

18 December 2019

Note of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

Title:	Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board
Date:	Tuesday 22 October 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

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest.

Apologies were received from Cllr Rachel Blake (Lab), Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE (Con), Cllr Nicholas Rushton (Con) and Cllr Peter Butlin (Con)

The following attended as substitutes; Cllr Johnson Situ (Lab), Cllr Catherine Rankin (Con), Cllr Sean Anstee (Con) and Cllr Nigel Ashton (Con).

2 Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board 2019/20: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Terms of Reference were agreed as presented in the report.

Following a request from Members it was agreed that Member Services amend the start time of the Board meetings to 12:00 where possible.

In the discussion regarding appointments to Outside Bodies Cllr Amanda Serjeant expressed an interest in being appointed the Labour representative to the HS2 Environmental Forum and Cllr Peter Thornton expressed an interest in being appointed representative to the Canal and River Trust. The Board agreed these appointments and that Cllr Martin Tett would remain the Conservative appointment to the HS2 Environmental Forum.

Cllr Peter Thornton also proposed that in future Sustrans be considered an Outside Body appointment which he currently attends meetings of as the local government representative.

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Following a query regarding the previous Outside Body appointment to the National Fly Tipping Group it was confirmed that this was now officer led, but emphasised that the LGA was still represented on this group.

Decision

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board agreed the Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**) and noted the Board membership for 2019/20 (**Appendix B**).

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board agreed Board meeting dates for 2019/20 (**Appendix C**) be amended to start at 12:00 where possible.

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport agreed the Board's nominations to outside bodies (**Appendix D**).

Actions

Member Services to amend the start time of Board meetings to 12:00 where possible.

Member Services to confirm and to clarify details regarding Outside Body appointments to the new representatives.

Officers to explore whether an Outside Body appointment to Sustrans be included in future.

3 Out of area placements: LGA protocol

Jo Allchurch, Senior Adviser, introduced the report updating the board on the LGA's development of, and planned consultation on, a local authority protocol relating to out of area placements. Jo brought Members attention to paragraphs 19 and 24 of the report.

The Chairman welcomed Tim Gray, Consultant, who gave further detail on this work and the options for a process to increase councils' accountability in relation to the protocol.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made;

- Views were expressed that the LGA doing umbrella work across local authorities in response to issues with out of area placements was valuable.
- A view was expressed that there should be a minimum notice period for out of area placements of 21 days.
- It was suggested that perhaps the funding method for this could be through the LGA.
- A view was expressed that notification of out of area placements would be critical for the host authority and that the proposed notification online notification system would be beneficial.

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- Regarding a query as to paragraph 50 and 51 of Appendix B, Tim explained that paragraph 50 was focused on the suitability of the area for the placement whereas paragraph 51 was focused on the quality of the accommodation itself.
- A view was expressed that paragraph 50 and 51 could be brought closer together to ensure it is not misinterpreted.
- Concerns were raised regarding the limit around minimum standards of space and location. In particular there was a concern that locations meeting these standards may be in short supply in rural areas.
- It was confirmed the figure of out of area placements being less than 4,000 per year was based on statistics reported by central Government.
- Regarding paragraph 46 on Appendix B a view was expressed that one week was too long a deadline for the placing authority to inform the host authority should a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) be moved to a different local educational authority and needs to change school.
- A view was expressed that continuing to lobby on housing benefit would continue to be important to truly reduce the amount of out of area placements required.
- It was suggested that MHCLG could assist in ensuring a good sign up of the proposed protocol from local authorities.
- The importance of including children's services and liaising with Directors of children's services in establishing the proposed protocol was emphasised.
- Tim also emphasised that children's services and housing legislation were not currently consistent regarding accommodation sizes.
- A concern was raised as to the capacity of Council housing departments.
- Concerns were raised around those individuals where a local connection couldn't be quickly determined.
- A concern was raised as to redundancy issues should a child move away from one to one support in a school.
- A view was expressed that there needed to be some reference to cost in the protocol, in particular where there is a disparity as to the number of out of area placements in some local authority areas.

Following this discussion Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board confirmed the following:

- Recommendations for independent referees would be drafted and included in the protocol.
- Members were happy with senior managers and the Chief Executive being made aware of the outcome of the mediation, in cases where their council has been found not to have followed the protocol.
- Members were keen that children's services should continue to be approached and as involved in establishing this protocol as possible.
- Officers continue to develop the sign up process for the proposed protocol.

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Decision

Members noted and commented on the LGA's progress in developing the protocol, and gave direction on options for improving accountability.

Action

Officers to action any matters arising from the discussion as appropriate.

