

Note of last Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board meeting

Title: Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board
Date: Thursday 23 November 2023
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, declarations of interest The Chair welcomed members to the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board meeting. No declarations of interest were made.	
2	Right to Buy The report was introduced by Georgina Brightwell, Adviser, before Members discussed the paper raising the following comments on a right to buy position for the LGA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanks was given to the officers for producing the report and it formed a good foundation for a discussion amongst Members.• The system in its current format does not work for local authorities nor those in need of social housing.• The policy was causing a net loss of homes for Councils and disincentivising replacement.• The choice should be for Councils to decide what is right for their place.• 100% receipt retention should be made permanent.• Extending the new build protection for additional years would protect Councils investments.• The housing association picture should not be lost in this work.• Consideration should be given to developing proposals for complimentary schemes to help to buy, rent, own and/or invest.• Acquisition caps should be raised so that Councils who best approach to providing social homes through purchasing replacements can benefit from receipt use. Members asked officers to produce a further position statement to be developed based on the discussion to be brought to the next meeting of the Board for decision.	
	Decision: The report and subsequent discussion were noted.	

3 Transport Update

The paper was introduced by Kamal Panchal, Senior Adviser, who summarised a number of recent announcements in transport policy. Members raised the following points:

- Members would be contributing to an article, produced cross-party, about the impact of the £8.3bn announcement arising from the cancellation of parts of the HS2 scheme.
- There were a number of Councils that would have seen direct impacts from HS2 that were especially disappointed in its cancellation north of Birmingham.
- Permitted development could raise challenges for Councils in ensuring safe and useful EV charging provision.
- Lane rental has proved to be a great success in many areas.
- Anti-idling campaigns could be effective, along with other enforcement areas but were not currently adequately resourced.
- There was a shortage of trained engineers affecting many infrastructure projects.
- Children were reported to have challenges travelling to secondary schools as they did not feel safe enough.
- 5-year planning statements at a national level were welcomed, but the ability to plan long term at a local level was needed.
- New burdens funding would be critical to help enforcement.

Decision:

The Board noted the developments and potential impacts on councils outlined in the report.

4 Local Government White Paper

Sonika Sidhu, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report on the White Paper before taking comments from Members on the content:

- Local authorities were best placed to deliver on prevention and statutory duties around, for example, net zero.
- 5-year transport plans should sit alongside 5-year housing deals to reduce silo-working.
- Complex care and out-of-borough placements should be included in the children's travel piece.

Decision:

The Board noted the report and subsequent discussion.

5 Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board Update Report

The Chair invited Eamon Lally to present the report which outlined updates within the Board's remit. Members highlighted the following:

- Many Afghan families were leaving Home Office Hotels, which was having an impact on homelessness levels.
- The LGA launched its Make It Local campaign focusing on how

we reshape and reset public policy, including “Acting on Climate Change”

- The LGA and Urban Transport Group published a joint report reviewing the Bus Services Act 2017 to empower local areas.

Decision:

Members noted the update.

6 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.