

Minutes of last People & Places Board meeting

People & Places Board

Tuesday, 23 January 2024

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 for absence were received by Cllrs Colin Noble, Julian Dean, Kevin Etheridge, Lisa Brown and Kris Wilson. Cllrs Philip King, Sam Carling and Marianne Overton attended the meeting as substitutes.

No declarations of interest were received.

2	Minutes of the last meeting
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The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

3	Local Enterprise Partnership Integration
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The Chair welcomed **Nick Glover, Director - Local Growth at Henham Strategy**, to the meeting and invited him to present a series of slides to the Board. The presentation slides focused on introductions, background information, progress made and next steps.

Members made the following contributions:

- A question was asked which related to attendance at two out of the four workshops. Concerns were raised at the lack of local authority involvement at a Member-level in the workshops and the board asked that Members be invited to the two workshops scheduled to take place in February.
- Concerns were raised in relation to the timeliness of the report.
- The opportunity to, as a Board, bring a greater sense of understanding regarding the rural economy and how it contributes not only in terms of economic benefit, but also improving people's lives with local access to jobs, was highlighted.
- The importance of ensuring a focus on the delivery of rural themes

and support for rural businesses to ensure they had a voice, was emphasised.

- A comment was made which related to the presentation slides and the lack of focus on combined authorities and their differences.
- The need to consider the complexity of the geographical areas and the local government structures, was expressed.
- A point was raised regarding section 9 of the report and the listed concerns.
- A comment was made which related to the Freeports and Enterprise Zones workshop and its controversy. It was suggested that Councillors be invited to the workshop in addition to senior local authority officers.

Nick responded to Members' comments and questions and confirmed that he would liaise with **Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser**, outside of the meeting regarding the points made.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to work with Henham Strategy outside of the meeting.

4 Local Government and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Chair invited **Philip Clifford, Senior Adviser**, to introduce the report. Philip introduced the report which provided an overview of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems and discussed their potential use by councils in improving public service delivery and leadership of place.

Members made the following contributions:

- It was agreed that a wider discussion related to AI needed to take place outside of the meeting, the LGA annual conference was suggested.
- Concerns were raised in relation to security, a lack of equality, consumer privacy, diminishing jobs and staff threat, biased programming and unclear legal regulation.
- The potential opportunities for AI within local authorities and in delivering better services to residents, was discussed.
- The need to ensure that clear AI guidance was available for all councils to use to minimise anxieties, was expressed. It was suggested that the LGA work with councils in relation to the guidance to share best practice and develop standardised policies and frameworks.
- It was suggested that an LGA AI Champion be appointed.
- The importance of ensuring that people without access to technology and broadband were not isolated as AI progressed, was emphasised.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to submit an AI report to the next meeting of the Board.
- a) AI Appendix 1
 - b) AI Appendix 2
 - c) AI Appendix 3

5 Support for care leavers

The Chair invited **Louise Smith, Senior Adviser (Children and Young People)**, to introduce 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:

- A question was asked which related to district Councillors' responsibilities as Corporate Parents.
- Many examples of good practice within local government were shared.
- The importance of bespoke provision for children and young people in care and care leavers, was emphasised.
- A concern was raised which related to current housing pressures and the additional pressure on local authorities.
- The importance of ensuring that all young people had access to basic life skills programmes and cookery programmes, was emphasised.

Louise responded to Members' comments and questions and thanked them for their feedback.

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

6 Work Programme updates

This item was noted without discussion, with the exception of a comment related to section 4.1.2 of the report.

7 Universal Support

The Chair invited **Jasbir Jhas, Senior Adviser**, to introduce the report. Jas introduced the report which set out positive early discussions that the LGA and councils had with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on plans to route Universal Support, a major new employment support programme, through local government. A similar discussion would take place with the City Regions Board on Wednesday 31 January.

Members made comments which related to the following:

- Delivery costs
- The national ICS forum
- Co-terminosity
- Green skills
- Timescales

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

Decision:

- Board Members noted the report.

Action:

- Officers to invite the Minister to attend the March Board meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Louise McKinlay	Essex County Council
	Cllr Caroline Leaver	Devon County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
	Cllr Emily O'Brien	Lewes District Council
Members	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Eddie Reeves	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Hilary Carrick	Westmorland and Furness Council
	Cllr Rachel Bailey	Cheshire East Council
	Cllr Jordan Meade	Gravesham Borough Council
	Cllr Tim Oliver	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Victoria Wilson	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Emily Smith	Vale of White Horse District Council
	Cllr Michael Mullaney	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
	Cllr Alex Wagner	Shropshire Council

Apologies

Cllr Lisa Brown
Cllr Kris Wilson
Cllr Colin Noble
Cllr Kevin Etheridge
Cllr Julian Dean

Cumberland Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Shropshire Council

In Attendance

Cllr Sam Carling
Cllr Phillip King
Cllr Marianne Overton
MBE

Cambridge City Council
Harborough District Council
Lincolnshire County Council

LGA Officers