4 Climate Emergency

Sonika Sidhu, Senior Adviser, introduced the report focusing on how the LGA has been responding to the climate emergency over the summer and how this issue will now be dealt with across a number of its boards. Sonika highlighted some key recommendations for how the EEHT Board will be progressing the policy lead on climate emergency work. Sonika also raised that this work included recommendations from the LGA Climate Emergency Sounding Board that had met twice over the summer and that the LGA was seeking to establish a joint task force with Government on climate change.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- A concern was raised that Government gives too little attention to the impact of climate change in rural areas.
- A view was expressed that further integration between authorities with responsibilities for transport would be required to address cross boundary issues and to enable greener travel.
- In response to this, officers emphasised that the LGA will continue to lobby for local authorities to have access to the same transport powers offered to combined authorities.
- A view was expressed that local authorities needed clarity as to what systems they should install for electric vehicles.
- A view was expressed that emphasising five top changes that will give a clear positive impact to present the joint task force with Government would be the best approach.
- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of funding given to new green projects for local government.
- A concern was raised as to Government not enabling local authorities to better work together on transport.
- A view was expressed that incorporating planting trees into planning policy would be beneficial.

Decision

Members of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board noted the report and approved:

1. the policy recommendations outlined in paragraph six; and
2. the proposal for a regular climate emergency update paper for the

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Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board in paragraph seven.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members comments into ongoing work around climate change.

Updates on this work to return to each meeting of the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board.

5 EEHT Board Priorities and Work Programme

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report setting out draft priorities for the Board together with a draft work programme for the period to July 2020.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised;

- It was suggested that Members send any additional suggestions on the economy section of the draft work programme to officers and lead members for consideration.
- Regarding a query as to why HS2 wasn't included in the Board priorities Eamon Lally confirmed that this was due to there being no overall consensus from LGA Members as to their view on HS2, as such it was inappropriate to include as a Board priority without a clear consensus.
- It was confirmed that dates of future LGA events on climate change would be circulated in the near future.
- It was proposed that going forwards a top five priorities be chosen as an initial focus for the Board.
- In response to a query around whether the Board could explore pan regional travel, as opposed to focusing on north to south travel, Eamon suggested that the National Infrastructure Commission could be invited to come speak to the Board on this topic.
- It was confirmed that hydrogen cell cars would be included in any work regarding future transport.
- A view was expressed would need to be mindful of where transport infrastructure policy could clash with where a local authority has announced a climate emergency, and the issues this could cause.

Decision

The Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board considered and agreed a final version of the Board's priorities and work programme.

Action

Officers to incorporate Members comments into the Board's priorities and work programme.

6 Housing Update Paper October 2019

Jo Allchurch, Senior Adviser, introduced the report giving an update of the policy and improvement work that has been carried out for the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board covering housing, planning, homelessness and building safety.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made;

- Jo confirmed that there would be an LGA event held on 5 November on Compulsory Purchase Orders.
- Following a query Jo also confirmed that the commissioned update to the 2013 Probity in Planning guide for councillors and officers will be circulated to all Board members when it is published in November.

Decision

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board members noted the contents of the report.

Action

Officers to circulate the commissioned update to the 2013 Probity in Planning guide for councillors and officers to all Board members when it is published in November.

7 Transport and growth update

Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser, introduced the report providing an update on Board issues where there have been further developments regarding Traffic Regulation Orders reform; Bus Strategy; Pavement Parking; ANPR for cycle lanes; and High streets and town centres funding.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made;

- Kamal emphasised that the Government agreed to produce a national bus strategy and that this would be an opportunity to raise longstanding LGA asks connected to supporting the bus industry.
- Regarding when the new Traffic Regulation Orders review would be completed Andrew Jones, Adviser, suggested that this would likely be next year.

Decision

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board members noted the update.

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8 Note of last Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed subject to the addition to the attendance list of Cllr Ed Turner being present for the meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Adele Morris Cllr Linda Gillham	Southwark Council Runnymede Borough Council
Members	Cllr Mark Crane Cllr Patrick Nicholson Cllr Linda Taylor Cllr Amanda Serjeant Mayor Philip Glanville Cllr Ed Turner Cllr Michael Mordey Cllr Christopher Hammond Cllr Peter Thornton Cllr David Beaman	Selby District Council Plymouth City Council Cornwall Council Chesterfield Borough Council Hackney London Borough Council Oxford City Council Sunderland City Council Southampton City Council Cumbria County Council Waverley Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Peter Butlin Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE Cllr Nicholas Rushton Cllr Rachel Blake	Warwickshire County Council Gloucestershire County Council Leicestershire County Council Tower Hamlets Council
In Attendance	Cllr Johnson Situ Cllr Catherine Rankin Cllr Sean Anstee CBE Cllr Nigel Ashton	Southwark Council Kent County Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council North Somerset Council