

City Regions Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 22 November 2023 3.00 pm

Online via Teams

www.local.gov.uk

City Regions Board Wednesday, 22 November 2023

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **3.00 pm on Wednesday**, **22 November 2023** Online via Teams.

LGA Hybrid Meetings

All of our meetings are available to join in person at <u>18 Smith Square</u> 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.

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

Attendance:

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

LGA Contact: Emma West emma.west@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme, a Carer's Allowance of National Living Wage and/or 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.

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** info@local.gov.uk Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

Chairman: Councillor Shaun Davies Acting Chief Executive: Sarah Pickup CBE President: Baroness Grey-Thompson



City Regions Board – Membership 2023/24 <u>Click here for accessible information on membership</u>

Councillor	Authority	
Conservative (4)		
Cllr Robert Alden (Vice	Birmingham City Council	
Chairman)		
Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council	
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council	
Cllr Antony Mullen	Sunderland City	
Substitutes		
Cllr Aled Richard-Jones	Wandsworth London Borough	
Cllr Tim Warren	Bath & North East Somerset Council	
Cllr Ellis Turrell	Wolverhampton City Council	
Labour (14)		
Cllr Satvir Kaur (Chair)	Southampton City Council	
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe (Vice-	Bradford Metropolitan District Council	
Chair)		
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	
Clir Ross Garrod	Merton London Borough	
Cllr Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Council	
Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council	
Substitutes		
Cllr Chris Penberthy	Plymouth City Council	
Cllr Danny Adilypour	Lambeth London Borough	
Cllr Daren Hale	Hull City Council	
Cllr Nick Kemp	Newcastle City Council	
Liberal Democrat (2)	Diskussed summer These is in the Diskussed summer in the Diskussed summer is the Diskussed statement of the Diskussed statement o	
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Deputy	Richmond upon Thames London Borough	
Chair)		
Cllr Michael Ross	Hull City Council	
Substitutes		
Cllr Mark Jeffery	Portsmouth City Council	
Independent (2)		
Cllr Martin Fodor (Deputy Chair)	Bristol City Council	
Cllr James Giles	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	



Association	
Substitutes	
Cllr Matt Edwards	Bradford City Council
Cllr Geraldine Coggins	Trafford Council



City Regions Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 22 November 2023			
3.00 J	3.00 pm		
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Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 31 January 2024, 1.00 pm, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Minutes of last City Regions Board meeting

City Regions Board

Monday, 2 October 2023

Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as Appendix A.

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed Members, officers and guests to the meeting.

The Chair thanked the previous Chair, Mayor Marvin Rees, and the Board Members for their work over the past year.

Apologies were received by Cllr Lepoidevin, Cllr Cotton and Cllr Peatfield. Cllr Penberthy attended as a substitute.

No declarations of interest were received.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 City Regions Board Terms of Reference

The Chair stated that item 3 and item 4 would be taken together.

The Chair alluded to the change of focus regarding the newly formed Local Infrastructure Net Zero (LINZ) Board and the Economy & Resources (E&R) Board. She stated that greater clarification was needed regarding the changes to prevent future duplication or gaps. Members agreed that greater clarity would be welcomed.

In addition to the Chair's comment, Members made the following contributions:

- A comment was made which related to the importance of strategic housing and transport in shaping place and inclusive growth.
- A question was asked which related to planning and whether the Board would take on planning-related matters within its remit.
- It was suggested that additional work be undertaken to look at housing-related challenges faced by local authorities.
- The importance of urban resilience, particularly in relation to



employment and skills, was emphasised.

The Chair suggested that each of the Board's meetings for the 2023/24 cycle followed a thematic approach.

Rebecca suggested that item 4 be deferred to the next Board meeting to ensure that there was greater clarity in relation to the changes brought by the newly formed LINZ Board and E&R Board. Board Members supported this.

Decision:

• That the Board's overview and priorities be deferred to the next Board meeting.

Action:

• Officers to work with the Board's Lead Members and the LINZ and E&R Board officers to seek greater clarity in relation to the changes brought by the newly formed Boards, to shape the Board's terms of reference and work programme.

4 City Regions Overview and Priorities 2023-24

Item 3 and Item 4 were taken together, please refer to minute 3 for further details.

