

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

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

Thursday, 17 November 2022

18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed and introduced members to Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board meeting.

Apologies were received Cllr Pippa Heylings, Cllr Paul Marshall and Cllr Darren Rodwell.

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

No declarations of interest were made.

2 National Grid Capacity

The Chairman introduced Paul Jewell, System Development Manager, who gave a [presentation](#) on the work of National Grid Electricity Distribution as well as context for low carbon technologies such as electric vehicle (EV) charging. There were plans to make future capacity available. The drive to Net Zero was one of the biggest changes to the electricity networks.

Members made the following comments:

- It was raised that limited grid capacity had prevented houses from being built in some parts of the UK
- It was queried how a more joined up partnership approach between Distribution Network Operators and councils could work together for detailed energy planning
- There was lots of enthusiasm within communities to set up solar panels which had been stalled due to limits with battery storage or grid capacity
- It was suggested that the behaviour of EV users would change as it becomes standard

In response, Paul Jewell advised that collaboration with councils had

varied but would like to have a more joined up approach to energy planning. It was anticipated there would be an increased use in EVs and this would add energy into the grid, but this would be considered in modelling.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

3 LGA Plan 2022-25

The Chairman invited Eamon Lally to introduce the LGA Plan 2022-25. The LGA Board signed off a new 3-year business plan which set out the direction for the LGA as a whole.

Following concerns over the changes to the economy and its unpredictability, members were advised that the plan would be reviewed when appropriate.

Members suggested one priority should read “government and councils work together to meet the country’s net zero carbon and climate change adaptation *commitments*”, rather than “carbon and climate change adaptation *ambitions*” with concerns “ambitions” was not as clear as in other priorities. Members were advised this would be fed back to political group leaders.

Decision:

Members **noted** the LGA Plan 2022-25 with the comments.

4 EEHT Update / Other Board Business

The Chairman invited members to comment on the report which outlined updates within the Board’s remit.

Members raised concerns over asylum seekers being housed in temporary accommodation within their local authority’s area without contact from the Home Office. As well as short term impacts, concerns were raised at the burden on councils to address long term wellbeing issues as a result of the environment of the accommodation. Members were advised that this was a widely reported issue and the LGA was engaging with the Home Office and Immigration Minister to address these issues.

The social housing rents cap was raised as a concern as it would likely result in less funding to invest in social housing stock.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

5 Fixed Penalty Notice for highways obstruction

The Chairman invited Simon Jeffrey, Adviser, to present the report which outlined the findings of a survey with the LGA's membership to develop the evidence base to support the case for alignment of powers to deal with highways obstructions with London.

Members welcomed the report and expressed support for the powers to Councils.

Decision:

Members **noted** the report.

6 Building Safety Update

The Chairman invited Eamon Lally, Principal Adviser, gave an update on the LGA's building safety work. It was announced that Bristol City Council would introduce interim measures in 38 blocks with expanded polystyrene (EPS) and rent wall cladding systems following a number of inspections.

Members made the following comments (RELISTEN):

- A workforce strategy to address building safety would be useful
- Addressing building safety regulations would impact councils differently and new burdens funding may be required
- The Cabinet Member for Housing at Bristol City Council, Cllr Tom Renhard, in attendance as an observing member expressed that there should be support for the social sector as well as the private sector.
- It was requested that updated application data for the Building Safety Fund be provided to members as the last update was in August.

Decision:

Members **noted** the update.

7 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

8 Adapting to climate change, local government and the third National Adaptation Programme

In light of the news that the guest speaker for the item was no longer able to attend the meeting, members agreed to defer the item to the next meeting of the Board.

9 Any other Business

With time left at the meeting, the Chairman invited members to raise any

topics relating to the Board.

Members raised the following:

- There were concerns raised over the Environment Agency's new requirements for the separation and disposal of soft furnishings so they are incinerated to make sure persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are destroyed safely.
- There was interest in further engagement with the National Grid or Energy Supply Organisation or Distribution Network Operators in a separate meeting.

Action:

A briefing note relating to the waste disposal regulations to be circulated to Board Members.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Loic Rich	Cornwall Council
Members	Cllr Kelham Cooke	South Kesteven District Council
	Cllr Mark Crane	Selby District Council
	Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Mid Sussex District Council
	Cllr Linda Taylor	Cornwall Council
	Mayor Philip Glanville	Hackney London Borough Council
	Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council
	Cllr Claire Holland	Lambeth London Borough Council
	Cllr Philip Bialyk	Exeter City Council
	Cllr Emily Darlington	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Vikki Slade	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
	Cllr Stewart Golton	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Diana Moore	Exeter City Council
Apologies	Cllr Paul Marshall	West Sussex County Council
	Cllr Darren Rodwell	Barking and Dagenham London Borough Council
	Cllr Pippa Heylings	South Cambridgeshire District Council
In Attendance	Ed Gemmell	Buckinghamshire Council
	Paul Jewell	System Development Manager, National Grid
LGA Officers	Calum Davidson	
	Simon Jeffrey	
	Eamon Lally	
	Angela Page	
	Nick Porter	
	Andrew Richmond	
	Marshall Scott	
	Jacqui Smale	
	Hilary Tanner	