

# **Department for Communities and Local Government Board Meeting**

## **Minutes of the Board meeting held on 24 November 2011**

### **Present:**

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Baroness Hanham – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
  
- Sara Weller, Lead Non Executive Board Member
- Diana Brightmore-Armour, Non Executive Board Member
- Stephen Hay, Non Executive Board Member
  
- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary
- David Prout, Director-General
- Sue Higgins, Director-General
- Andrew Campbell, Director, Strategy and Programme Team

### **Secretariat:**

- David Hill
- Helen Courtis

### **Item 1: Introduction and matters arising**

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

### **Item 2: DCLG restructuring and staffing levels**

2. Sue Higgins introduced the paper which set out how the Department had delivered the planned staffing and paybill reductions required following the 2012 Spending Review.
3. In discussion, the Board made the following points:
  - Agreed that the Department had managed the restructuring exercise well and there was a number of positive examples of shifting resources to meet priorities.
  - The Board noted the large number of staff who would leave the Department in April 2012.

### **Item 3: Housing Strategy**

4. Andrew Campbell introduced the item on the Housing Strategy, which had been published earlier in the week. In discussion, the following points were made:
  - The Non Executive Directors noted the positive launch of the Strategy and challenged the Department to identify the initiatives which would deliver the biggest impact.

- The Board noted the importance of continuing to collect information and evidence from delivery partners, to help measure success of key initiatives.

#### **Item 4: Performance**

5. The Board discussed the paper on performance which provided progress on the Structural Reform Plan, an updated Policy Pipeline and key delivery challenges for the Department.
6. The Secretary of State invited the Board to comment on the paper. In discussion, the following points were made:
  - The Board congratulated the Department on delivering a number of key priorities including Royal Assent of the Localism Act; completing a key milestone in restructuring the Department; and managing down liability on the ERDF programme.
  - The Board Operating Framework and forward schedule of Board meetings for 2012 were agreed.

#### **Item 5: AoB and concluding remarks**

7. The Secretary of State thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting.