

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title:	Councillors' Forum
Date:	Thursday 20 July 2017
Venue:	5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

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

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2 Modern Industrial Strategy - the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Chair welcomed the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to the meeting.

The Minister thanked Councillors for their input into the industrial strategy, advising them that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy would continue to engage with local authorities on this. He discussed recommendations set out in a series of pillars, highlighting that the strategy would build on successes in universities and the manufacturing industries. He touched on opportunities for improving productivity across the country, including providing better training and encouraging new business ideas. He highlighted the importance of place and local leadership in driving forward the economy, emphasising that the government's approach would need to recognise diversity and specialisms in the localities, and be more empowering of local differences.

The department would make its response to the strategy consultation within the next few weeks. He invited councils to build the industrial strategy with the department going forward, suggesting that local government should be given a formal 'constitutional' role in proceedings.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Local authorities were pivotal in their oversight of the planning process, but needed further powers to help development opportunities to advance. The Minister agreed with the point, citing growth in Cambridge as an example where City Deal funding had been used to invest in transport and housing. He emphasised that the industrial strategy would help to expand similar

opportunities to other parts of the country.

- The attitude of some MPs towards local authorities' role in the industrial strategy was discussed. It was emphasised that the vision for councils to be part of the strategy going forward needed to be shared with both MPs and other government departments.
- The negative effect of messages of Brexit on overseas students considering study at UK universities was raised. The Minister emphasised the importance of attracting foreign students to the UK, adding that neither side in the campaign had been in favour of protectionism, and had supported the UK being open to the world.
- Members discussed skills and asked whether skills funding could be devolved from departments to local authorities. The Minister highlighted that local and central government would need to work together in this area.
- Members argued that local authorities needed the opportunity to establish trade and investment arms within localities. The Minister assured members that the department would work with local and national trade arms as the industrial strategy was rolled out.
- There was a discussion on the need to understand what constituted a successful local economy. Members emphasised the importance of building communities with the facilities and services to support economic prosperity. The Minister agreed that economic success was inseparable from environmental and cultural success. The cultural flourishing of towns was important to improve the quality of life and attract overseas investors.
- Members asked whether funding would sit with combined authorities where they existed, or whether this would be devolved to local authorities.
- Members asked what the government's goal to increase productivity was, and whether it was measurable.

The Chair thanked the Minister and the discussion was drawn to a close.

3 Chairman's Update

Members **noted** the Chairman's Update.

4 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

Members **noted** the Board and Portfolio Chairs/Chairmans' Reports.

5 Digest of the last meeting

Members **agreed** the notes of the last meeting as an accurate summary of the discussion.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Porter of Spalding CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Cooke	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
	Cllr William Nunn	Breckland Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Rishi Shori	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Chris Townsend	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

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	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Apologies	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	Cllr Stephen Parnaby OBE	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Alice Perry	Islington Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Aaron Shotton	Flintshire County Council
	Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council