



## City Regions Board – Report from Mayor Marvin Rees (Chair)

### Future of Cities

1. Following the launch of a collection of essays, videos and data analysis looking at the question “What do we want our cities to be, and how do we get there?” at LGA Conference, the Board has commissioned ‘The means’ to produce a series of six videos of city residents to understand their experience of the city and how cities could change to help them achieve their goals.
2. These videos will feed into the next urban summit, which is planned to take place in early 2023. The event will bring together others working in this space, including Key Cities, London Councils, Core Cities and the RSA, who are carrying out complementary work on urban futures.

### Levelling Up

3. The [Levelling Up Locally Inquiry](#) has now completed all four roundtables, and officers are now working to synthesise the themes and ideas from the discussions. The emerging themes of the roundtables will be used in conjunction with previously commissioned research on place and identity, looking at how a local sense of pride in place can be formed as part of the levelling up agenda, and research into how the pandemic may have affected demographic trends and what the implications are for levelling up of any demographic shifts. These results will then be presented to the Inquiry’s steering group, with final recommendations being published this autumn.

### Employment and skills

#### *Green Jobs*

4. In collaboration with the People & Places Board, the Board has agreed the priority of developing green jobs and skills needed to deliver net zero and green growth in local economies. With the EEHT Board lead members, lead members met with Kate Kennally, the local government representative on the BEIS led Green Jobs Delivery Group. They raised a number of suggestions and issues on how support the skills and business support system to develop green jobs and the pipeline of skills to support them.
5. The Board has prioritised the skills and jobs needed to deliver retrofit in the context of rising energy bills, the evidence of climate change and the general cost of living crisis. The Board have identified the need for the longevity of funding certainty, the potential to develop the right qualifications to develop the



skilled workforce needed and the support to businesses. Members will be hosting a number of roundtables, starting later in the autumn, to explore retrofit issues with key partners to develop shared principles needed to address the retrofit challenge.

#### *Economic and social inclusion*

6. The boards (People and Places and City Regions) have agreed to examine the role of councils in supporting employment, skills, and economic inclusion. This piece of work will shine a light on the disparities that exist within people and places which impact economic inclusion. It aims to showcase the good practice in local areas through case studies and 'what good looks like' publication and will culminate with Employment, skills, and economic inclusion principles. A series of activities are planned to include an equalities survey and a roundtable.

#### *Further Education reforms*

7. The DfE is reforming further education (FE) through legislation and a range of measures which will put employers in the driving seat to determine local skills priorities. This means that Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) will design Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) which will be rolled out across England. We have lobbied through the [Skills Bill](#) (now enacted) and through several consultations for local government – both councils and devolved authorities - to have a clear and strategic role in supporting ERBs to deliver LSIPs. Our [response](#) to the DfE statutory guidance on LSIPs can be found, in which we set out why and how the sector needs to be involved.
8. A DfE consultation is currently running until 12 October on the future of adult skills funding and accountability. This affects both the wider skills system at a local level and specifically council-run adult and community learning. Feedback from the local government sector suggests this could have a significant impact on local deliver. A response is being developed.

#### *Ministerial engagement*

9. In August, Board Chairs wrote to the new Ministers for Skills (Andrea Jenkyns MP) and Employment. After positive responses, we are seeking meeting dates.

#### **Contact details**

Contact officer: Rebecca Cox

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 0207 187 7384

Email: [rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.cox@local.gov.uk)

**Meeting:** Councillors' Forum

**Date:** 20 October 2022



18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

**Chairman:** Councillor James Jamieson OBE **Chief Executive:** Mark Lloyd CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

**Meeting:** Councillors' Forum

**Date:** 20 October 2022



18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk) **Telephone** 020 7664 3000 **Email** [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
Local Government Association company number 11177145

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government company number 0367557

**Chairman:** Councillor James Jamieson OBE **Chief Executive:** Mark Lloyd CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson