

Company Number 11177145

Note of last People & Places Board meeting

Title: People & Places Board
Date: Tuesday 19 March 2019
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies listed at <u>Appendix A</u> were noted.</p>	
2	<p>Skills and Employment: Careers, advice and guidance policy update</p> <p>Jasbir Jhas provided a policy update on developments relating to careers, advice and guidance, outlining that the LGA continues to lobby for councils and combined authorities to have a commissioning role for localised all-age careers and guidance service. This is part of our wider Work Local ambition for a joined up place based approach to employment and skills, which is being refreshed this summer. LGA Skills Taskforce roundtable discussions will feed into this. .</p> <p>Alongside this, the LGA position on careers advice and guidance will be updated, and Members were invited to provide a steer on how that could be done, based on the issues highlighted in paras 15-23 of the report.</p> <p>The following points were raised by members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where they exist, career hubs have helped to build relationships between schools and businesses locally. However careers advice and guidance is underfunding. Funding is holding back the effective delivery of careers advice and guidance• Schools are critical in offering CEAIG, however the lack of funding is an issue. Ring-fenced funding was suggested. <p>Learn from what works. Staffordshire (and Stoke) careers hub was cited as an example of good practice where local schools had embedded career guidance into the school curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access into schools from colleges and other providers is essential if young people	

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are to be able to make informed choices.

- Support for adults to retrain is essential. LEPs need to be more specific when engaging with councils over the types of skills needed. It was also noted that the LGA is working with the DfE, TUC and CBI to look at how best to design the National Retraining Scheme (NRS).

Jasbir introduced Dr Deirdre Hughes OBE to give some reflections on the challenges and opportunities of the current system. Key points included:

- A need to create a strong learning environment in local places and online spaces.
- Concerns regarding career guidance in schools (teachers as careers leaders) but are faced with financial and capacity pressures.
- Geography matters with extreme and persistent disparities across wards in economic activity, status and skills. A careers system needs to help rebalance that.
- Many young people fall through the cracks in the system and adults help to upskill and re-skill.
- The draft Ofsted framework now provides 'Personal Development'

Members made the following observations:

- It remains a challenge to promote vocational routes in schools
- Concerns about accessing hubs in rural areas.
- Efforts to target adults who want to change career in later life should be stepped up and councils can play a key role here
- Continue to highlight the lack of accountability across the careers system both nationally and locally.

Decision:

Officers to use members' comments to inform the refresh of the LGA careers advice and guidance policy.

3 Rural Land Management

The Chairman introduced Daniel Shamplin-Hall. Daniel introduced the research commissioned on behalf of this Board to explore the role local government might play in a reformed rural land management policy framework following the UK's exit from the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy.

Daniel reminded members that Savills Rural Research were commissioned to undertake this research and, at the last board, members outlined their own local policy context for consideration by the researchers. Members were asked to note that there will be a final report that will be shared confidentially with the board. Additionally, the Post Brexit

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England Commission, which is due to be launched at the LGA Conference in July 2019, will be the Board's first opportunity to showcase this research.

Daniel Shamplin-Hall introduced Nicola Buckingham (NB) and Emily Norton (EN) from Savills Rural Research, to give their final presentation to the Board.

EN gave a brief overview of how farmers currently interact in the rural land management system and how the CAP provides income for farmers. It was outlined how the policy has developed over the years leading to increasing layers of bureaucracy and complication.

Regarding councils' role in a future agricultural policy, research showed that there was a mix of views, including concerns the right balance between environmental and productivity issues.

In terms of the role that councils could play in a reformed land management policy, the research concluded five key areas:

1. **Public money for public good:** The concept of 'public money for public goods' offers greater scope for public bodies like councils to play a stronger role in defining local priorities.
2. **A 'rural voice':** Councils have an important role to play in ensuring that rural voice and SME/farming priorities are recognised in the drafting of local industrial strategies.
3. **Partnership working:** Councils feel they work best when signposting, facilitating and convening efforts of other agencies, however where councils have been empowered to take leadership in innovating on land management policy, there has been broad enthusiasm.
4. **Place based and holistic projects:** A more flexible place based approach to growth is key to bring more holistic projects.
5. **Resources and knowledge of agricultural systems:** Stakeholders consider councils to be well placed to engage and do more, but need more expertise in understanding agricultural systems and supply chains. There is a risk that land managers do not see councils as having a role to play in environmental issues.