5 Health Devolution

Esther Barrott, Policy Adviser, introduced the report which provided background information related to the LGA's health and devolution work, including an update on the working group established by NHS Confederation, and cosponsored by the LGA. The report suggested actions related to potential engagement from the Board regarding health devolution over the 2023/24 cycle.

Members made the following contributions:

- Reference was made to the impact that health devolution had had in Manchester, and the importance of monitoring the Manchester Devolution Deal was emphasised.
- Concerns were raised which related to the lack of accountability within the NHS. It was suggested that such issues be closely monitored.
- A question was asked which related to the practice and partnership, related impacts to primary healthcare, and what could be done by local authorities to help matters.
- The importance of ensuring that local authorities had the necessary powers to ensure that their residents could access essential health services was emphasised.
- It was suggested that the devolution of public health powers be further discussed at the next Board meeting.
- The importance of monitoring health challenges within urban areas, as well as addiction and treatment services, was



emphasised.

Decision:

• Board Members noted the report.

Action:

• Officers to ensure that the report be brought back to the next Board meeting for a wider discussion.

6 Urban Summit

Efa Gough, Policy Adviser, introduced the report which set out options for a third Urban Summit to take place in 2024. The aim of the summit was 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.

Members made the following contributions:

- It was noted the desire for the third Urban Summit to take place in June, after the elections had taken place.
- In relation to section 9 of the report, it was suggested that examples of the Board's success in delivering economic growth be added.
- It was suggested that the role of cities and how crucial they were in training the next generation of young people be emphasised within the report.
- The importance of presenting a positive image of cities for both business and leisure purposes was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to partnership working between combined authorities and the Board.
- The importance of coastal communities was emphasised.
- The importance of focusing on climate-related issues, housing, economic growth and skills, and the need to tackle community disadvantages was emphasised.
- The need to use the summit as a platform to showcase good work taking place in cities and urban areas was expressed.
- The importance of creativity in joining up economic activity, skills, sustainability, community development and inclusion was emphasised.

Decision:

• Board Members noted the report.

7 Councils' Future Role in Driving Growth and Prosperity

Efa Gough, Adviser, and Steve Hughes, Associate Economist at WPI Economics, introduced the report which summarised commissioned research conducted by WPI Economics, which explores growth and prosperity and how this could be unlocked through enhancing the roles



and responsibilities of local government.

Members made the following contributions:

- Questions were asked and concerns were raised regarding the report's recommendations.
- The need to make the case to government for community-led regeneration was expressed.
- The importance of green spaces to improve health and wellbeing was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to the demise of Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- The importance of locally led solutions was emphasised.

Efa and Steve noted all comments from Members.

Decision:

• Board Members noted the report.

Action:

• Officers to incorporate Board Members' comments into the report where possible and share the amended report with Board Members at a future meeting of the Board before being published as a final version.

8 Employment and Skills

Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser, introduced the report which was jointly led by the City Regions Board and the People & Places Board. It set out the aim of the LGA's work, which was to ensure that the current national employment and skills system was more integrated and localised, and for the sector to benefit from greater freedoms and flexibilities through devolution. The report summarised key priority work areas over the past year and suggested next steps for the coming months. A similar discussion had taken place at the People & Places Board on 12th September.

Members emphasised the importance of:

- engaging with national politicians
- importance of green skills, sustainable business development, retrofitting, energy security and understanding the lack of grid capacity, and need for LGA to link into the work of 3ci
- the need for multi-year employment and skills agreements to provide certainty and security for colleges and training providers
- understanding future employment growth
- supporting people back into work and education settings
- sustainable housing and transport
- long-term planning in relation to upskilling
- interconnectivity between coastal and rural communities

Decision:



• Board Members noted the report.



City Regions Board 22 November 2023

City Regions summary work plan

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This report summarises the Board's projects and programmes for the 2023/24 cycle.

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

That the Board comment on and agree the activity, including revised proposals on strategic housing and transport.

Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

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18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** info@local.gov.uk Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577 **Chair:** Councillor Shaun Davies **Acting Chief Executive:** Sarah Pickup CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

City Regions summary work plan

Background

- Following discussions with the Board and Lead Members, officers have refined the Board's work plan to reflect members' priorities under the Board's over-arching themes. This is appended at **Annex A** under the priorities agreed by the Board at its first meeting.
- 2. Within each theme, the Board will advocate for the particular needs and opportunities of city regions and urban areas.
- 3. Where the workstream is 'ongoing', we will use a variety of channels to promote our messages, including responding to inquiries; commenting on announcements and media stories; briefing for meetings and events, and contributing to corporate activity such as Budget submissions.
- 4. Officers will update verbally at the meeting on any matters arising from the Autumn Statement that will have an impact on proposed activity.

