



City Regions Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 31 January 2024
1.00 pm

Hybrid meeting - Manchester (see agenda
for venue info) & Online via Microsoft Teams

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **1.00 pm on Wednesday, 31 January 2024**
Hybrid meeting - Manchester (see agenda for venue info) & Online via Microsoft 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.

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.

City Regions Board – Membership 2023/24

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

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (4)	
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
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-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
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)	
Cllr Gareth Roberts (Deputy Chair)	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
Cllr Michael Ross	Hull City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Mark Jeffery	Portsmouth City Council
Independent (1)	
Cllr Martin Fodor (Deputy Chair)	Bristol City Council
Substitutes	

Cllr Matt Edwards	Bradford City Council
Cllr Geraldine Coggins	Trafford Council

Agenda

City Regions Board

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

1.00 pm

Hybrid meeting - Manchester (see agenda for venue info) & Online via Microsoft Teams

Item	
OPEN SESSION	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	1 - 6
3. City Regions Board visit to Manchester - agenda	
• 11:30: Arrival	
<i>11 Portland Street, M1 3HU, Outlook Room (8th floor). See 'etc.venues' attachment sent via e-mail with agenda pack for venue details, including parking and directions from public transport.</i>	
• 12:00: Lunch and networking	
• 13:00: City Regions Board	
• 15:00: Presentation by Salford City Council and Key Cities	
<i>Depart for 100 Embankment for presentation by Salford City Council and Key Cities. 100 Embankment is a flagship development and a joint partnership between Ask Real Estate, Tristan Capital Partners and Salford City Council. The walk to 100 Embankment is approximately 15 minutes; please see walking directions for information, although we will walk as a group. Members are encouraged to bring umbrellas and/or coats in case of wet weather.</i>	
• 16:15: Close	
Please note: Transpennine and Northern trains will be on strike on the 31 st . If this changes your travel plans, please let us know. If you are planning to drive, the pdf from 'etc.venues' includes a note of nearby parking options.	

CONFIDENTIAL SESSION		Page
4.	Universal Support	7 - 12
OPEN SESSION		Page
5.	Presentations from partners	
	a) Jason Prince, Director, Urban Transport Group	
	<p>The Urban Transport Group is the UK's network of city region transport authorities. They make the case for urban transport; provide thought leadership, and act as a professional network.</p>	
	b) Henri Murison, Chief Executive, Northern Powerhouse Partnership	
	<p>The Northern Powerhouse Partnership is made up of the North's leading businesses, spanning a range of industries including energy, construction and financial services. They are supported by civic leaders and experts in fields such as skills, education and world-class research.</p>	
	c) Cllr Bev Craig, Leader, Manchester City Council	
6.	Support for care leavers	13 - 20
7.	Work Programme updates	21 - 26
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For information only.	

Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 15 March 2024, 10.00 am, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Minutes of last City Regions Board meeting

City Regions Board

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest
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The Chair welcomed Members, officers and guests to the meeting.

Apologies were received by Cllr Robinson. Cllr Hale attended the meeting as a substitute. Cllr Richard-Jones attended the meeting as an observer.

No declarations of interest were received.

2	Minutes of the last meeting
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The minutes of the meeting held on 02 October 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

3	City Regions Summary Work Plan
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The Chair invited **Rebecca Cox, Principal Policy Adviser**, to introduce the report.

Rebecca touched upon the discussions which had recently taken place between the Board and Lead Members and confirmed that officers had refined the Board's work plan to reflect members' priorities under the Board's over-arching themes. Within each theme, the Board would advocate for the needs and opportunities of city regions and urban areas. Where the workstream was 'ongoing', a variety of channels would be used to promote messages. She added that information would be circulated to Board Members outside of the meeting related to matters arising from the Autumn Statement that would impact proposed activity.

Members made the following contributions:

- *'The importance of transport for skills and employment'* to be discussed in January rather than June.
- *'Sector-specific skills policy: future of energy; nature recovery'* to include infrastructure more generally, for discussion in January.

