

Urban Summit

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This report details proposals for a third urban summit, to be held in June 2024, with a focus on setting out the priorities of urban areas to national stakeholders ahead of the summer recess and with a view to influencing a forthcoming general election.

LGA Plan Theme: Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to consider the draft proposals for the third urban summit in June 2024, set out at paragraphs 5 and 6.

Contact details

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Urban Summit

Background

1. At the last Board meeting, Members agreed to hold a third Urban Summit at the end of the Board cycle, in June 2024.
2. Previous Urban Summits have brought together city leaders, policy experts, as well as other partners and stakeholders interested in the future of cities and urban areas to draw out their understanding of how cities need to change to meet the needs of the future and set out the offer from urban leaders looking to play their part in addressing some of the important challenges facing the nation.
3. Members agreed at the last meeting that, as we look to the next general election, the third urban summit will have a more focused agenda to give the Board, and its partner Special Interest Groups, a platform to engage key national decision makers and politicians, to amplify our offer: that, with the right policies, finances and space to deliver, cities can produce better outcomes, not just for urban areas, but for the whole country.

Proposal

4. Following feedback from Members, it is proposed that the next Urban Summit will take place instead of the last Board meeting, on Tuesday 18 June 2024. The location will be decided based on availability of speakers, likely to be the LGA's headquarters in Westminster given the proximity to national politicians.
5. Officers have developed a draft structure for the Summit as a starting point for discussion. This reflects feedback that the aim of the Summit should go beyond questions exploring the purpose of cities or thematic sessions setting out the challenge urban areas face. Instead, it is proposed that the focus of the event should be around articulating offers and asks that respond to the needs of urban leaders and hearing directly from national political parties about what to expect from a new or returning government.
6. As such, the draft structure is slightly different from the last two urban summits:

Time	Item	Speaker
10:00-10:15	Welcome	Cllr Satvir Kaur
10:15-11:15	Panel discussion with urban leaders from across England, setting out their priorities for change.	Volunteers from City Regions Board Metro Mayor perspective
11:15-12:30 (or at other times as diaries allow)	Keynote speakers from the national political parties focused on the future of cities and discussion on what to expect from a new or returning government.	Jacob Young MP Angela Rayner MP Helen Morgan MP
12:30-13:15	Lunch	
13:15-14:15	Thematic sessions, focused on providing local leaders with the opportunity to	

	engage directly with key national stakeholders and push for reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and sustainable economic growth including skills and employment support. • Housing and regeneration, including the relationship between Homes England and local authorities • Transport, including sub-national rail and bus franchising 	
14:15-14:30	Break	
14:30-15:30	Thematic sessions, focused on providing local leaders with the opportunity to engage directly with key national stakeholders and push for reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future of devolution, including the relationship between urban leaders and combined authorities. • Wider changes in the relationship between national and local government. 	
15:30-16:00	Roundup of the day and close	Chair
16:00	Reception and networking	

7. Members are asked to agree the broad proposals for timing, location and format for the Urban Summit. We would welcome additional suggestions for themes, speakers and attendees.

Implications for Wales

8. This work is being carried out within the context of the Levelling Up White Paper, which presents a vision for the UK. While many of the investment and policy levers are likely different within the Welsh context there will be value in drawing on the experience of Welsh cities and the aspirations of Welsh city leaders as part of this work.

Financial Implications

9. The cost of arranging an urban summit as well as any additional policy activity arising from this paper will be met from the Board's 2024/25 policy and research budget.

Equalities implications

10. Officers will ensure that the urban summit has a diverse range of speakers which reflects the diversity of cities in the UK, and that equalities implications of policies affecting cities are examined as part of the sessions taking place in the urban summit.

Next steps

11. Subject to feedback from members, officers will agree a date and agenda for the urban summit and bring this to the Board for agreement.