

Note of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

Title:	Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Date:	Thursday 2 June 2016
Venue:	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed board members and led a tribute and minutes silence to former EEHT board member Cllr John Northcott who passed away on the 21 st March 2016. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Major Roads for the Future - David Quarmby The Chair welcomed the guest speakers David Quarmby and Phil Carey from the Rees Jeffreys Road Fund, and introduced the item asking members to highlight any issues or concerns they may have with the report's core propositions, and any areas where there is a shared ambition with local government. David Quarmby and Phil Carey gave a brief summary of the key propositions posited in the report including the following key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The study has engaged with a great number of key stakeholders including LEPs and subnational transport bodies, and is keen to gain input and support from local government.• The UK economy depends on the roads network and it is vital that many local government controlled roads are included in the Major Road's Network (MRN) alongside those under the jurisdiction of Highways England.• There is a vast funding gap in major roads investment which needs addressing.• The report suggests that power over local government controlled roads classified as major roads, remain with local government, with increased funding, and that the programme be integrated with the devolution agenda for transport.• The report has added approx. 3600 miles of roads to the Strategic	

Roads Network to be reclassified as the MRN. The goal of which, is to create an integrated network that takes full account of: users' needs, economic growth, expanding traffic volumes, quality asset management and funding needs, environmental concerns, and changing technology such as self-drive cars.

In the discussion that followed, board members raised the following points:

- The board asked the question 'how are the propositions expected to be received among ministers?' In response the speakers stated that while they have not engaged directly with ministers, the Department of Transport is close to the project and provides a lot of support and encouragement to take the proposals forward and engage with stakeholders.
- The board note that in many areas governance arrangements are in transformation in response to devolution. The speakers responded, stating that they are attempting to design a sustainable system which can work across authorities and outlive current changes outlined in the devolution agenda.
- The board asked the speakers for a more detailed map of the Major Roads' Network. The speakers agreed that one would be included in the final report.
- The board questioned the criteria used to designate a road a major road, and suggested that local government could play a role in this designation process. The speakers responded by stating that the criteria and designation process is a fluid process which can and should be adapted to suit changing variables and new evidence.
- The board raised concerns over the environmental impacts of further investment into roads in response to this report. The speakers acknowledged the importance of this, and reassured the board that environmental impacts are a key element in the report propositions.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their time, and it was agreed that the LGA would engage with Rees Jeffreys over the next few months as the report is finalised.

Decision

1. The board noted the The Rees Jeffreys Road Fund proposals on the MRN.
2. The board endorsed any further input by LGA officials to help shape the proposition.

3 End of Year Report

The Chair introduced the report and asked the board to consider and comment on the board's activities over the 2015/16 period.

In the discussion that followed, board members raised the following points:

- The board applauded the hard work of officers over the last year and the boards influence on the LGA line, especially with regard to the housing bill.
- The board asked that in item 4 of the report, a line be added to the housing bill text reflecting the difficulties communities and local authorities will still incur as a result of the housing bill despite the amendments won.
- Members asked that the board's forward priorities (item 13) include work on the implementation of the housing and planning act.

Decision

The board noted the report.

Action

Officers to implement the above mentioned changes to item 4 and 13.

4 Update Report

Decision

The board noted the report.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting

Decision

The board noted the report.

Action

Cllr Andy Hull's attendance records to be updated to reflect his full attendance in the 2015/16 cycle.

6 LGA conference paper on devolution

7 Emerging outcomes of the Housing Commission

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Members	Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Jim Harker OBE	Northamptonshire County Council
	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr David Westley	West Lancashire Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr Tony Newman	Croydon Council
	Cllr Ed Turner	Oxford City Council
	Cllr Alyson Barnes	Rosendale Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Campbell	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Andy Hull	Islington Council
	Cllr Graham Whitham	Sutton London Borough Council
	Cllr Adele Morris	Southwark Council
Observers	Cllr Stephen Parker	Hart District Council
Apologies	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Timothy Moore	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Simon Greaves	Bassetlaw District Council
	Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Julian German	Cornwall Council