Strategic housing and transport

- 5. Following discussions with lead members, it is proposed that the Board develop a work programme for the year that aligns with members' key interests in this area. The Board's remit will be centred around how housing and transport can act as drivers to promote and distribute growth to benefit communities. In particular the Board's remit will include:
 - 5.1. Councils' role in responding to housing need and place shaping, including using their own stock as well as new development to address key issues and create growth and opportunities locally and regionally.
 - 5.2. Councils' role in developing public transport strategies, including inter-city transport links, and the relationship between transport and inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity.
- 6. Members had previously discussed their interest in using the January and March Board meetings as focussed discussions on these topics. It is proposed that the January meeting focus on transport, including a Board 'study visit' to a council doing innovative work in this space, with the March Board focusing on housing.
- 7. Members are invited to comment on specific aspects of strategic housing and transport they wish to focus on. This might include, for instance, research to support further powers in devolution deals or extended more widely to councils; innovative models for funding transport investment; the relationship between places and Homes England; or collecting and promoting good practice in using housing in place shaping. Officers will work with lead members to agree priority areas for this Board cycle, including any research or analysis that may need to be commissioned.

Implications for Wales

8. Most areas of the Board's work are devolved, but officers will share learning with the Welsh Local Government Association as needed.

Financial Implications

9. All commitments can be met from the Board's policy budget. Any further commitments may have to be considered for the next financial year.

Equalities implications

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

Next steps

11. Officers will work with lead members to agree the additional work programme activity to support the strategic housing and transport work strands.

Annex A

Removing barriers to councils' abilities to support inclusive and sustainable local growth	
Councils' role in growth and prosperity	
 Working with WPI Economics to develop proposals to strengthen councils' role in local economies. 	November 2023
Funding for growth	
 Commissioning research on alternative models for local growth funding to inform national policy development and the LGA's Local Government White Paper. 	March 2024
 Continuing to make the case for reducing the number of competitive, short-term funding pots, including through the Government's funding simplification plan. 	Ongoing
Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) integration	
 Working with a commissioned provider to support councils to reduce risks and maximise opportunities in integrating LEP functions, and generate learning for the sector. 	March 2024
 Making the case for adequate funding to accompany new responsibilities. 	Ongoing
Embedding our Work Local proposals into national policy	
national policy Entrenching our Work Local proposals with political parties and stakeholders	March 2024
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 national policy Entrenching our Work Local proposals with political parties and stakeholders Building on our Work Local campaign to expand the detail of how our proposals would work in practice. Embedding our proposals in party manifestos and engaging civil servants from across Whitehall, including through facilitating better communication between councils 	March 2024 Ongoing
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 national policy Entrenching our Work Local proposals with political parties and stakeholders Building on our Work Local campaign to expand the detail of how our proposals would work in practice. Embedding our proposals in party manifestos and engaging civil servants from across Whitehall, including through facilitating better communication between councils and departments. The importance of transport for skills and employment Examining how the transport system impacts people and places by limiting or enabling access to skills, training, and the labour market and making recommendations for change. 	Ongoing

Influencing Youth Employment UK's Youth Commission on the impact of the DfE's reforms to post-16 qualifications	
Influence the Commission's findings to ensure the role and needs of local authorities are effectively represented.	January 2024
Making the case for investment in urban areas	
and city regions within the framework of a more devolved and place-based approach	
Making the case for further devolution to city region and urban areas	
 Building on the Levelling Up White Paper, LGA Levelling Up Locally Inquiry and Trailblazer deals, continuing to highlight the LGA's view that all areas that want it should be able to benefit from devolution, and that this should not be contingent on having a directly elected Mayor. 	Ongoing
 Showcasing the Board's progress and further pressing the case for the potential of urban areas at the third annual urban summit. 	June 2024
Best practice in health devolution	
Through the report of the joint LGA and NHS Confederation working group, share good practice and recommendations for how devolution areas and Integrated Care Systems can best work together.	January 2024
Promoting the role of urban areas and city regions in strategic housing	
 Focused discussion at the Board meeting, including external speaker(s) 	March 2024
Further activity as directed by members	TBC
Promoting the role of urban areas and city regions in strategic transport	
 Focused discussion at the Board meeting, including study visit 	January 2024
Further activity as directed by members	ТВС



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City Regions Board Terms of Reference

Purpose of Report

For decision.

