

22 October 2019

## **EEHT Board Priorities and Work Programme**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

This report sets out draft priorities for the Board together with a draft work programme for the period to July 2020. A draft work programme is set out in Appendix A.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board considers and agrees a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme

### **Action**

Officers will take action as directed

**Contact officer:** Eamon Lally  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3132  
**Email:** Eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

## **EEHT Board Priorities and Work Programme**

### **Background**

1. The EEHT Board in liaison with the LGA's Leadership Board is responsible for establishing LGA policy and lobbying positions in relation to the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport. This is a very wide brief and members have found it helpful to prioritise their work to be effective and achieve the best outcomes for the local government sector.

### **Draft priorities and work programme**

2. In prioritising, the Board will want to be aware of the issues that are being raised by councils, which have informed the LGA's 2019/20 business plan priorities and the Government's own priorities. The Board will also want to make a judgement on where it can make the most significant contribution.
3. At its meeting in July 2019 the Board considered a [paper on priorities for 2019/20](#). The Work Programme, set out in Appendix A, builds on those priorities and sets out proposed specific actions.

### ***LGA Priorities***

4. Two of the LGA's six priorities, as set out in the latest business plan, are particularly relevant to the work of the Board:
  - 4.1. Places to live and work: Councils lead the way in building the homes that people need, driving sustained economic growth and creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable communities that are great places to live.
  - 4.2. Sustainability and climate action: Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat climate change and its impacts and to deliver zero net carbon by 2030.

### ***Government's priorities/Queen's Speech***

4. Housing remains a key Government priority. The Secretary of State's recent [statement](#) to the House of Commons outlined a [National Design Guide](#), to drive up the quality of new homes; a [Future Homes Standard](#), which seeks to cut carbon emissions from residential property; as well as confirming proposals to allow homes to be built above existing properties and seeking views on demolishing old commercial buildings for new housing. The Accelerated Planning Green Paper is expected to be published later in the autumn.

5. Amongst the legislation and measures announced in the Queen Speech on 14<sup>th</sup> October, a number are of particular interest to the work of the Board:
  - 5.1. Environment Bill; this bases environment protection on environmental principles overseen by an Office of Environmental Protection (OPE); and it contains measures to address improved biodiversity, waste reform, air pollution, single use plastic and the resilience of water and wastewater services. The Bill was published on 15 October and a briefing will be sent to Members in the next few days.
  - 5.2. Rail reforms: later in the autumn the Government will publish a White Paper on the recommendations of the Williams Review.
  - 5.3. National Infrastructure Strategy: this will be brought forward to set out a long-term vision to improve the nation's digital, transport and energy infrastructure.
  - 5.4. Building safety: The Government will bring forward laws to implement new building safety standards.
6. The LGA on the day briefing for the Queen's Speech can be found [here](#).

### **Implications for Wales**

7. Many of the policy areas covered by the work of the Board are devolved matters for the Welsh Government. In matters of UK wide policy, and in general where it makes sense to collaborate, we will work with the Welsh LGA.

### **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications at this time.

### **Next steps**

9. Members are asked to:
  - 9.1. Consider and agree a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme.

<b>EEHT Objections 2019/20</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timelines</b>
<b><i>Environment</i></b>			
Waste and resources reforms	A waste and resource system that meets the needs of local communities; improves the use of resources; and significantly increases the funding for the system provided producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to represent Members' interests as the government finalises its reforms through the Environment Bill and subsequent consultations</li> </ul>	<b>May 2020</b>
Climate change and environmental protection	Councils and communities set on a path to meet national and local carbon zero ambitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish cross-Whitehall/local gov climate task force</li> <li>Review of LGA lobbying position on green energy</li> <li>Explore and share best practice on approaches to decarbonise local transport, including modal shift.</li> <li>Hold a Climate change Conference</li> </ul>	<b>October/November 2019</b> <b>April 2020</b>  <b>March 2020</b>  <b>January 2020</b>
Flooding	Communities better protected from flooding incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to seek reforms to the allocation of flood prevention funding</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Air quality	Communities air quality improved in areas where it does not meet national standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represent member's interest on the clean air provisions of the Environment bill.</li> <li>Call for the implementation of Traffic Management Act 2004 Part 6. Seeking to understand whether we could introduce trials of the powers.</li> </ul>	<b>May 2020</b>  <b>Ongoing</b>

<b><i>Housing planning and Homelessness</i></b>			
Delivering more homes	Councils build more council homes and facilitate the delivery of housing that meets the needs of their local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the case for councils to have the powers and funding to deliver more homes that are affordable and meet the needs of communities</li> <li>• Devolving right to buy so that councils retain all receipts and can set discounts locally.</li> <li>• An analysis to be undertaken on how many right to buy properties are now being rented out by private landlords.</li> </ul>	<b>July 2020</b>
Build safe, healthy and prosperous places that are well supported by infrastructure and services	A planning system which supports the building of good quality homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue options for streamlining the local plan process; giving councils greater powers to act where housebuilding has stalled; scrapping of permitted development rights.</li> <li>• Continuing to influence: the Accelerated Planning Green paper; the Building Better, Building Beautiful commission; Future Housing Standard</li> <li>• Work with Homes England and other stakeholders on skills and capacity issues that are slowing housing growth</li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing</b>  <b>April 2020</b>  <b>April 2020</b>
Reduce homelessness	The rise in Homelessness and rough sleeping is slowed (or even reversed) and the cost of TA is arrested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with councils and government to influence policy on homelessness prevention, including the Homelessness Reduction Act review, Government's review of homelessness data, and the Spending review funding settlement</li> <li>• Develop out of area placement protocol</li> </ul>	<b>April 2020</b>  <b>April 2020</b>

22 October 2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influence other policies creating pressure on councils' provision of temporary accommodation, including welfare reforms.</li> <li>• Support local authorities to utilise evidence and to share best practice and learning with other relevant authorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
Housing Improvement Programme	Councils in a better to position to meet their housing challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver round 3 of the Housing Advisers programme</li> </ul>	<b>July 2020</b>
<b>Transport</b>			
Infrastructure and maintenance	Better progress in addressing the maintenance backlog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying for the end of fragmented bid-based funding, and for adequate funding to address the maintenance backlog.</li> </ul>	<b>April 2020</b>
Future transport	Councils have the knowledge and tools to facilitate the move to electric vehicles within a context of overall decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on establishing the resource needs and regulatory changes to support the move to electric vehicles (EV)</li> </ul>	<b>April 2020</b>
Public transport	Communities benefiting from effective public transport provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying for full funding for concessionary fares and for devolution of BSOG.</li> <li>• Seek another round of total transport funding, spreading the lessons of the first round and seeking greater buy in across public agencies</li> <li>• Continue to influence rail reform through the Government's proposed White paper on the Williams' recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>To influence next spending review</b>
<b>Economy</b>			

22 October 2019

Local Industrial Strategies	Improved local economies with councils aware of the practical leadership role addressing the UK's industrial strategy grand challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing the leadership role of councils in relation to the grand challenges underpinning the Government's industrial strategy</li> </ul>	<b>May 2020</b>
Town centre revitalisation	Improved town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue support for councils' leadership role in place and town centre revitalisation.</li> </ul>	<b>February 2020</b>