up reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which the membership is drawn. This differs from the seven policy boards, whose make-up reflects the political proportionality of the Association as a whole.
12. The chair has been appointed from the largest group on the Board and falls within the LGA's own proportionate allocations. In line with the LGA's political conventions, the remaining groups each have a vice or deputy chair.
13. The composition by political party is recalculated each year and reflects the political proportionality of the wider group of councils from which their membership is drawn. The current composition is:
  - 13.1. Conservative group: 4 members
  - 13.2. Labour group: 14 members
  - 13.3. Independent group: 2 members
  - 13.4. Liberal Democrat group: 2 members
14. Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

## Frequency

15. Meetings to be held five times per annum. For the 2023/24 cycle, it is proposed that 3 meetings be held virtually, with two meetings hybrid with members invited to attend in person if possible. Subject to member agreement, these dates will be agreed and circulated shortly to allow for travel planning.

## Reporting accountabilities

16. The Board will report annually to the LGA Executive Advisory Board at the July meeting.

## City Regions Overview and Priorities 2023-24

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

**Is this report confidential? No**

### Summary

This paper sets out a brief overview of the Board's work and asks members to comment on the Board's priorities.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

### Recommendation(s)

**That members comment on the Board's priorities for the year ahead, including any gaps.**

### Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 07921 604 237

Email: [rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk)

## City Regions Board Overview and Priorities 2023-24

### Background

1. The City Regions Board represents the urban members of the LGA. It works in partnership with the non-metropolitan People and Places Board on a number of cross-cutting issues such as devolution, local economic growth and skills and employment support.
2. In discussing the run up to the next general election in the last Board cycle, members were keen to see progress on the Board's policy priorities and also to see a greater recognition at a national level of the needs and potential of urban areas. This paper contains a brief update on work across the Board's core policy areas and asks for lead members' views on the draft policy priorities agreed at the end of the previous Board cycle.
3. Separate papers will update members in more detail on planned activity across our work programme. We would be grateful for members' comments on the overall balance of the work, including any early thoughts on the new inclusion of strategic housing and transport.

### Local Government White Paper

4. At the annual conference in July, the LGA launched its ['Make it Local'](#) report. The report sets out a range of clear offers from local government in the areas that pollsters are reporting as the biggest issues of concern for the public, and therefore are likely to be prominent in national parties' manifesto proposals. Alongside the LGA's ongoing work to influence party manifestoes, we will be working with the sector to develop more detailed proposals for a new or returning government to implement.
5. The Board's existing work programme is well placed to inform the White Paper, and work due to be completed on economic inactivity, health devolution and councils' role in growth and prosperity will be well timed to contribute. Members might wish to reflect on particular issues for urban areas they would like to see covered in the White Paper.

### Policy overview

#### Urban policy and the future of cities

6. The LGA's second urban summit was held in March 2023, with over a hundred people attending in person. Attendees heard from Andy Haldane, Chief Executive of the RSA who set out the initial findings of the RSA's UK Urban Futures Commission, including how UK cities lag behind their global competitors on productivity and growth, and highlighted the links between income and health disparities. This was followed by a reception at the LGA's annual conference. The work was supported by a collection of essays, videos, data and analysis on the LGA's [Future of Cities Hub](#).
7. The summit was supported by an open letter to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities signed by the leaders of Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils. This set out our ambitious offer to government: that, with the right

policies, finances, and space to deliver, cities can produce better outcomes, not just for urban areas, but also for the whole country. As we look to the next general election, there is an opportunity to sharpen our offer to Government and consider how a third Urban Summit in 2024 could give the Board, and its partner Special Interest Groups, a platform to engage influential people and organisations to amplify this offer.

### **Growth and prosperity**

8. The role of local government in local economic growth and prosperity is increasingly seen as critical to supporting the national economy, but more can be done to support councils and devolved areas in their efforts. The People and Places and City Regions Board commissioned WPI Economics to review councils' current roles and responsibilities and put forward recommendations for improvement.
9. Earlier this month Government confirmed [its decision to withdraw funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships \(LEPs\) and move their functions to local government](#), supported by some revenue funding in 2024/25. Government also published its plan to [simplify grant funding](#) to local government. We also expect Round 3 of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to be announced in the coming months.

### **Skills and employment support**

10. The LGA, councils and devolved authorities and partner local government representative bodies are united in their view that the status quo in designing, commissioning, and delivering employment and skills activity needs to change. The sector has a time-limited opportunity to influence all political parties that the LGA's Work Local approach can address the challenges and opportunities faced by people and places, and that it can be implemented across all places over time. A returning Government or new administration will want to adopt policies that it can move forward with at pace and with limited budgets. We need to both work through the operational level detail needed to turn our agreed policy lines into reality, as well as communicate our messages in a clear and simple way.
11. We have upcoming research on economic inactivity, one of the biggest labour market challenges, due to be published in the autumn. Officers continue to work with the Departments for Education; Work and Pensions; and Health and Social Care to promote a place-based approach. Following agreement by the previous Board, officers are scoping a piece of work to evidence how the fragmentation of the transport system impacts access to education, training and employment opportunities. Government's working groups on green jobs will put forward their recommendations in the autumn; there are opportunities to undertake work on the workforce needs of delivering low carbon energy security.

### **Devolution and Levelling Up**

12. It is positive that all national parties have signalled a commitment to further devolution to local government. The LGA-sponsored [Devolution APPG](#) will continue to promote the opportunities for devolution with Parliamentarians, building on the People and Places and City Regions Boards' Levelling Up Locally Inquiry. The City Regions, Community Wellbeing and People and Places Boards are part of the time limited health and devolution working group established in April 2023 and co-sponsored by NHS

Confederation and the LGA. It will meet for a final time in September to agree recommendations, which could feed into the LGA's White Paper work.

13. The LGA, through its improvement and support work, also works with combined authorities and existing and aspiring devolution areas to support them and share learning and best practice.

### **Strategic transport and housing**

14. As part of a refresh of Board portfolios, the LGA Board agreed that the City Regions and People and Places Boards would take on responsibility for 'strategic housing and transport,' working alongside the new Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board (formerly Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport). Following a meeting of the City Regions, People and Places and LINZ Chairs, discussions of how to implement this change are ongoing and we hope to bring fuller details to the next meeting of the Board.

### **Urban resilience**

15. Following the record temperatures of summer 2022, Board members were interested in understanding the particular challenges and opportunities for resilience in cities and urban areas. We heard from Bristol City Council about their work on a heat map and how it would inform their work. We also heard from the think tank Localis on their work on 'Reaching Climate Resilience,' a project to examine what statutory provisions would be necessary to empower councils to act on climate resilience through: whole systems resilience; sustained and adequate finance, and subregional governance frameworks. It is proposed that this policy area move forward as a watching brief for 2023/24.

### **Proposal**

16. Following a discussion with Lead Members of the Board, the following priorities are proposed, which are based on the draft priorities proposed at the end of the 2023/24 Board cycle:

- 16.1. Making the case for investment in urban areas and city regions ahead of the upcoming general election within the framework of a more devolved and place-based approach to public services.

- 16.2. Removing barriers to councils' abilities to support inclusive and sustainable local growth.

- 16.3. Embedding our Work Local proposals into national policy, including specific policy proposals to support green jobs and net zero.

- 16.4. To strengthen the case for urban authorities' role in strategic transport and housing (subject to ongoing member discussions).

17. Board members are asked to:

- 17.1. Agree the above priorities, with the caveat that the final priority may need to be refined at a later meeting.

- 17.2. Agree the proposal to move forward with urban resilience as a watching brief, particularly in light of the Board's expanded remit.

### **Implications for Wales**

18. Many areas of the Board's policy are devolved, however we undertake to work with the WLGA to share learning as necessary.

### **Financial implications**

19. The work described can be undertaken from within the Board's budget.

### **Equalities implications**

20. The Board has sought to reflect the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion throughout its work programme, including the particular needs of communities in non-metropolitan areas. An equalities champion is due to be centrally appointed to the Board in the autumn.

### **Next steps**

21. Officers will bring a paper on strategic transport and housing to the next Board meeting.
22. Officers will work with Lead Members to reflect the Board's priorities as we develop our work programme and forward plan.





