

## **Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Martin Tett (Chairman)**

### **Conferences, meetings and external events**

1. I represented the LGA at a number of interesting housing and growth related events at this year's Conservative Party Conference. I took part in panel discussions with MPs and private sector bosses about delivering better planning and housing as well as discussion about financing Britain's infrastructure. On the same theme I also gave a talk on the skills needed in the delivery of major infrastructure projects and the importance of community engagement.
2. On our temporary accommodation project the Board launched a final report focusing on council innovation in meeting the demand for increased temporary accommodation. It includes detailed examples and further information on supporting councils wanting to try innovations in their areas. Cllr Ed Turner from the LGA Housing Board chaired the event.

### **Board Business**

3. The Government are [consulting](#) on whether to keep existing roadwork lane rental schemes and allow other authorities to adopt their own schemes, and introducing 'super permits' as an alternative option. We have been calling for the availability of lane rental powers for all councils for a number of years. The Government is favourable to our calls and acknowledged the success of pilot schemes in London and Kent.
4. We worked with the National Audit Office on the development of the inquiry whose final report reflected many of the findings and concerns of councils.
5. We gave an on the day response to consultation on local housing need formula, the LGA will be engaging with councils and partners in developing a response ahead of the November deadline, which was discussed at the Board on 6 October.

### **Publications**

6. Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE and I jointly launched a [report and supporting resources](#) supporting councils to plan and deliver homes meeting the needs of our ageing population, and to integrate housing into health and social care provision. We worked with 10 councils to understand their different strategies and gained significant press attention. Over 90 delegates attended the launch event, Chaired by Lead Member Cllr Adele Morris.
7. I launched a report titled ['a country in a jam: tackling congestion in our towns and cities'](#) identifying congestion as a serious problem for economic development, quality of life and public health. It also identifies the steps that innovative councils have taken to reduce congestion and its impacts.
8. I launched an [analysis](#) looking at the increase in house prices compared to incomes around different parts of the country. We called for a redefinition of affordable housing to match what households can afford, and will take this forward with the Government.

19 October 2017

### Housing Advisers Programme

9. We have also launched the [Housing Advisers Programme](#) designed to help councils meet the housing need of their local area. Flexible and locally-led, the new programme funds an independent expert for up to 20 days, providing bespoke support to a local authority project to deliver homes, reduce homelessness, or generate savings or revenues.

### Press Releases and Statements

10. In August I made a public statement regarding the positive news on [DEFRA's announcement of a new litter innovation fund](#).
11. I have recently made public statements on [private renters concerns regarding getting on the property ladder](#), [Councils response to the LGO report on waste collection complaints](#), [concerns regarding taxpayers having to subsidise planning application costs by £1bn over the next five years](#), [responding to Government announcement of utility companies](#), [the need for a 'residential revolution' for England's ageing population](#), [our response to the recent Government announcement on housing need](#) and [our concern regarding the average house price now being eight times average wage](#).
12. Cllr Judith Blake has also made public statements on the [crisis analysis of rough sleeping](#), [falling confidence in new builds](#) and concerns [that the average driver spends nearly £1000 and wastes almost five days stuck in traffic a year](#).

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