

Department for Communities and Local Government Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on 30 January 2013

Present

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State
- The Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Nick Boles MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

- Sara Weller, Lead Non Executive Board Member
- Diana Brightmore-Armour, Non Executive Board Member
- Nick Markham, Non Executive Board Member

- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary
- Peter Schofield, Director General
- Sue Higgins, Director General
- Simon Ridley, Acting Director General
- Andrew Campbell, Director

Secretariat

David Hill

Angela McArdle

Apologies

Baroness Hanham

Baroness Warsi

Stephen Hay

Introduction and matters arising

1. The Secretary of State welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

High Streets Strategy

2. The Secretary of State invited Mark Prisk to introduce the item. The Minister outlined the economic challenges facing High Streets. Building on the Portas Review, different areas would need bespoke solutions - all High Streets were not the same.
3. In discussion it was recognised that there had been some progress through recent planning reforms towards revitalising High Streets, and it would be important to continue this work.
4. The Board agreed that further work should be done to develop a range of options to further support the revitalisation of High Streets.

Enterprise Zones

5. Cathy Francis introduced the item, the purpose of which was to take stock of delivery on Enterprise Zones.
6. In discussion the following points were made. It was recognised that the programme required active engagement with all Government Depts which had programmes which involved LEPs and EZs. It was also recognised that there were different solutions required in each Zone.
7. The Board agreed that it would be important to engage directly at Ministerial and at senior official level with EZs to provide constructive challenge and support.

Spending Round 15/16

8. Sue Higgins introduced the item and informed the Board about the Department's preparations for Budget 2013 and Spending Round (SR).

Performance and Risk Appetite

9. Andrew Campbell introduced the item. There had been good progress on implementation of coalition commitments – with DCLG currently ranked 5th out of 17 Departments and with further improvements anticipated by (financial) year end.

10. Andrew Campbell also presented a paper on Risk Appetite for the Board's endorsement.

Board Evaluation Exercise

12. Sara Weller reported that Cabinet Office had launched the Board Evaluation exercise and she would be arranging meetings with Board members over the coming weeks to review how the Board can work better together to deliver departmental objectives.

AoB and Concluding Remarks

13. The Secretary of State thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting. The Board would meet again in March.

End