

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

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Thursday, 29 September 2022

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

| Item | Decisions and actions |
|------|-----------------------|
|------|-----------------------|

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 Martin Gannon, Mayor Philip Glanville, Cllr Vikki Slade and Cllr Linda Taylor.

Cllr Anthony Okereke, Cllr Sharon Thompson and Cllr Stewart Golton were in attendance as substitutes.

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Building Safety Update

The Chairman introduced Tim Galloway, Deputy Director of Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who gave a presentation which outlined the role of HSE in building safety.

Members made the following comments:

- Recruiting and retaining staff for building control had been a challenge for local authorities.
- It was raised that at present councils had no information about whether building control would have a role in delivering the regulation of 12,000+ existing high rise residential buildings which was a concern for councils' that would need to consider this in the budgeting process and the capacity of the workforce.
- It was queried when HSE were consulted on planning applications and within what period of time they are expected to respond by.

In response, Tim Galloway made the following comments:

- HSE had undertaken modelling on expected demand. There were plans to create a pool of resource employed by LABC to be

distributed to councils based on need.

- A decision on the role of building control's regulation of existing high rise residential buildings would be addressed urgently by HSE.
- HSE was a statutory consultee in planning applications for high buildings that fit the criteria and had aimed to respond to applications within 21 days of being consulted.

In response to queries, it was clarified by Charles Loft, Senior Adviser, that the burden of making a building safer falls on councils as landlords and would be funded from Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA). Without the knowledge of councils' role in building control and what resource demand would be, a discussion on potential new burdens had not taken place.

The Chairman thanked Tim Galloway for his attendance.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report and presentation.

3 EEHT Board 2022/23, Terms of Reference and Appointments

The Chairman invited Members to comment on the terms of reference, membership and dates as set out in the report.

It was requested that the Board be kept updated on the work of the LGA's Climate Change Task Group.

Action:

The work of the Climate Change Task Group to be included in future EEHT Update / Other Board Business paper.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

With agreement from the Board, the Chairman took items 4 and 5 together for discussion with Members.

4 2022/23 Priorities and Work Programme and anticipated upcoming issues for housing and planning

The Chairman invited Members to comment on the Priorities and Work Programme for 2022/23, with consideration for the report which set out the anticipated upcoming key issues for housing and planning.

Members made the following comments:

- Housing supply was an issue both for in rural and urban areas.
- Utility infrastructure was a growing consideration in housing and planning. In particular, the lack of capacity in the national grid was

raised as a barrier to prevent development.

- Retrofitting of homes was raised as a priority, with concerns raised at the long-term economic impacts. As well as lobbying government for funding, consideration should be given to what councils can do, with a Sussex based not-for-private-profit cooperative of retrofit experts as an example.
- It was suggested that the ask that air quality should be to a “national standard” should be changed to instead be to “public health guidelines”.
- As well as consideration for the systemic issues that prevent people from being housed, it was suggested that there be a regional approach as different regions face different challenges.

Following discussions, it was proposed that there should be a reframing of key issues within the Boards’ remit when lobbying central government. Messaging should start with the aim of addressing economic issues and then determining issues or opportunities for growth in housing, environment and transport that can have an economic impact.

Members were reminded to share any relevant information relating to the impact social housing rent cap would have on councils.

Action:

The 2022/23 Priorities and Work Programme to be amended in line with the agreed Board positions and circulated to Board Lead Members for final agreement.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

5 Motion for the Ocean

The Chairman invited Members to consider the options set out in the report in response to the motion for the ocean from the Coastal Special Interest Group (SIG).

Members discussed whether to adopt the Motion for the Ocean, drawing on the motion adopted by the councils combined with some commitments to better consider ocean health in existing policy and improvement work or to adopt the Motion for the Ocean and meeting al request of the LGA Coastal SIG as set out in their original proposal.

The Chairman took the decision to a vote.

Decision:

Members **approved** the approach as stated in paragraph 7c) and set out the annex to the report.

6 EEHT Updates / Other Board Business

The Chairman invited Members to comment on the report which outlined updates with the Board's remit.

Members made the following comments:

- It was queried if the LGA position on shale gas could be reviewed
- There was interest in receiving further information on investment zones

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

7 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

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 Pippa Heylings Cllr Loic Rich | South Cambridgeshire District Council Cornwall Council |
| Members | Cllr Kelham Cooke Cllr Mark Crane Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards Cllr Paul Marshall Cllr Carl Les Mayor Paul Dennett Cllr Philip Bialyk Cllr Emily Darlington Cllr Anthony Okereke Cllr Sharon Thompson Cllr Stewart Golton Cllr Diana Moore | South Kesteven District Council Selby District Council Mid Sussex District Council West Sussex County Council North Yorkshire County Council Salford City Council Exeter City Council Milton Keynes Council Royal Borough of Greenwich Birmingham City Council Leeds City Council Exeter City Council |
| Apologies | Cllr Martin Gannon Mayor Philip Glanville Cllr Vikki Slade | Gateshead Council Hackney London Borough Council Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council |
| In Attendance | Cllr Ed Gemmell | Buckinghamshire Council |
| LGA Officers | Jo Allchurch Jessica Craig | |

Joe Difford
Abigail Gallop
Eamon Lally
Charles Loft
Kamal Panchal
Emilia Peters
Nick Porter
Andrew Richmond
Hilary Tanner