## Health Devolution

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

### Summary

This report provides background to the LGA's work around health and devolution including an update on the working group established by NHS Confederation and co-sponsored by the LGA. The report suggests actions around how the Board might like to engage with the health and devolution work over the 2023/24 cycle.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Supporting local people and places

### Recommendation(s)

**That Members note the LGA's health and devolution work to date including the health and devolution working group.**

**That Members provide a steer about whether they are happy to proceed with the proposed next steps as outlined in paragraph 8.**

### Contact details

Contact officer: Esther Barrott

Position: Policy Advisor

Phone no: 07464652906

Email: [esther.barrott@local.gov.uk](mailto:esther.barrott@local.gov.uk)

## Health Devolution

### Background

1. The City Regions Board has a longstanding interest in strengthening the alignment between NHS reform and local authority devolution to improve health outcomes and economic and social development.
2. The Board works closely with the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board as they lead the LGA's policy development relating to the integration of health and care, the transformation of the health and care landscape, and the rollout of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and health devolution. Previous City Regions Board meetings have been attended by officers from the Community Wellbeing Board providing updates on their work and priorities.
3. A key organisation to engage with as part of this work is the NHS Confederation. As the NHS membership organisation, it brings together, supports, and speaks for healthcare bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and leads on how ICSs and the NHS can support economic growth.

### Health and devolution working group

4. In March 2023 the NHS Confederation established a time-limited health and devolution working group, in partnership with the LGA. The aim of the group is to understand the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for ICS leaders, how this intersects with English devolution to date and the emerging devolution deals to create a system that allows for devolution deal areas and ICSs to build a partnership together. The three LGA policy boards with an interest in this work – the People and Places Board, City Regions Board, and the Community Wellbeing Board are all represented on the working group. The LGA's Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, sits on it too.
5. The group is co-chaired by Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Dr Kathy McLean, Chair of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Its membership comprises organisations including NHS Confederation, LGA, combined authorities, public health leaders in councils, representatives from DLUHC and DHSC.

6. To date the group has met four times and considered the following areas:
- Place – How combined authorities and ICPs can support and enhance subsidiarity, integration and population health approaches at place level
  - Paraphernalia – The tools, resources and approaches that local partners can use to unlock greater system working
  - Practice – Highlighting where local partners are successfully collaborating to support their communities
  - Partnerships – How ICSs should engage locally and nationally
  - Policy – How to highlight devolution policy areas that directly and indirectly intersect with ICS roles and responsibilities
  - Process – How combined authorities and ICSs can jointly develop or align more closely their governance and accountability arrangements.
7. Officers are now drafting a report highlighting emerging best practice and learning from the working group discussions. They will also develop a set of recommendations for politicians and officials to consider how to drive shared outcomes for places at a local level and the powers and resources required. Officers will bring a draft version of the report to the November meeting for discussion with City Regions Board Members.

## Proposals

8. Members are asked to give a steer on the proposed actions:
- Michael Wood, Head of Health Economic Partnerships at NHS Confederation attends the November City Regions Board meeting for a discussion with Members about the progress of the health and devolution working group and emerging recommendations.
  - Officers develop and bring a plan to the November Board meeting around the publication and launch of the final report and recommendations. This might involve organising a launch event in collaboration with NHS Confederation and developing a stakeholder engagement plan that identifies key politicians, officials and wider organisations whom the Board might like to engage with to land the recommendations.
  - The recommendations are used to shape a panel session at the City Regions Board 2024 Urban Summit event. This will be an opportunity for the Board to influence key policymakers ahead of the next general election.

## Implications for Wales

9. Health is a devolved function and ICSs have only been introduced in England.

## Financial Implications

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

## Equalities implications

11. The implementation of ICSs provides an opportunity for to local government to work in partnership with health service providers to address health inequalities. Democratically elected local leaders understand the needs of their communities best and are best placed to tackle health inequalities. Where local government has been given the powers to address population health, outcomes have improved.