- *'Promoting the role of urban areas and city regions in strategic housing'* – external speakers to share real examples of strong, new communities which had been built.
- To see a detailed case study for the national living wage uplift, focusing on individuals who earn an average salary.
- To focus on the unique challenges and opportunities of Coastal cities, particularly in relation to housing and transport.
- The importance of ensuring that items marked as 'ongoing' were monitored regularly was emphasised.
- *'Promoting the role of urban areas and city regions in strategic housing'* to focus on the challenges associated with social housing.
- It was suggested that land values in cities and subsidy levels applied to private housing developments and council housing developments be explored.
- The importance of focusing on improving transport links outside of urban area to the surrounding countryside was emphasised.
- The need to significantly strengthen the working relationship with Homes England was expressed.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to circulate information to Board Members outside of the meeting related to matters arising from the Autumn Statement that would impact proposed activity.

4 City Regions Board Terms of Reference

The Chair introduced the report and confirmed that:

- The Board meeting in January would focus on strategic transport.
- The Board meeting in June would focus on strategic housing.
- The Board meetings in January and June would be face-to-face meetings (preferred).
- The Board meeting in January would take place off-site (potentially in Manchester) and more information would be circulated to Board Members as soon as possible.

Members made the following contributions:

- A question was asked which related to travel costs and claiming expenses.
- It was suggested that a future off-site Board meeting be held in a smaller-sized city to see how unique challenges were tackled.
- Cllr Merry offered to host a future off-site Board meeting in Salford.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

5 Health Devolution

The Chair invited **Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser**, to introduce the report, and welcomed **Michael Wood, Head of Health Economic Partnerships – NHS Confederation**, to the meeting. Michael presented a series of slides to the Board and discussed emerging recommendations from the health and devolution working group.

Members made the following contributions:

- Concerns were raised which related to the lack of engagement and equality between local government and the NHS.
- Concerns were raised which related to decreased accountability in relation to local CCGs and how local authorities could be represented in ICBs.
- The importance of investment in early intervention and prevention was emphasised.
- The need for equity of judgement in performance was expressed.
- It was suggested that the recommendations within the report be strengthened.
- The importance of prioritising people was emphasised.
- A concern was raised which related to the diminishing role of councillors throughout the process.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

6 Councils' Future Role in Driving Growth and Prosperity

The Chair welcomed **Steve Hughes, Associate Economist at WPI Economics**, and invited **Efa Gough, Adviser**, to introduce the report which summarised updates to a research report undertaken by WPI Economics, exploring growth and prosperity and how this could be unlocked through enhancing the roles and responsibilities of local government.

Members made the following contributions:

- A date-related typo within Annex A was highlighted.
- The importance of being precise in what was meant by devolution was emphasised.
- It was suggested that economic factors be included within the report.
- The need to attract international investment was expressed.
- A case study which focused on building houses and how local

authorities could use statutory tools and work closely with partners was requested.

- The difficulty in reconciling the differences between economic growth and prosperity and using wellbeing as one of the concepts within the report was expressed.
- The importance of prioritising people was emphasised.
- A concern was raised regarding the readability of the report.
- A concern was raised regarding the lack of information contained within the report regarding combined authorities for local growth and prosperity and in addition, risk management.
- The importance of case studies and sharing best practice was emphasised.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

7 Urban Summit

The Chair invited **Efa Gough, Adviser**, to introduce the report which detailed 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.

At the summit, Members requested that there be:

- Independent party representation.
- an update on the proposals related to Influencing Youth Employment UK's Youth Commission.
- an update on LEPs.

Decision:

Board Members noted the report.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Satvir Kaur	Southampton City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Gareth Roberts	Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Fodor	Bristol City Council
Members	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
Cllr John Merry CBE
Cllr Anthony Hunt
Cllr John Cotton
Cllr David Mellen
Cllr Ross Garrod
Cllr Martin Gannon
Cllr Barry Anderson
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin
Cllr Antony Mullen
Cllr Michael Ross

Reading Borough Council
Salford City Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Nottingham City Council
Merton London Borough
Gateshead Council
Leeds City Council
Coventry City Council
Sunderland City
Hull City Council

Apologies

Cllr Liam Robinson

Liverpool City Council

In Attendance

Cllr Daren Hale
Cllr Aled Richard-Jones
Cllr Matt Edwards
Cllr Geraldine Coggins

Hull City Council
Wandsworth London Borough
Bradford City Council
Trafford Council

Document is Restricted

Support for care leavers

Purpose of Report

For discussion

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

The Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), Councillor Shaun Davies, has announced that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, in particular support for care leavers. Recognising that all councillors are corporate parents to children in care and care leavers, all policy boards are being asked to share their own ideas for this priority area, to shape the LGA's work in relation to supporting care leavers. This report outlines current ideas for this programme and next steps, and is an opportunity for Board members to put forward their own ideas and good practice.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board comments on the current plans for this programme of work and suggest any additional ideas as to how the LGA can promote positive outcomes for care leavers, including those based on their own councils' work.

