

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Peter Box CBE (Chair)

Housing

1. The Deputy Chair of the EEHT Board Keith House attended the Housing Quality Network (HQN) annual conference on 13 July. Councillor House addressed a range of attendees including Housing Associations, Councillors, and Chief Executives on two subjects: are housing associations and local authorities doing enough to tackle homelessness? And the role of local authorities in future housing delivery.
2. Since 2004 the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has provided high quality help, advice and training to councils. The support, to councillors and officers, helps authorities to get up to date plans in place, improve development management, and understand and respond to planning reforms. Support includes councillor or committee training, planning peer challenges, peer reviews of committee, support for plan-making, a Development Management Challenge, skills and training events. For more information about [PAS support](#) and the [subscription offer](#), see their website www.pas.gov.uk. Furthermore, since the May elections PAS has provided 10 refresher training sessions on planning and decision making to new planning committees.
3. Cllr Peter Box launched the preliminary findings of the LGA Housing Commission at the LGA Conference on 6th July. *Building our Homes, Communities and Future* puts housing at the centre of our wider aspirations for people and places. It highlights the opportunities for councils as well as the good practice that is already evident in the sector. The preliminary findings are the beginning of a conversation with the sector, government and other stakeholders. A final report will be published in the Autumn http://www.local.gov.uk/housing/-/journal_content/56/10180/7570944/ARTICLE

Environment

4. Cllr Julian German represented the LGA at a Defra seminar on Food Waste & Greenhouse Gas Emissions on 14 June. The seminar was an opportunity for senior leaders from across government and business to come together with leading scientific experts to explore how the UK can take a lead in reducing food waste to deliver reductions to greenhouse gas emissions. The seminar was also attended by Rory Stewart MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Bus Services Bill

5. Following the policy lead set by EEHT Board, the LGA has continued to represent the interests of member councils on Bus Services Bill as it takes its course through the committee stages in the House of Lords. The LGA is calling for all areas to be given automatic powers to pursue franchising schemes and for the Government to drop

their intention to prevent councils creating new municipal bus companies. The latest LGA briefing can be found here http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal_content/56/10180/7881267/ARTICLE.

Major Roads Network

6. At their last meeting the EEHT Board received a presentation by David Quarmby and Phil Carey, from the The Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, on their 2-year study on the 'Major Roads for the Future' in England. The Study is developing a long term vision to 2040 of the role and evolution of the major road network in England, taking account of a broad range of factors appropriate to the long-term timescale. The Study is due to report in October 2016. Their Core Proposition focuses on the need for a consistent and coordinated regime for the strategic planning, governance and funding of England's major roads; and secondly, identifies the elements which make this regime, and the resulting Major Road Network (MRN) itself, fully 'fit for purpose'. The proposed 8,000 miles of the MRN is made up of 4,400 miles of the Strategic Roads Network (managed by Highways England) and 3,600 miles of the most 'strategic' local authority roads. The proposals are attracting interest across councils and emerging sub-national transport bodies. For further information visit the study website www.futureroadsengland.org.

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