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 the Board agree the revised terms of reference.

Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

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City Regions Board 22 November 2023

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. Following discussion with lead members, the Board will agree a work programme to explore members' priority issues in this area.

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

Local L Government Association

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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 draw. The current composition is:
 - 13.1. Conservative group: 4 members
 - 13.2. Labour group: 14 members
 - 13.3. Independent group: 2 members



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- 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 the January meeting hybrid with members invited to attend in person if possible and incorporating a study visit. The June meeting is to be expanded to include the Urban Summit.

Reporting accountabilities

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

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted



City Regions Board 22 November 2023

Urban Summit

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This report details proposals for a third urban summit, to be held in June 2024, with a focus on setting out the priorities of urban areas to national stakeholders ahead of the summer recess and with a view to influencing a forthcoming general election.

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider the draft proposals for the third urban summit in June 2024, set out at paragraphs 5 and 6.

Contact details

Contact officer: Efa Gough

Position: Adviser

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18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ www.local.gov.uk **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** info@local.gov.uk Local Government Association company number 11177145 Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 03675577 **Chair:** Councillor Shaun Davies **Acting Chief Executive:** Sarah Pickup CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

Urban Summit

Background

- 1. At the last Board meeting, Members agreed to hold a third Urban Summit at the end of the Board cycle, in June 2024.
- 2. Previous Urban Summits have brought together city leaders, policy experts, as well as other partners and stakeholders interested in the future of cities and urban areas to draw out their understanding of how cities need to change to meet the needs of the future and set out the offer from urban leaders looking to play their part in addressing some of the important challenges facing the nation.
- 3. Members agreed at the last meeting that, as we look to the next general election, the third urban summit will have a more focused agenda to give the Board, and its partner Special Interest Groups, a platform to engage key national decision makers and politicians, to amplify our offer: that, with the right policies, finances and space to deliver, cities can produce better outcomes, not just for urban areas, but for the whole country.

Proposal

- 4. Following feedback from Members, it is proposed that the next Urban Summit will take place instead of the last Board meeting, on Tuesday 18 June 2024. The location will be decided based on availability of speakers, likely to be the LGA's headquarters in Westminster given the proximity to national politicians.
- 5. Officers have developed a draft structure for the Summit as a starting point for discussion. This reflects feedback that the aim of the Summit should go beyond questions exploring the purpose of cities or thematic sessions setting out the challenge urban areas face. Instead, it is proposed that the focus of the event should be around articulating offers and asks that respond to the needs of urban leaders and hearing directly from national political parties about what to expect from a new or returning government.

Time	Item	Speaker
10:00-10:15	Welcome	Cllr Satvir Kaur
10:15-11:15	Panel discussion with urban leaders from across England, setting out their priorities for change.	Volunteers from City Regions Board Metro Mayor perspective
11:15-12:30 (or at other times as diaries allow)	Keynote speakers from the national political parties focused on the future of cities and discussion on what to expect from a new or returning government.	Jacob Young MP Angela Rayner MP Helen Morgan MP
12:30-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:15	Thematic sessions, focused on providing local leaders with the opportunity to	

6. As such, the draft structure is slightly different from the last two urban summits:

14:15-14:30	 engage directly with key national stakeholders and push for reform: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth including skills and employment support. Housing and regeneration, including the relationship between Homes England and local authorities Transport, including sub-national rail and bus franchising 	
14:30-15:30	 Thematic sessions, focused on providing local leaders with the opportunity to engage directly with key national stakeholders and push for reform: The future of devolution, including the relationship between urban leaders and combined authorities. Wider changes in the relationship between national and local government. 	
15:30-16:00	Roundup of the day and close	Chair
16:00	Reception and networking	

7. Members are asked to agree the broad proposals for timing, location and format for the Urban Summit. We would welcome additional suggestions for themes, speakers and attendees.

Implications for Wales

8. 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

9. 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 2024/25 policy and research budget.

Equalities implications

10. 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

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