Contact details

Contact officer: Louise Smith

Position: Senior Adviser – Children and Young People

Phone no: 07464 652769

Email: louise.smith@local.gov.uk

Support for care leavers

Background

1. The Chair of the LGA, Councillor Shaun Davies, announced at the LGA Annual Conference that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, and in particular how the LGA can support improved outcomes for care leavers and others with care experience. This was also discussed at Executive Advisory Board on 20 July 2023.
2. The Children and Young People Board will lead on this work, with regular updates also going to Informal Group Leaders and the Executive Advisory Board for organisation-wide oversight and join-up.
3. All policy boards at the LGA are being asked to consider how services within their remit could improve outcomes for care leavers, including potential policy positions and sharing of good practice. This reflects the fact that all councillors and council officers are corporate parents to children in care and care leavers.
4. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 outlines the following corporate parenting principles that all local authorities must have regard to when carrying out functions in relation to children in care and care leavers:
 - 4.1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people;
 - 4.2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
 - 4.3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
 - 4.4. To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
 - 4.5. To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
 - 4.6. For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their homes lives, relationships and education or work;
 - 4.7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Outcomes for those with care experience

5. Many people with care experience leave care and go on to happy, fulfilling lives. Care experienced people told the Independent Review of Children's Social Care

that it was important to recognise that, while a lot of policy and media attention is given to the disproportionate numbers of care experienced people who experience negative outcomes, such outcomes are not inevitable and care can be a “positive, transformational and lifesaving experience”¹. For example, there is [evidence](#) that longer-term care can be a protective factor in children’s educational outcomes. One of the aims of the LGA’s campaign is to emphasise a more positive narrative around those with care experience.

6. However, by understanding where those with care experience are more likely to experience negative outcomes than their peers, it is possible to identify opportunities to address these issues. The Care Review highlights several key areas where government, business and society can play a role in supporting care experienced people:
 - 6.1. An estimated 26 per cent of the homeless population have care experience.
 - 6.2. Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of the prison population in England have spent time in care.
 - 6.3. Four in ten (41 per cent) of care leavers aged 19-21 are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people of the same age.
 - 6.4. Adults who spent time in care between 1971-2001 were 70 per cent more likely to die prematurely than those who did not.
 - 6.5. Six per cent of care leavers report having no-one at all to provide emotional support, and nearly one in ten only had support from their leaving care worker.

Current work programme

7. Colleagues across policy, improvement, leadership and communications have been working to develop a programme of work to support the Chair’s priority.
8. Partner organisations are being engaged in this work, including Spectra which runs the Care Leaver Covenant, Become (the national charity for children in care and care leavers) and the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) which connects local authority leaving care teams.
9. Ensuring that the voices of those with care experience directly influence this work is vital to ensure the impact and relevance of the programme. Become and the NLCBF have provided advice on engaging those with care experience, as well as evidence from their own work with care experienced people on key priorities.

¹ [Independent Review of Children’s Social Care 2022](#)

10. Work is being considered across three strands:

- 10.1. The LGA as an employer: including training for all staff, guaranteed interviews where minimum criteria are met for roles (subject to legal advice) and ring-fenced apprenticeship positions.
- 10.2. The LGA as a convener: working with the Care Leaver Covenant to promote their work and encourage sign ups; communications campaign to raise awareness; Work with LAMIT (Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust) and CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management) to publicise their work to support care leavers.
- 10.3. The LGA's work to support and improve local government: dedicated outreach and support for care experienced graduates applying to the National Graduate Development Scheme; guidance and case studies for councils; lobbying government in relation to funding for children's social care and to support care leavers who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; training for councillors and officers on corporate parenting, including across the 'corporate core'.

What care leavers say is important to them

11. The following list has been compiled from a variety of organisations (including the [National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum](#), the [Care Leavers National Movement](#), [Barnardo's](#) and the [Children's Commissioner](#)) that have worked with care leavers to identify key support that they would like to see, noting that young people would like to see support offered to all care leavers, including those who are living outside of their local authority area.

