



City Regions Board

Agenda

Friday, 15 March 2024
10.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and
Online

There will be a meeting of the City Regions Board at **10.00 am on Friday, 15 March 2024** Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

LGA Hybrid Meetings

All of our meetings are available to join in person at [18 Smith Square](#) or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

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

Catering and Refreshments:

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

Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

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 (2)	
Cllr Martin Fodor (Deputy Chair)	Bristol City Council
Cllr Geraldine Coggins	Trafford Council

<i>Substitutes</i>	
Cllr Matt Edwards	Bradford City Council

Agenda

City Regions Board

Friday, 15 March 2024

10.00 am

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Item	
OPEN SESSION	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	1 - 6
3. Strategic Housing Discussion	7 - 10
4. City Regions Policy Updates	11 - 14
CONFIDENTIAL SESSION	Page
5. Work Local	15 - 24
6. Transporting Economic Inclusion	25 - 48
7. Future Growth Funding	49 - 72
8. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Integration	73 - 90

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 18 June 2024, 1.00 pm, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Minutes of last City Regions Board meeting

City Regions Board

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Hybrid meeting - Manchester (see agenda for venue info) & 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.

Apologies were received by Cllrs Lepoidevin, Robinson and Miller. Cllr Turrell attended the meeting as a substitute.

No declarations of interest were received.

2	Minutes of the last meeting
----------	------------------------------------

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

Apologies were received by Cllrs Lepoidevin, Robinson and Miller. Cllr Turrell attended the meeting as a substitute.

No declarations of interest were received.

3	City Regions Board visit to Manchester - agenda
----------	--

The information contained within this agenda item was noted without discussion.

4	Universal Support
----------	--------------------------

The Chair invited **Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser**, to introduce the report. Positive early discussions had taken place between the LGA, councils and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on plans to route Universal Support, a major new employment support programme, through local government. The report updated Members on progress to date and next steps. A Work Local update was also provided. A similar discussion took place at the People and Places Board on Tuesday 23 January.

Members made a number of contributions, which related to the following points:

- The importance of supporting care leavers into employment
- Incentivising employers through marketing
- Capacity building
- Good opportunities for local government
- Transitions from old technologies to new
- Green skills agenda and training opportunities
- Flexibility to meet various needs
- Building upon current good practice
- Clustering and lobbying government
- Voluntary schemes
- Comparative examples for best practice sharing and lobbying purposes
- Barriers to employment – a lack of transport connections
- Capacity and next steps

Jas responded to Members comments and thanked them for their contributions.

Decision:

- Members noted the report.

5 Presentations from partners

a) Jason Prince, Director, Urban Transport Group

The Chair welcomed **Jason Prince, Director of Urban Transport Group**, to the meeting and invited him to present a series of slides to the Board. The slides set out:

- Urban Transport Group background information
- Case studies and productive policy
- Thought leadership and strong relationships
- Advocates for public transport
- Professional network
- Key challenges facing Urban Transport
- Active Travel and Future Mobility

Members made the following contributions:

- The importance of maximising the benefits of transport modes was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to bus funding and associated research to assist with making a case to government.
- The need to focus on geographical impacts in relation to additional costs associated with travel, the economy and links into cities, was expressed.

- It was suggested that councillors be more involved in Urban Transport Group meetings to provide greater insight into the transport-related challenges that residents face.

Jason responded to Members' comments and questions and thanked them for their contributions. He emphasised the importance of investment into transport to create better places and outcomes and to have a clear identity of the country's direction economically, socially and in achieving decarbonisation targets.

Decision:

Members noted the verbal update.

- b) Henri Murison, Chief Executive, Northern Powerhouse Partnership

The Chair welcomed **Henri Murison, Chief Executive, Northern Powerhouse Partnership**, to the meeting and invited him to address the Board. He provided background information related to the work of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership, in addition to:

- The need to bring together a wider coalition of voices to make a strong case to government for vital transformation transport investments.
- The lack of funding for local government and its reliance on government deploying money fairly and sensibly.
- The demographic change which enabled people to work in their nearest large city and commute from outer lying areas.
- The role of transport and its importance to a sustainable economy.
- Current transport barriers.
- Government decision making and its challenges.

