

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission Update

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper updates members on the activity of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission since the last Board meeting, including detail of LGA's submission to the Commission's call for evidence. The paper also outlines potential lines of enquiry that members may wish to discuss with [Charlotte Alldritt, Director of the Commission](#).

Recommendations

That the City Regions Board note activity and provide a steer on the LGA's input to the Commission's final report.

Action

Officers to take forward their work as directed by members.

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Background

1. At the last Board members received an update on the activities of the RSA's Inclusive Growth Commission and commented on a first draft of the LGA's submission to the Commission's call for evidence. In summary, Members of the Board directed that the submission should:
 - 1.1. Be strengthened to ensure greater emphasis upon the impact of funding reductions to councils; including the pressure on adult social care services.
 - 1.2. Reflect a greater role for councils in relation to house building with an emphasis on the quality of place; emphasising that the current system is not effective.
 - 1.3. Reflect the importance of the education curriculum linking to the needs of employers and emerging growth opportunities

Call for evidence

2. The LGA's final submission to the Commission's call for evidence was made on 23 December 2016. A copy is attached as **Appendix A**. In brief and as directed by members the submission highlighted:
 - 2.1 That the benefits of economic growth are not felt widely and there is a growing need to that ensure economic prosperity reaches the most deprived residents and communities;
 - 2.2 The need to ensure that social and economic policy development is entwined;
 - 2.3 The need to shift from a system of fragmented policy development nationally to one where local leaders have the ability to respond to local need and design local services accordingly;
 - 2.4 Local government is a willing partner in the drive for inclusive growth but is increasingly hampered in this this aspiration given the worsening financial context in which councils are working;
 - 2.5 The need for devolution areas and combined authorities to be able to pursue wider public service reform more strongly; along with the need for greater fiscal devolution;
 - 2.6 The importance of protection for vital EU regeneration funding to avoid essential growth-boosting projects stalling and local economies across England being stifled; and;
 - 2.7 Specific themed recommendations relating to prevention and early intervention, education, employment and skills, welfare provision and housing.

Publication of the Commission's final report

3. Building on the evidence gleaned from a series of roundtable discussions and evidence sessions as well as the formal call for evidence, a final report with recommendations will be launched by the Inclusive Growth Commission **on 07 March 2017** (one day ahead of the Chancellor's budget statement).
 - 3.1 To ensure that Board members have an opportunity for discussion with the authors of the final report, Charlotte Alldritt, Director of the Inclusive Growth Commission, will be in attendance at the meeting. In preparation for the discussion Members may wish to consider the following key lines of enquiry:
 - 3.1 What recommendations are emerging from the evidence the Commission has heard?
 - 3.2 How will the LGA's points from their call for evidence likely to be reflected in final report? (In particular will the final report emphasise the increasing challenges that the local Government sector faces in delivering an inclusive growth approach given the ongoing financial reductions imposed by Government?)
 - 3.3 Who in Government are members of the Commission speaking with to ensure maximum impact of the report?
 - 3.4 What are the initial reactions from conversations to date with key Whitehall departments, such as HM Treasury?
 - 3.5 What is the programme of activity in preparation for the final publication and launch? (The LGA would welcome early sight of the report to ensure enough time to provide comment).
 - 3.6 Board members have emphasised throughout the time of the Commission's work the importance of moving from high level ideas to practical implementation. With this in mind what are the plans once the report has been launched to ensure ongoing focus and implementation of the recommendations?
 - 3.7 What further action can CR Board members and the wider LGA take to promote the report?
4. **Members are asked to note the detail in the LGA's submission to Inclusive Growth Commission's call for evidence and consider issues to raise with Charlotte Alldritt (RSA) in advance of the publication of the Commission's final report.**