Issue and asks from care leavers	Examples of good practice
<p>Finance: support managing household bills; cold weather allowance; council tax exemptions; savings; higher rate of universal credit for under 25s</p>	<p>Winter fuel payments in Gateshead; paying council tax for those living out of authority in Doncaster</p>
<p>Housing: priority access to housing; Staying Put and Staying Close; access to a 'handyman' service and a maintenance fund.</p>	<p>Rent guarantor schemes (e.g. in Devon); home improvements via EQUANS</p>
<p>Travel: support with the cost of getting to appointments, work and staying connected with family and friends; driving lessons.</p>	<p>Greater Manchester free bus travel; Cornwall free bus travel; free driving lessons and paid for licenses in Medway; bicycle packages in Reading</p>

<p>Health: timely access to mental health services; access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services until 25 where necessary to avoid moving into adult support too early; paid-for prescriptions; NHS dentists; optician appointments.</p>	<p>Dedicated mental health worker in Lincolnshire; paid prescriptions in Oldham;</p>
<p>Digital connection: devices and access to WiFi and data to connect with health services, apply for jobs and stay connected to friends and family.</p>	<p>TalkTalk free broadband and data for active job seekers; Greater Manchester free data, devices and digital skills training</p>
<p>Leisure: gym passes, including for a friend to go with them; funds for leisure activities.</p>	<p>Cornwall Culture Card; free activities in leisure centres in Dudley; Christmas/festival allowance in Cheshire West and Chester</p>
<p>Education, employment and training: guaranteed interviews for apprenticeship roles; “work wardrobes”; financial support until a first pay check clears; education bursaries up to the age of 25 (these are currently available for those aged 16-19).</p>	<p>Year-round accommodation at the University of Kent; interview clothing through Smart Works or Suited and Booted; financial support between benefits ending and first wage payment in Cheshire West and Chester;</p>
<p>Practical support: starter packs for new homes or going to university; mentoring or buddying schemes; clothing allowance; passports.</p>	<p>Clothing allowances in Kent; setting up home start packs and TV licences in Northamptonshire; coaching for care leavers in Southwark</p>
<p>Offers for specific groups of care leavers: including care experienced parents, former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, young people with additional needs, those involved with the criminal justice system and the LGBTQ+ community</p>	<p>Support for care experienced parents in Hertfordshire; building community for former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Leeds;</p>
<p>Accessing records: including support through the process.</p>	<p>Access to Records training by the Rees Foundation</p>
<p>Post 25 support: to avoid a ‘cliff edge’ or support.</p>	<p>“Always here” support for those with care experience beyond 25 in North Yorkshire</p>

Issues for the City Regions Board to consider

12. As detailed above, care leavers are more likely to fall out of the education, employment and training system (EET).
13. As corporate parents, councils want to give them the best start possible so they can transition from education to employment. They have specific statutory duties related to young peoples' education and training including the 'September Guarantee' which means they must work with schools and colleges to provide sufficient number of education and training placements for 16-17 year olds, and are also responsible for tracking young people that have fallen out of the education and training system, with many also providing interventions to support them back in. Mayoral authorities have devolved adult education budget which is used to help adults (19+) which includes care leavers to gain qualifications that will move them closer to further learning and work.
14. Many councils have discretionary employment and skills schemes or services in place which can support care leavers. As major local employers, some offer ring-fenced apprenticeships and internships. A care leavers bursary of £3,000 is available for those undertaking apprenticeships payable in instalments over the first year of the apprenticeship, which is administered by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
15. The Care Leaver Covenant highlights examples of how other employers are playing their part too offering opportunities to care leavers including guaranteed interviews at [Channel 4](#), application support and guidance at [Metro Bank](#) and mentors and interview practice at [John Lewis](#).
16. However the wider employment and skills system is centralised and complex, making it difficult for councils to bring different interventions together into a coherent offer which provides pathways into further learning or work. Our Work Local campaign sets out a positive vision to addressing this and we are proactively looking to put this on the radar of a returning or incoming government. We can ensure that supporting care leavers is prominent within the next steps of our work.
17. Board members may wish to highlight activity they have in place locally to support care leavers into further learning and work, or indeed any ideas they would like to see the LGA take forward as part of its care leaver work programme.

Implications for Wales

18. Children's social care is devolved in Wales however learning from the programme can be shared with the Welsh Local Government Association.

Financial Implications

19. This programme will be delivered within existing budgets.

Equalities implications

20. This programme is focussed on reducing inequalities for those with care experience.

21. Around one quarter of care leavers are former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Specific consideration will be given to how the specific needs of this group are recognised in the programme of work.