Members made the following contributions:

- Capacity issues related to the HS2 railway line were highlighted. The importance of tackling the management structure of the railway system was emphasised.
- A question was asked which related to the specific changes required to allow the structural roll out to progress at a faster rate.
- A concern was raised regarding uncertainty.
- A question was asked which related to the Board's main focuses over the next year.

Henri responded to Members' comments and questions and thanked them for their contributions.

Decision:

- Members noted the verbal update.

c) Cllr Bev Craig, Leader, Manchester City Council

The Chair welcomed **Cllr Bev Craig, Leader, Manchester City Council**, to the meeting and invited her to address the Board. She provided information which related to the following:

- The close working relationship with the Northern Powerhouse Partnership.
- The importance of transport in attracting businesses and economic growth.
- Work being undertaken which related to the economic strategy and analysis to tackle urban inequality.
- The lack of government support in tackling transport-related issues.
- Views from businesses about the lack of reliable transport links and the value that they would bring.
- The ability to connect buses with trams and, in time, regional rails.
- Next steps for Manchester's transport policy.

Members raised concerns which related to the structural and systemic barriers regarding transport, the gap in social and economic aspirations and the lack of connectivity and its impact on economies and house prices.

Cllr Craig responded to Members' comments and questions and thanked them for their contributions.

Decision:

- Members noted the verbal update.

6 Support for care leavers

The Chair invited **Megan Edwards, Adviser**, to present the report. The Chair of the LGA, Cllr Shaun Davies, had 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 were asked to share their own ideas for this priority area, to shape the LGA's work in relation to supporting care leavers. The report outlined current ideas for the programme and next steps.

Members made the following contributions:

- Many examples of good practice within local government were shared.
- The importance of care experience being treated as a protected characteristic, including by other public bodies, was emphasised.

- The importance of wrap-around and transitional support for care leavers was recognised.
- The need to work closely with partners, local charities and voluntary groups in relation to young people in care/care leavers to share best practice, was expressed.
- The importance of ensuring that all young people had access to basic life skills programmes to ensure self-sufficiency after leaving care, was emphasised.
- The need for appropriate funding to support care leavers who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children was raised.
- The need for additional support within the workplace for care leavers was expressed.

Decision:

- Members noted the report.

7 Work Programme updates

The information contained within this agenda item was noted without discussion.

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 John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Ross Garrod	Merton London Borough
	Cllr Martin Gannon	Gateshead Council
	Cllr Barry Anderson	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Michael Ross	Hull City Council
	Cllr Geraldine Coggins	Trafford Council
Apologies	Cllr Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
In Attendance	Cllr Ellis Turrell	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Matt Edwards	Bradford City Council



Strategic Housing Discussion

Purpose of Report

For discussion

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

That the Board considers the future policy priorities for strategic housing.

Contact details

Contact officer: Paul Green

Position: Policy Advisor

Phone no: 07787154047

Email: paul.green@local.gov.uk

Strategic Housing Discussion

Background

1. As part of the new Strategic Housing policy remit of the Board, Lead Members agreed that this session should be themed on strategic housing. This session will explore city regions housing needs relating to older people housing, housing development and estate renewal.

Older People Housing

2. **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 meeting to update members on the Taskforce's emerging findings and members will have the opportunity to influence its recommendations. He will be providing his view of representing local government and will not be formally representing the views of the taskforce.

Building communities through housing regeneration

3. **Gary Orr, Chief Executive of the Abri Group**. Abri Housing Association have a good track record of working with local authorities in delivering housing for urban communities, including coastal communities. This will be an opportunity for members to consider issues relating to housing needs in city regions, and how local authorities can develop strong partnerships with housing associations.

