

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

Title: Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Date: Tuesday 22 March 2022

Venue: Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest The Chairman welcomed and introduced Members to the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Crane, Cllr Martin Gannon, Mayor Philip Glanville, Cllr Pippa Heylings, Cllr Paul Marshall, Cllr Darren Rodwell and Cllr Vikki Slade. Cllr Tony Ball, Cllr Stewart Golton, Cllr Imogen Payter, Cllr Clare Penny-Evans and Cllr Martin Whelton were in attendance as substitutes. For transparency, the Chairman declared, for item 5 that he was Leader of Swindon Council which was one of the new local planning authorities subjected to advice on nutrient neutrality	
2	Council Housebuilding The Chairman introduced Victoria Latham, Deputy Director, Local Authority Housing & Right to Buy from the Department of Levelling up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) to give a presentation on the work towards council housebuilding. Members made the following comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New council houses were being built, but a larger challenge was to make the existing stock more carbon efficient. There was a lack of long-term funding to help decarbonise homes.• Concerns were raised that material requirements planning (MRP) had been making housebuilding unaffordable for councils.• Members raised that many refugees from recent conflicts were staying in hotels while waiting to be housed, increasing pressure on councils to deliver housing.	

In response, Victoria Latham made the following comments:

- The development of new builds was welcomed news, and it was recognised that it was not ideal that councils needed to bid for various funding pots. There would be collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy to determine a long-term plan to decarbonise homes.
- Members were invited to provide further feedback relating to the MRP so that it could be passed on to HM Treasury and local government finance team at DLUHC

The Chairman thanked Victoria Latham for her attendance.

Decision:

1. Members noted the key issues outlined in paragraphs 6-10 to the report.
2. Members noted the LGA next steps as set out in paragraph 12 to the report.

3 Building Safety Update

The Chairman invited Francis Soukila, Graduate Trainee Adviser, to present the report which outlined the progress on building safety since the last Board meeting which included the Building Safety Bill which was currently at the House of Lords, remediation, and future policy.

Decision:

Members noted the update.

4 Transport - Fixed Penalty Notices and Buses Funding update

The Chairman invited Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser, to present the report which sought views from Members on proposals to seek powers which would allow local authorities outside of London to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for offenses such as unlicensed skips and wilful obstruction of the highways.

Also included in the report was an update on Bus Recovery Funding.

Members made the following comments:

- Thanks was given to the Chairman and officers for their work lobbying the government following the announcement that there would be an additional £150 million in funding for bus and light rail operators until October 2022.
- Members expressed their support to seeking powers for local authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.
- It was queried who would have the receipts of the notices.

In response, Kamal Panchal made the following comments:

- Consideration would be given to which authority would receive the

finances as it would be more complicated in areas with two tiered authorities than in the unitary authorities and in London boroughs.

- The progress of this would be brought back to a future Board meeting.

Decision:

1. Members agreed that the LGA should support the call as raised by Thurrock and the consortium of Essex Councils
2. Members endorsed the LGA undertaking further work on this issue.
3. Member noted the information on the Bus Recovery Grant.

5 EEHT Update / Other Board Business

The Chairman invited Hilary Tanner, Adviser, to present the supplementary information to the report. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs announced that 42 new local planning authorities were subject to advice on nutrient neutrality.

Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser, outlined the rest of the update report, and highlighted that the LGA had sent a letter to the Chancellor setting out asks of the Spring Statement with much of them relating to issues under the Board's remit.

Decision:

Members noted the update.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

7 Road Pricing - LGA Work - CONFIDENTIAL

Please refer to the confidential minutes document for information related to this item.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Vice-Chairman		
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Loic Rich	Cornwall Council
Members	Cllr Kelham Cooke	South Kesteven District Council
	Cllr Daniel Humphreys	Worthing Borough Council
	Cllr Patrick Nicholson	Plymouth City Council

Cllr Linda Taylor
 Cllr Tony Ball
 Cllr Imogen Payter
 Cllr Ed Turner
 Cllr Cathy Mitchell
 Cllr Emily Darlington
 Cllr Clare Penny-Evans
 Cllr Martin Whelton
 Cllr Stewart Golton
 Cllr David Beaman

Cornwall Council
 Essex County Council
 Havant Borough Council
 Oxford City Council
 Warrington Borough Council
 Milton Keynes Council
 Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
 Merton London Borough Council
 Leeds City Council
 Waverley Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr Mark Crane
 Cllr Paul Marshall
 Cllr Darren Rodwell

Selby District Council
 West Sussex County Council
 Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
 Gateshead Council
 Hackney London Borough Council
 South Cambridgeshire District Council
 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Cllr Martin Gannon
 Mayor Philip Glanville
 Cllr Pippa Heylings
 Cllr Vikki Slade

In Attendance

Cllr Ed Gemmell
 Cllr Phil Jordan
 Victoria Latham

Buckinghamshire Council
 Isle of Wight Council
 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
 Technical Principal, Mott MacDonald
 Mott MacDonald
 Mott MacDonald
 Mott MacDonald

Charlene Rohr
 Josh Evans
 Annette Smith
 Leora Wilson

LGA Officers

Jo Allchurch
 Calum Davidson
 Joe Difford
 Amy Haldane
 Simon Jeffrey
 Eamon Lally
 Kamal Panchal
 Nick Porter
 Francis Soukila
 Hilary Tanner