

Subnational Bodies

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

Members will receive a presentation by Metro Dynamics on the findings of research commissioned by the LGA to explore the lessons learned from established and emerging subnational bodies.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. Consider the background presentation in advance of a more detailed discussion at the Board with representatives from Metro Dynamics.

Action

Officers to take on board comments and steer Metro Dynamics as appropriate.

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Background

1. Building on the LGA's work to support the development of successful local industrial strategies and strengthen England's trade and investment landscape, and with a view to influencing the English Devolution White Paper, a research commission was issued in early February 2020 in order to better understand the functions and future of both established and emerging sub-national bodies.
2. Following an open procurement process Metro Dynamics were awarded the contract and, over the following months, carried out a wide range of interviews and desktop research relating to eight subnational bodies: the Northern Powerhouse (NP11 and Transport for the North); the Midlands Engine; Midlands Connect; Western Gateway; the Oxford-Cambridge Arc; the Great South West Partnership; and, Transport for the South East.
3. The report is now in the early stages of being drafted and will: set out the evolution of subnational bodies in England; provide detailed case studies of established and emerging subnational bodies; consider the lessons learned from these organisations; and, look at potential implications within the context of the forthcoming devolution white paper.
4. As part of the process of finalising this research representatives from Metro Dynamics will attend the board and present an overview of key findings alongside a number of questions for the Board to consider.
5. In advance of the meeting a slide pack, drawing on the desktop research and setting out the scope and policy context of the project will be sent to members in the dispatch.

Next Steps

6. Following discussion at the People and Places Board, a similar presentation will be given to the City Regions Board and the comments from both groups will be incorporated into the draft report. This project will be used to inform the development of the LGA's position regarding future devolution and any future work relating to changes in the functions or scope of sub-national bodies.