Building communities through estate renewal

4. **Jordan Rosenhaus, CEO and Andrew Shepperd, Managing Director, TopHat**. Top Hat will be presenting how estate renewal can be undertaken to support wider local place based goals, such as skills/jobs development, delivering carbon neutrality and local business benefits.

Implications for Wales

5. Any future policy priorities established by the Board and any learning from the presentations can be shared with the Welsh Local Government Association.

Financial Implications

6. This programme will be delivered within existing budgets.

Equalities implications

7. Older people are directly impacted by housing demand, and the Board will consider the challenges of delivering suitable housing in city regions for older people, especially in supporting independence and reducing social isolation.
8. A [number of protected groups](#) and people who experience disadvantage are more likely to present themselves homeless, be overrepresented on housing waiting lists or have specific housing needs. This includes, young people, people with young children, care leavers, disabled people, veterans, particular black and minority ethnic communities and young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. By delivering local authorities' strategic housing ambitions, some of the inequalities to access housing can be addressed.

Next steps

9. Feedback from the Board today will be taken forward by LGA officers to deliver any future work to support policy priorities related to strategic housing.



City Regions Policy Updates

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This report provides Board members with an update on the progress of activity in the board work programme including: health devolution, universal support, strategic transport and green jobs.

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the content of the update paper.

Contact details

Contact officer: Philip Clifford

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 07909 898327

Email: Philip.Clifford@local.gov.uk

Health Devolution

1. Officers have continued to work with the NHS Confederation on a joint report into the opportunities for closer working between Integrated Care Systems and local government devolution. Following feedback from members a shorter, more focused report is being written and will be circulated to lead members of the People and Places, City Regions and Community Wellbeing Boards for comment and clearance before publication.

Universal Support

2. The LGA is working with DWP to route Universal Support (US), the Government's Back to Work intervention announced during last year's fiscal events, through local government. The £1.4 billion 'place and train' employment programme covering England and Wales, will support economically inactive groups including those with physical and mental health conditions and unemployed people with complex needs. It will be phased in from Autumn 2024 and run to 2028/2029. We continue to bring councils together with DWP to discuss design elements and are linked in with devolved areas who are having parallel discussions.
3. Board Members discussed this at the January Boards and raised several points. These included: US and similar initiatives being led by Integrated Care Boards must align; local government needs the ability to move funding from year to year; some groups will take longer to secure sustained employment; and training is vital to help people transitioning to new industries.
4. Political level engagement between the LGA and DWP is critical to ensuring a shared understanding and commitment to delivering this. We will report back to the Board following a meeting with Mims Davies MP, the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work.

Strategic Transport

5. City Regions Lead Members have agreed to lead on the commissioning of a piece of work looking at examples of decision-making arrangements for transport investment and planning in different countries, including the UK, and the role of local governments within them. The research will consider how well transport decisions are being integrated with other infrastructure and service decisions and include consideration of the specific needs and experiences of urban and non-metropolitan places. This comparison will allow a robust appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system in England together with options for change to strengthen our evidence base for any changes we wish to propose to a new or returning government. Given the People and Places Board's shared interest in this work officers will work with Lead Members of that Board to ensure that their priorities and ambitions are captured and reflected in this project.

Green Jobs

6. The LGA has been collaborating with other local government sector bodies, including ADEPT, MCA Network and UK100, as part of the Local Capacity and Capability sub-group in putting forward a vision for the skills and net zero system, reflective of the LGA's [Green Jobs Framework](#). This has also been informed by the views of representatives of

businesses, skills providers and industry. The local government representative will continue to promote this model through the Ministerial Green Jobs Delivery Group, with an expected Green Jobs Action Plan due later in March 2024

Implications for Wales

7. Officers will look to share lessons emerging from this work with the Welsh Local Government Association when appropriate.

Financial Implications

8. This can be met from the Board's budget.

Equalities implications

9. When possible, LGA officials will include details related to inequalities, including protected characteristics and other groups that experience.

Next steps

10. Officers will continue driving work forward and will report back to the Board when appropriate.

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