## Next steps

12. Members are asked to note background to the LGA's health and devolution work, the work of the joint health and devolution working group, its engagement to date and planned next steps.
13. Following a steer from Members around whether they are happy with the proposed health and devolution work, officers will take forward the work stream. Once the health and devolution working group has concluded its work and launched its final report there will be an opportunity for the Board to consider further activity in this area.

## Urban Summit

### Purpose of Report

For direction.

**Is this report confidential? No**

### Summary

This paper sets out options for a third Urban Summit to take place in 2024. The aim of this summit would be to bring together urban leaders from the City Regions Board, Core Cities as well as London Councils and Key Cities, and set out their key priorities to national stakeholders, politicians and stakeholders.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

### Recommendation(s)

**That the Board comment on the proposal to host a third urban summit at the end of the board cycle, in June 2024.**

### Contact details

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## Urban Summit

### Background

1. The LGA's second urban summit was held in March 2023, with over a hundred people in attendance. Attendees heard from Andy Haldane, Chief Executive of the RSA, who set out the initial findings of the RSA's UK Urban Futures Commission, including how UK cities lag their global competitors on productivity and growth, and highlighted the links between income and health disparities. This work was supported by a collection of essays, videos, data and analysis on the LGA's [Future of Cities Hub](#).
2. The summit was supported by an [open letter to Michael Gove](#), Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities signed by the leaders of Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils. This set out our ambitious offer to government: that, with the right policies, finances and space to deliver, cities can produce better outcomes, not just for urban areas, but also for the whole country.
3. As we look to the next general election, there is an opportunity to sharpen our offer to government and consider how a third Urban Summit in 2024 could give the Board, and its partner Special Interest Groups, a platform to engage influential people and organisations to amplify this offer.

### Proposal

4. Following discussion with City Regions Board Lead Members, we would like to test appetite with the Board on organising a third urban summit to take place in 2024.
5. Previous urban summits have brought together city leaders, experts, as well as other stakeholders and partners to draw on their understanding of how cities need to change to meet the needs of the future and the strong offer cities can make to some of the important challenges facing the nation.
6. It is proposed that an urban summit in 2024 would have a different focus, providing an opportunity for urban leaders to come together to reach an agreed set of asks and offers around the future of cities, inform the LGA's lobbying to government and political parties in the lead up to the general election, and, crucially, offer a chance to engage with and influence key national decision makers and politicians who could .
7. Previous urban summits have been organised in collaboration with Core Cities, and other partners including Key Cities, London Councils, and the RSA. Officers have held early conversations with Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils to gauge interest in organising and participating in another summit. Feedback has been positive, all are keen to play an active role.
8. Following direction from Lead Members, it is proposed that officers start planning for an urban summit be held in person at the end of the board cycle, in June 2024. This would provide an opportunity to bring together the work of the Board from the year, and to avoid clashes with local elections and budget setting. We are open to suggestions about the location of the summit.

9. Officers have drawn up options for themes for the summit and possible workshops. We are keen to hear views from members on this and for further suggestions.
  - 9.1. Political parties' perspective on how cities can thrive
  - 9.2. The relationship between cities and towns
  - 9.3. The future of growth funding
  - 9.4. AI and the potential impact on cities' labour markets
  - 9.5. The international perspective on climate action
  - 9.6. The opportunities to align health and local government devolution
10. It is intended that the summit be interactive and include urban Special Interest Groups, as well as national agencies and representatives from political parties.

### **Implications for Wales**

11. This work is being carried out within the context of the Levelling Up White Paper, which presents a vision for the UK. While many of the investment and policy levers are likely different within the Welsh context there will be value in drawing on the experience of Welsh cities and the aspirations of Welsh city leaders as part of this work.

### **Financial Implications**

12. The cost of arranging an urban summit as well as any additional policy activity arising from this paper will be met from the Board's policy and research budget.

### **Equalities implications**

13. Officers will ensure that the urban summit has a diverse range of speakers which reflects the diversity of cities in the UK, and that equalities implications of policies affecting cities are examined as part of the sessions taking place in the urban summit.

### **Next steps**

14. Subject to feedback from members, officers will agree a date and agenda for the urban summit and bring this to the Board for agreement.





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