

1 October 2015

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Work Programme 2015/16

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out a draft work programme for the Environment Housing and Economy Board for 2015/16. The work programme seeks to:

- Reflect the broad remit for the Board and provide some continuity.
- Recognise the government's legislative agenda including the forthcoming Housing and Buses bills as well as the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015.
- Reflect the LGA Leadership Board priorities, specifically for the EEHT board to lead a Housing Commission (a Housing Commission Item is on this agenda).

Recommendation

The Board is asked to consider and comment on the draft work programme set out in this report and to agree a final version.

Action

Officers will take action as directed.

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Draft EEHT Work programme 2015/16

Priority	Key outcomes	Board Activity	Timescales
Housing/planning	Undertake a Housing Commission to look at housing supply and the future role of local authorities in shaping, with their partners, and meeting housing that meets the needs of communities and employers, helping drive growth and employment and meets the specific challenges of an aging population	The EEHT Board will lead the Housing Commission (which is a Leadership Board priority) and will draw on the advice and guidance of a network of experts.	Completion/publication by March/April 2015- Part of the publication at the 2016 LGA annual conference June/July 2016
	Housing Bill and housing elements of the Welfare Reform Bill: to support the government broad aims of increasing housing supply and to mitigate any negative impacts of recent government housing policies	The Board will provide political leadership as the LGA seeks to influence the implementation of government policy through the Housing Bill and the housing elements of the Welfare Reform Bill	Housing Bill laid mid-October 2015. The resulting Act is expected to come into effect from April 2016. Welfare Reform Bill is currently before the House.
	Productivity Plan (Planning): to work with government to strengthen the local planning function and to mitigate any negative impacts from the implementation of the Productivity plan	The Board will provide political leadership as the LGA seeks to influence the implementation of government's planning policy through the Housing Bill	Bill laid mid-October 2015 The resulting Act is expected to come into effect from April 2016
Transport	Local transport infrastructure: to ensure that local transport infrastructure is a priority for	Continue to push for a fair deal for local roads	July 2016

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	government, reflected in the negotiations on city and county deals and that future investment strategies for the strategic roads network and the rail network is better integrated with local transport and provides the maximum opportunity for investment in local growth.	Ensure that councils and their local partners are full participants in the development of national transport infrastructure, through the Highways England Roads Investment strategy and influence the next control period of the Rail Investment Strategy	
	Buses: to ensure that the Government takes the opportunity of the Buses Bill to bring forward measures that will lead to a more strategic approach to ensuring that buses meet the needs of communities and contribute to local growth and community health and wellbeing	Produce a Buses publication based on the work of the Task and Finish Group in the last session. To work with government on the content of the buses bill, through engagement with ministers and political leadership of the sector.	October 2015 October 2015-March 2015
	To ensure councils have the correct tools available for effective traffic management and in meeting local needs. .	Defend local government's reputation and freedom of action in respect of off street parking' Ensure the government's response to the supreme court's air quality ruling enhances the ability of councils to tackle the problem through a package of relevant	July 2016

		transport measures – in conjunction with buses bill.	
	That councils have funding certainty for highways maintenance and that Government support for local roads maintenance is at least equal to that for strategic roads network.	For the Board to keep a watching brief on highways maintenance spending, the national backlog of maintenance and repairs and continues to press Government for fair treatment as opportunities arise.	July 2016
Growth	Local growth fund: Reduce the number of ring-fenced budgets, ensuring that the local growth fund evolves into a genuine reflection of the Heseltine single pot	The Board will continue to lobby government through the Spending review process.	
	Local growth: maintaining local government’s momentum as a leader in the creation of the conditions for local growth, through the sharing of experiences and innovative practice	Board to Commission two growth seminars. Research: future proofing local economies: the role of LAs	March 2016
	That local government’s ambition in supporting and promoting local growth is coherent, integrated, reflects membership priorities and recognised nationally.	Board to commission an overview of councils’ role in promoting local growth and to highlight the opportunities and challenges through a small number of case studies.	December 2015
Environment/Waste	To ensure that producers are bearing an appropriate responsibility for waste within the circular economy model Recycling targets from 2020 are reasonable and reflect the current position of nation states	The Board will provide political leadership as the LGA seeks to influence the UK’s approach to meeting the 2020 50% recycling target and the development by the EU of potentially more testing future	July 2016

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		targets.	
Winter weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and defend the reputation of councils and their work to help residents and businesses prepare for and respond to severe winter weather. 	<p>Winter readiness survey of local authorities.</p> <p>In the event of severe weather provide communications, policy and advocacy support at a national level. E.G. Salt Cell</p>	Oct/ Nov 2015