



People & Places Board

Agenda

Tuesday, 12 March 2024
1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

People & Places Board
Tuesday, 12 March 2024

There will be a meeting of the People & Places Board at **1.00 pm on Tuesday, 12 March 2024**
Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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.group@lga.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

People & Places Board – Membership 2023/24

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

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (11)	
Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)	Buckinghamshire Council
Cllr Louise McKinlay (Vice Chairman)	Essex County Council
Cllr Eddie Reeves	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Marc Bayliss	Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Kris Wilson	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Cllr Hilary Carrick	Westmorland and Furness Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County 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
Substitutes	
Cllr Lewis Cocking	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Sonia Wilcox	Lichfield District Council
Cllr Phillip King	Harborough District Council
Labour (4)	
Cllr Amanda Serjeant (Deputy Chair)	Chesterfield Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Brown	Cumberland Council
Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Cllr Damien Greenhalgh	High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Sam Carling	Cambridge City Council
Liberal Democrat (4)	
Cllr Caroline Leaver (Vice-Chair)	Devon County Council
Cllr Emily Smith	Vale of White Horse District Council
Cllr Michael Mullaney	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr Alex Wagner	Shropshire Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Oliver Patrick	Somerset Council
Independent (3)	
Cllr Emily O'Brien (Deputy Chair)	Lewes District Council
Cllr Kevin Etheridge	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Julian Dean	Shropshire Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Carolyne Culver	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Caroline Topping	Suffolk County Council

Agenda

People & Places Board

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

1.00 pm

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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• To follow	

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 11 June 2024, 1.00 pm, Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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 and Kris Wilson. Cllrs Philip King, Marianne Overton and Dan Swords 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
	Cllr Amanda Serjeant	Chesterfield Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Emily O'Brien	Lewes District Council
Members	Cllr Lisa Brown	Cumberland Council
	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 Kris Wilson Cllr Colin Noble Cllr Kevin Etheridge Cllr Julian Dean	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Suffolk County Council Caerphilly County Borough Council Shropshire Council
In Attendance	Cllr Sam Carling Cllr Phillip King	Cambridge City Council Harborough District Council
LGA Officers		

Local Government and Artificial Intelligence

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

Following a decision at the January Board meeting, Jenny McEneaney, Senior Improvement Adviser from the LGA's Cyber, Digital and Technology Team will attend and give a presentation providing an overview of the LGA's current work in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

LGA Plan Theme: Data and digital

Recommendation(s)

That the Board consider the presentation on the LGA's wider work in relation to Artificial Intelligence and provide officers with a steer on those areas they would like to see prioritised in the People and Places Work Programme.

Contact details

Contact officer: Philip Clifford

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 07909 898327

Email: philip.clifford@local.gov.uk

Artificial Intelligence and Local Government

Background

1. At the board meeting in January, [officers set out some initial thinking](#) in relation to the topic of Artificial Intelligence and Local Government and the role of the People and Places Board in contributing to LGA policy in this space.
2. Given the breadth of this subject it was agreed that that a senior officer from the LGA's Cyber, Digital and Technology Team would attend this meeting to provide an overview of ongoing work in this space and provide an initial overview of the results of the LGA's recent survey of councils' use of AI.

Proposal

3. Members are asked to consider the presentation of activity relating to artificial intelligence and reflect on the opportunities for the People and Places Board to contribute to this debate.

Implications for Wales

4. Given the emerging nature of this debate, it is currently not known whether there are specific implications for Wales arising from the use of Artificial Intelligence. As this work develops, officers will engage with colleagues from the Welsh LGA to understand whether there are any potential issues.

Financial Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

6. The use of artificial intelligence and machine learning systems raise significant questions relating to equalities. As this is an emerging area the LGA will continue to work with councils, government and key national stakeholders to identify and address issues in line with our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Next steps

7. Officers will work with the Board and the wider organisation to develop a work programme that aligns with the priorities of councils with a view to influencing both the current government a future new or returning government.



People & Places 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, housing and town regeneration, strategic transport and green jobs including local food and drink supply chains.

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.

Housing and town centre regeneration

2. The decline in footfall in many town centres combined with the growth of permitted development rights resulting in more homes means there has been a lack of additional investment in wider facilities in town centres. These pressures are particularly acute when set alongside the additional challenges non-metropolitan places experience, such as poor transport connectivity, rurality, an increased number of short-term lets and holiday homes.
3. Creating thriving town centres fits with Government aspirations, as one of the ten Levelling Up missions is increasing 'Pride in Place'. Local authorities may be utilising limited funding pots, such as the High Street Accelerator, Future High Streets Fund, Levelling Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, to invest in their town centres and needs the housing stock that meets local housing demand.
4. The LGA will be commissioning a supplier to show how housing regeneration can be a vehicle for delivering town centre growth that develops sustainable communities. It will identify the trends for non-metropolitan areas relating to housing and town centres, as well as some of the key policy challenges. It will also identify opportunities and highlight good practice to share with the sector. This will enable the LGA to develop policy asks to support ongoing Government influencing on housing and town centre repurposing, as well as share learning across the sector to further encourage innovation.
5. The commissioned work will include:
 - 5.1 Statistics:** Commission quantitative research which identifies trends in non-metropolitan areas regarding housing supply and proximity to town centres.
 - 5.2 Qualitative research with local authorities:** The supplier will undertake in-depth interviews with 12 local authorities that reflect the political and geographical make up of non-metropolitan local authorities. The supplier will provide lead members with a long list of 20 local authorities which reflect geographic, political and governance differences.
 - a) **Reimagining Town Centres** through exploring how councils have aligned housing strategies and plans for town centre renewal; different models and sizes of house building, such as joint-ventures, and how they have contributed towards meeting town centre regeneration; creating a vision for town centres through community and stakeholder engagement.
 - b) **Repurposing Town Centres** by recognising the changing need for town centres as the trend for more people to shop and work online; using office space to be more flexible; creating solutions for different usage of retail space, such as greater use of empty shop fronts for logistics, temporary use of empty shops for start-ups and local markets.
 - c) **Reinvigorating Town Centres** by increasing footfall through a range of measures,

including: health provision such as health hubs and services; promoting cultural venues, heritage and tourist sites; use of open and green space for leisure activities and climate adaptation; any other activity that has increased pride in place.

5.3 Presenting the results of the research: The supplier will be expected to write up their findings and develop key policy asks and challenges that their research has indicated, focusing on the unique challenges in non-metropolitan and rural areas. This will also include good practice case studies to support the sharing of innovation. The supplier will also deliver a webinar in the autumn to share their findings across the sector.

6. If members would like to contribute examples to be considered for the research, please get in touch with Paul.Green@local.gov.uk

Universal Support

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

10. The City Regions Board has 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 be 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 to ensure that their priorities and ambitions are captured and reflected in this project.

Green Jobs

11. 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

Local food and drink supply chains

12. The LGA are undertaking a piece of research on the role of councils in local food and drink supply chains, through a lens of jobs, growth and prosperity. This will include conducting in depth case studies of four areas, reflecting different geographies and governance arrangements, and will explore some of the opportunities and challenges, including driving local food and drink strategies and partnerships.
13. The project will also focus on approaches to specific areas of the local food supply chain including Agri-Tech and agricultural workers, supporting local markets and infrastructure investments, such as food hubs, and jobs and businesses in connected industries such as local markets, retail and tourism. This piece of work will identify policy asks and best practice and will run throughout 2024.

Implications for Wales

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

Financial Implications

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

Equalities implications

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

Next steps

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

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