Next steps

22. Feedback from the Board today will be taken forward by LGA officers and reported to the Children and Young People Board as part of ongoing oversight of the programme.

Work programme updates

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This paper provides members with an update of activity across the Board's work programme. Members might like to note the priorities agreed by lead members for the Board's work on strategic housing and transport.

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

That the Board notes the updates.

Contact details

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 07921 604 237

Email: rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk

Work programme updates

Background

1. This paper outlines the work undertaken since the last Board meeting across the Board's work programme. It also shares with members the priorities agreed by lead members for the Board's work on strategic housing and transport.

Strategic housing and transport

2. Lead members discussed the thoughtful and ambitious proposals put forward by members, which covered a wide range of topics. They agreed that the Board's next two meetings will be used for an in depth discussion of these policy areas, today's meeting on transport being the first. For the housing-themed meeting in March, the follow themes were agreed:
 - 2.1. How to maintain/increase social housing in cities, particularly supported housing – including the role of developers.**
 - 2.2. The previous LGA Chairman, Cllr James Jamieson OBE, is a member of the Government [Older People's Housing Taskforce](#), which was launched in May 2023 to look at options for the provision of greater choice, quality and security of housing for older people. Cllr Jamieson will attend the March Board meeting to update members on the Taskforce's emerging findings and members will have the opportunity to influence its recommendations.
 - 2.3. Good practice in successfully building communities (not just housing). Estate renewal, including the difficulties of doing so in places with low land values.**
 - 2.4. Lead members were minded to invite speaker(s) to the March Board. Speakers from [Poundbury](#) and the [Castle Vale Community Housing Association](#) were mentioned as possibilities. Other suggestions from members are welcome, particularly from coastal areas.
3. In response to other proposals raised by members, there are opportunities to take forward work alongside other LGA Boards. For example, this Board and the People and Places Board will be invited to contribute to work led by the Economy and Resources and Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Boards on support for low income households, including temporary accommodation costs. In addition, the People and Places Board and LINZ Boards have indicated an interest in local government's relationship with Homes England. Elements of Homes England's

work are included within devolution deals and policy work in this area should sit with City Regions and People and Places to progress; a meeting of lead members from all three Boards might be a useful first step.

4. Officers have kept a record of all members' suggestions and will review them with lead members as the work programme progresses.

Local economic growth

5. **Growth funding:** The Board, alongside the People and Places Board, has jointly commissioned Athey Consulting to carry out a piece of technical analysis of previous and current growth funds, identify the benefits and challenges of the methodologies used and lessons learned, and explore an alternative future model of growth funding which provides certainty and flexibility for councils which can be used to influence the next or successor government in their preparation for successor growth funds.
6. Officers have met with DLUHC officials to discuss their early thinking on the capacity and capability elements of the government's funding simplification plan.
7. Following comments from the Board and People and Places Board members, the report 'Devolution First: a five-point plan to support local growth and prosperity' has been signed off. Officers are now preparing for publication and a press launch.
8. The LGA also submitted [evidence on levelling up funding](#) in response to a short-notice request from the Public Accounts Committee.
9. **Local Enterprise Partnerships:** The Board, alongside the People and Places Board, has also commissioned Henham Strategy to develop a series of action learning sets to provide an opportunity for local areas to work through the challenges and opportunities of integration, with the findings published quickly for other areas to benefit too. The findings from this research will be used to support the LGA's lobbying of central government to provide further support to councils and combined authorities with next steps following LEP integration.

Skills and employment

10. **Transport and skills:** To build on the City Regions and People and Places Boards' joint work to ensure economic inclusion, we have commissioned Pragmatix Advisory to examine how the transport system impacts people and places by limiting or enabling access to skills, training, and the labour market.