The following discussion took place with the board:

- One member raised concerns that not all councils would be best placed to lead future agricultural policy at a local level. Savills responded that as it stands, the EU has this expertise, and a justified question would be who would take responsibility for farmland expertise in England once the UK breaks legislative ties with Brussels.
- One member raised the risk of new responsibilities being unfunded. Savills noted the point and stated that they would reflect this in the report as deliverability is a key principle of the research.

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The Chairman thanked Emily Norton and Nicola Buckingham.

Decision:

Savills and officers to use members' comments to inform future discussions and the shape of the final report.

4 Confidential Minutes from the last meeting

Members agreed the Board's last minutes.

5 Policy Update

Principal Policy Advisor, Rebecca Cox, introduced the policy update paper which updated members on activity relating to a range of policy areas relevant to the People and Places Board.

Members raised the following points in response to the presentation:

- It was noted that work related to the individual projects outlined in the paper need to be updated to reflect the change in language in the new agenda to reference 'place leadership', particularly in regards to devolution.

Decision

The Board noted the progress of the work being undertaken on behalf of the Board.

6 Trade and Investment

The Chairman welcomed Daniel Gardiner to the Board, who provided a brief update on the LGA's recent activity in the area of trade and international investment.

Daniel introduced Marian Sudbury (MS), Director of UK Regions at the Department for International Trade (DIT) to the Board.

MS explained the function of DIT and how the Department supports UK businesses to export, helps to drive inward and outward investment, negotiate market access and trade deals, champion free trade and to provide international support for business at a local level to drive growth and prosperity.

MS explained that when it comes to business, there is a crowded landscape, with different organisations wishing to enter the international stage. It is therefore important to ensure that different sectors are directed into the appropriate route for support.

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MS outlined the administrative challenges associated with engaging with many different local organisations, and therefore in order to simplify and streamline engagement effectively, DIT engage with LEPs and LEPs engage with local authorities, to then support businesses in an area as a collective body.

In conclusion, MS also outlined that from councils, DIT need local authorities to support DIT in simplifying the landscape for business, and simplifying the engagement between DIT and councils, through close working with Combined Authorities and LEPs.

Members raised the following points:

- Members were in broad agreement that, while recognising the administrative challenge for DIT in engaging with individual councils, LEPs also have limited capacity, meaning conversations between local authorities and LEPs about internationalising local markets have been limited thus far.
- Another point was raised with regards to DIT support hubs. Although it was recognised that the geography was evenly spread around England, the level of engagement disperses quickly the further away you travel from a hub, and that DIT need to maintain the same level of engagement with more isolated areas.
- It was agreed that local authorities are keen to engage in conversations with DIT to ensure that DIT are able to spread their messages to more people, and that members are keen to be that local conduit on behalf of local businesses who wish to internationalise.
- With regards to mapping, it was noted that local authorities can engage with DIT to support this process.

The Chairman thanked MS for attending the Board.

Decision:

Members **noted** the recent policy and public affairs activity relating to trade and international investment.

7 Minutes from the last meeting

Members agreed the Board's last minutes.

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Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Gillian Brown OBE	Arun District Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Bob Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
Members	Cllr Derek Bastiman	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Tim Hall	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
	Cllr Glen Horn	Mid Suffolk District Council
	Cllr Rory Love OBE	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
	Cllr Linda Robinson	Wychavon District Council
	Cllr Harvey Siggs	Mendip District Council
	Cllr David Thomas	Torbay Council
	Cllr Rob Waltham MBE	North Lincolnshire Council
	Cllr Azhar Ali	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Helen Grant	Richmondshire District Council
Apologies	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Jackson	Northumberland Council
	Cllr Sarah Osborne	Lewes District Council