

18 March 2015

Task and Finish Group Updates

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to update EEHT Board members on developments related to the four task and finish groups:

- Active Travel
- Community Transport
- Apprenticeships for Young People
- Energy

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the recent updates regarding the four EEHT Task and Finish Groups.

Action

Officers to take actions as directed by the Board.

Contact officer: Kamal Panchal (Active Travel and Community Transport)

Position: Senior Advisor

Phone no: 020 7664 3174

Email: Kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk

Contact officer: Caroline Green (Energy)

Position: Senior Advisor

Phone no: 020 7664 3359

Email: Caroline.green@local.gov.uk

Contact officer: Nick Porter (Apprenticeships)

Position: Senior Advisor

Phone no: 020 7664 3113

Email: Nick.porter@local.gov.uk

Task and Finish Group Updates

1. The purpose of this paper is to update EEHT Board members on developments related to the four task and finish groups:
 - 1.1 Active Travel
 - 1.2 Community Transport
 - 1.3 Apprenticeships for young people
 - 1.4 Energy

Active Travel Task and Finish Group (Cllr Roger Symonds - chair, Cllr Deborah Croney, Cllr Brenda Arthur, Cllr Julian German)

2. The aim of the Active Travel T&F group is to bring back to the EEHT board a consideration of the key barriers that prevent councils from doing more to promote cycling and walking, to identify future lobbying requirements and further signposting to support councils. The group, which met on 26th February, considered the results of a survey conducted by Surrey county council and heard presentations from Sustrans and Living Streets. The meeting approved a proposed survey of councils and identified a number of potential key issues to examine further, as follows:
 - 2.1 Links between councils and public health engagement with CCGs and NHS generally;
 - 2.2 School journeys;
 - 2.3 LGA's potential signposting role in relation to European funding for active travel;
 - 2.4 Lessons from the Welsh Active Travel Act;
 - 2.5 The need to avoid the essence of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund being lost following its absorption into the Local Growth Fund;
 - 2.6 LGA should be involved in discussions over the future of the Active Travel Consortium following the cessation of its funding in March 2015;
 - 2.7 LGA needs to further link up its work on active travel – including Local Partnerships, who have a role in delivery of the DfT's Transport Delivery Excellence Programme and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board;
 - 2.8 The need to consider what may come out of developments in Greater Manchester; and
 - 2.9 LGA needs to lobby for the cycling and walking investment strategy established in the Infrastructure Act to be implemented.
3. Members agreed that the group should report back to the board meeting after next, using the survey as the basis of a report on barriers and potential barriers to council/LEP promotion of active travel.

Buses and Community Transport Task and Finish Group (Cllr Deborah Croney - chair, Cllr James Lewis, Cllr Roger Symonds, Cllr Julian German)

4. The aim of the Buses/ Community Transport T&F group is to bring back to the EEHT board how councils are responding to the financial pressures on local buses, and to inform future lobbying on devolution as well as issues relating to new ways of working, such as 'Total Transport' and pooling of resources.

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5. The meeting, which was held on 26th February, heard presentations from the Community Transport Association and the Campaign for Better Transport, both of which included references to the ongoing Total Transport pilots. Total Transport involves pooling all public funding for supported transport in a given area. The Government recently invited bids for funding of pilot desk-based studies of Total Transport.
6. Members agreed that officers should conduct in-depth interviews with portfolio holders and heads of service or other appropriate people in a small number of authorities looking at how each has responded to the financial pressure on bus services, what the immediate future looks like and what part franchising, community transport and total transport might play in reshaping that future.
7. These interviews would form the basis of a future report to the EEHT Board.

Apprenticeships Task and Finish Group (Cllr Ann Steward - chair, Cllr Ian Stewart, Cllr Tim Cheetham, and Cllr Linda van den Hende)

8. The Apprenticeships task and finish group will bring back to the board recommendations for advancing the EEHT board's activity on the future of apprenticeships, particularly for young people.
9. The meeting held on 9 March brought together a range of partners to explore how councils can support employers to create apprenticeship opportunities for young people. This included the Federation of Small Businesses, Construction Industry Training Board, Federation of Master Builders, the Engineering Employers Foundation, Association of Colleges, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, training providers, and an apprentice.
10. There was a good degree of consensus across partners on developing new local models that can engage employers to create better quality apprenticeships, and to work with schools to ensure young people were aware and capable of taking those opportunities. The session has helped inform the LGA's work with fifteen councils and the Institute for Public Policy Research, which will be taken back to the board for discussion.

Energy Task and Finish Group (Cllr John Northcott - chair, Cllr Tim Moore, Cllr Mike Jones, Cllr Keith House)

11. The aim of the Energy Task and Finish Group is to lead a project to highlight councils work on developing renewable and low carbon energy schemes and explore and promote opportunities for councils to secure revenue and community benefit from renewable energy. The group met in December 2014 to agree the scope of its work. It is proposed that this will include a case study library to promote action taken by councils and a report examining the potential for councils to reduce their energy costs through energy efficiency and generation and what is needed to enable councils to realise the benefits. Officers have developed proposals for the project to be delivered in conjunction with the Innovation and Improvement Board for discussion and

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approval from the task group. It is envisaged that the report will be completed by Summer.

12. It was also agreed that the task group will lead on the Board's engagement with DECC and will seek a meeting with Ministers to share the findings of the work following the election.