11. The research aims to illustrate challenges in coastal, rural, and urban areas, as well as groups and communities experiencing disadvantage. The evidence will examine six case study local authorities to show the impact of transport challenges. Each case study area represents one of the six DEFRA rural/urban classifications: East Lindsey, Northumberland, South Staffordshire, Southend-on-Sea, Nottingham, and Lambeth. The common themes emerging from the research so far demonstrate that there are barriers to travel especially challenging for disadvantaged demographics; transport affordability is a problem for many people; reducing the cost of travel opens up choices in education and employment opportunities.
12. The final report will make a set of short- and long-term policy recommendations. Pragmatix Advisory will be invited to present the findings and recommendations to the board in March.
13. **Green Jobs:** The LGA has been supporting Kate Kennally, Chief Executive of Cornwall Council, who is the local government lead on the cross departmental ministerial Green Jobs Delivery Group and the local capacity and capability sub-group. We have been engaging the local government sector such as ADEPT, the Mayoral Combined Authorities network and UK100, as well as representatives of industry, business and training providers, developing recommendations for Government to consider as they draft a green jobs action plan expected after Spring 2024.
14. This has been an opportunity to work with partners and incorporate the principles of Work Local into the recommendations and develop the LGA's [Green Jobs Framework](#). We have engaged members and sought feedback from the City Regions, People & Places and the then EEHT Boards throughout this process during the 2022/23 Board cycle, with lead members of the three Boards providing additional feedback to the final draft of recommendations in December 2023.
15. We are also undertaking research into the role local government can play in supporting local food and drink supply chains. It will identify good practice in ensuring the local food and drink production, retail and tourism is central to delivering jobs and business growth. We are also seeking a supplier to provide additional research to support this work.
16. **Youth Employment UK Commission:** The LGA has been supporting the Youth Employment UK Commission on Level 2 and 3 Pathways for young people. The Commission aims to understand the impact of the Department for Education's decision to remove funding and support for some Level 2 Apprenticeships and for some Level 2 and Level 3 vocational qualifications, and to propose solutions that will 'allow all young people to flourish'.

17. Councillor Robert Alden along with Councillor Louise McKinlay from the People and Places Board continue to support the work of the Commission. A number of meetings have taken place between June 2023 and December 2023 and have involved young people, colleges, employers, and experts in youth employment and economics. The commission has also undertaken some 'deep dives' into local areas to demonstrate and evidence the impact of reforms on local areas.
18. The Commission is now moving into the final phase of developing short-term and long-term solutions. The LGA is continuing to engage with the Commission to ensure that the sector's views are reflected in the recommendations.
19. The Commission has agreed that the recommendations should be based on the following principles: a) inclusion, aspiration, appropriate, holistic; b) sufficiency and efficiency; c) equality and quality; d) flexibility; e) integration and clarity; f) clear and stable signalling of the skills value of qualifications. The Commission is due to produce a final report in early 2024 with policy recommendations.
20. **House of Lords Public Services Committee inquiry into the transition from education to employment for young disabled people:** Last year the House of Lords Public Services Committee launched an [inquiry into the transition from education to employment for young disabled people](#).
21. The inquiry aims to examine young disabled people's experiences of the transition from education to employment. This will include career and employment support and advice young disabled people receive throughout this transition; how far public services demonstrate best practice on employing young disabled people; support for employers; and enforcement of the rights of young disabled people in the workplace.
22. As part of this inquiry, the Committee is examining the role of local government during this transition, for example, the provision of employment support, training, and opportunities, and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). The LGA has been invited to give [written and oral evidence to the Committee](#)..

Devolution and levelling up

23. **Health devolution:** The NHS Confederation, through its Health Economic Partnerships work programme and ICS network, established a time-limited health and devolution working group. The aim of the group was to understand the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for ICS leaders, how this intersects with English devolution to date and the emerging devolution deals. The Board co-sponsored the group alongside the People and Places and Community Wellbeing

Boards. Four meetings took place in April, June, July and September and officers from the LGA and NHS Confederation are finalising the report encapsulating the findings from the working group so that it can be considered by members.

24. **UKSPF Webinar:** In December 2023, Cllr Martin Tett chaired a webinar to share learning from the UKSPF. The webinar received 196 viewers and included the learning from the [commissioned action learning sets](#) from Shared Intelligence, as well as the experiences of combined authorities, district and unitary councils. The webinar particularly focused on partnership working, social value and the delivery of both the People & Skills priority and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Urban Summit

25. Work continues to develop an agenda for the third urban summit. The date has been set for the 18 June 2024 and the LGA's headquarters at Smith Square in London have been booked as the venue. Conversations are underway with Core Cities, Key Cities and London Councils and a draft agenda will be brought to the March Board for comment and consideration.

Implications for Wales

26. Officers work with all UK Associations to share good practice and learning.

Financial Implications

27. All activity described can be met from the Board's policy budget.

Equalities implications

28. The Board's work programme includes consideration of equalities implications, both explicitly as part of individual projects and throughout all our policy work. We anticipate confirmation of the Board's Equalities Champion shortly.

Next steps

29. Officers will progress work as described above.