

City Regions Board – report from Cllr Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chair)

Brexit and the Industrial Strategy

1. In light of the Government's recently published Modern Industrial Strategy and with a steer from the City Regions Board, the LGA has commissioned research into the development of a strengthened sub-national trade and investment policy.
2. The City Regions and People and Places Boards have recently considered a set of draft principles to guide work on the future autonomy of local government as part of the LGA's co-ordinated response to Britain's impending departure from the European Union. In December, these were endorsed by Leadership Board and circulated to Parliamentarians.

Skills and Employment

3. With the People and Places Board, the board continues to make the case for the current employment and skills service to be more integrated and localised and for the sector to benefit from a devolution deal process which offers more freedoms and flexibilities, and has commissioned research on a public employment and skills service.
4. The City Regions, People and Places, and Community Wellbeing Boards and Cllr Claire Hudson, lead portfolio holder of the Resources Board, jointly submitted a response to the wide-ranging Green Paper on Work, Health and Disability.

Leading Places Project

5. On 28 March, representatives from each of the pilot areas and delegates from councils and higher education institutions will attend the national conclusion event for the first pilot phase of the Leading Places programme, facilitated by the consultants the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). The event will showcase the work of the six pilot partnerships, conclude their formal involvement with the project and introduce Leading Places Phase Two.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

6. I was pleased to welcome Charlotte Alldritt, Director of Public Services and Communities at the RSA, to speak at the January board meeting on the recent activity of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission, which the City Regions Board is supporting. Building on the evidence gleaned from a series of roundtable discussions as well as the formal call for evidence, the Inclusive Growth Commission's final report with recommendations will be launched on the 7 March. Board members will attend this event after the City Regions Board Meeting.

IPPR Research:

7. The board will be supporting a research project to examine gender representation in local government as devolution progresses conducted by the Institute for Public Policy Research. The research will compare countries that have devolved political

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systems, how they perform on gender diversity measures and their strategies and activities to improve representation. It will make recommendations for what political leaders in local government and national government and other key actors can do to help build a stronger pipeline of female talent.

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