

People and Places Board Work Programme 2016/17

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out a proposed work programme for the People and Places Board for 2016/17.

The work programme seeks to:

1. Reflect the broad remit of the Board and provide continuity.
2. Provide space for the Board to steer policy development on behalf of non-metropolitan areas on new issues in this Board cycle, such as the UK leaving the EU.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment upon and agree the draft work programme for 2016/17.

Action

Officers to take forward actions in line with Members' steer.

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7187 7384
Email: Rebecca.Cox@local.gov.uk

People and Places Board Work Programme 2016/17

Background

1. Established in February 2014, the People and Places Board represents the interests of non-metropolitan councils at the LGA. Its membership is drawn from the County Councils Network, District Councils Network and any non-county unitaries not represented by those two bodies.
2. To date, the work of the Board has covered devolution, skills, employment and welfare reform, digital connectivity and public service transformation, and has also input into the LGA's work on housing. The Board has worked closely with other relevant LGA Boards on shared organisational priorities (in particular the City Regions Board with which it develops the LGA's work on devolution) making strong representation for devolution to non-metropolitan areas.
3. Over the course of the last Board cycle, a number of new devolution deals, including deals in non-metropolitan, two tier areas, and extensions to existing deals were announced. More recently, preparations for the incoming directly-elected Mayors have begun to take shape and the design of a new business rates retention system has continued. Following the vote to leave the EU, a new Ministerial team is now in place and an Autumn Statement is expected on 23 November. New Government Departments to facilitate the UK's departure from the EU have also been set up and their work programme has begun.
4. It is in this context that the People and Places Board is asked to agree a draft programme for the year. **Members are asked to consider:**
 - 4.1. **Specific policy priorities based on the Board's remit.**
 - 4.2. **The balance and prioritisation of activity within the proposed work programme.**
 - 4.3. **Aspects of EU exit that will have a bearing on the Board's work** (Members will receive a late paper following steer from the Leadership Board on the LGA's future Brexit policy and lobbying direction.)

Suggested priorities and work programme for 2016/17

5. Since its inception the Board has bolstered the non-metropolitan voice within the LGA and played an important role developing the LGA's work and lobbying positions on devolution. The Board will have a particularly important role in influencing new Ministers on issues such as devolution, skills and employment support and digital connectivity. Members will also have a view on how the Board will want to engage with the implications of leaving the EU including on rural and digital issues.
6. The LGA's Leadership Board met earlier this month to discuss the LGA's priorities and work programme in relation to EU exit. Members will receive a scoping paper on this topic for further discussion.
7. The previous Board agreed to pursue more of a focus on digital connectivity and commissioned the LGA's Up to Speed campaign to raise the issue of those still not

connected to fast and reliable broadband speeds. The campaign has undergone a successful first phase launch and agenda item 6 updates the Board on recent activity, and present a proposed work programme for the 2016/2017 Board.

8. The board leads on the LGA's 'Leading Places' programme. Jointly with Universities UK and funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the pilot programme looks to strengthen the relationship between councils and higher education institutions. Item 7 updates on progress and asks for members' steer on proposals for a second phase of the programme.
9. The board also expressed a strong interest in continuing its work on employment and skills and agenda item 9 gives members the opportunity to proposals in this area more fully. Particular areas of focus are likely to include the Work and Health Programme, Apprenticeship Levy, and further devolution of skills and employment support.
10. The Board's research and lobbying work on devolution has been critical in keeping up the momentum on this important agenda. The LGA also provides a comprehensive programme of support for areas considering and implementing devolution deals. Further information, and proposals for the further development of the LGA's devolution programme, are included at agenda item 5.

Next steps

11. Members are invited to comment on and agree the Board's priorities and scope of the work programme as outlined above.

Financial implications

12. The draft work programme can be delivered within existing resources.