

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

Industrial Strategy – Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

1. The Industrial Strategy White Paper stressed the key role of local leadership in driving economic growth, but noted that more needed to be done to strengthen this approach across the country. The subsequent LEP Review (led by Jake Berry MP and Andrew Griffiths MP) presents an opportunity to shape Government's thinking in this area and, with this in mind, a letter has now been sent to both Jake and Andrew (signed by Chairman of the People and Places Board, Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE, Chairman of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board, Cllr Martin Tett, and myself), outlining the key issues which LGA Members would like to see addressed through the LEP Review.
2. In recognition of the vital contribution of both councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships to the success of the Industrial Strategy a roundtable event attended by Members of the City Regions, People and Places, and Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Boards and Chairs from three Local Enterprise Partnerships will be held on 15 March. This will seek to agree joint positions on how future local industrial strategies can match local ambitions for growth with proposals for skills devolution, devolved funding and a consistent national approach to transparency and governance.

Town and City Centre Management and Community Cohesion

3. The Board continues to engage with Core Cities on work to explore the availability and effectiveness of city centre management enforcement powers available to local bodies.
4. It has been decided that further work relating to rough sleeping and aggressive begging will be postponed until after the Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force in April. Similarly, work to examine the role of urban councils in fostering Community Cohesion is currently awaiting the publication of the Government's response to the Casey Review.

Fiscal Devolution

5. As previously reported, Members have agreed to commission two pieces of technical work in support of making an enhanced case for Fiscal Devolution.
6. As a result, officers have now appointed Public First to commission messaging analysis that will help inform how the LGA can best present the case for fiscal devolution to Government.
7. Officers have also commissioned WPI Economics, to support the LGA with econometric modelling. This will help the LGA spell out in more detail what a specific instance of fiscal devolution would look like in practice.
8. Members of the City Regions Board have also agreed to establish a small steering group so that both these pieces work might be monitored and informed by Members.

Skills and Employment – Work Local

9. Following on from the last forum, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and Cllr Peter John (in my place) met with the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton MP (Minister of State for Skills and Apprenticeships) on 5

8 March 2018

February 2018 to discuss the LGA's vision for a more localised skills system. It was a positive and open meeting, which we hope will seed the foundation for a systematic relationship between the DfE and the LGA. Key issues we hope to work on together include skills advisory panels, SME engagement, post-16 routes and apprenticeships. A follow up letter has been sent to outline suggested next steps, signed by both Cllr Hawthorne and myself.

10. Both the City Regions and People and Places Board have now agreed to establish a new 'skills taskforce', whose purpose will be to dedicate specific time to, and have oversight of our employment and skills work, and re-focus LGA work to provide place-based solutions to Brexit and the Industrial Strategy. Both Boards have agreed it should draw in expertise from within the sector and engage a range of stakeholders. We will look to establish this over the coming months.

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