

**Department for Communities and Local Government  
Board Meeting  
13 March 2013**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

- Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State (Co-Chair)
- Baroness Hanham – Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Co-Chair)
- 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
- Stephen Hay, Non Executive Board Member
- Diana Brightmore-Armour, Non Executive Board Member
- Nick Markham, Non Executive Board Member
  
- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary (for part)
- Peter Schofield, Director-General
- Sue Higgins, Director-General
- Louise Casey, Director-General
- Simon Ridley, Acting Director-General
- Andrew Campbell, Director
  
- Philip Cox, Director (Item 1)
- Martin Donnelly, Permanent Secretary BIS (Item 2)
- Bernadette Kelly, Director-General BIS (Item 2)

**Apologies:**

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

**Secretariat:**

- Lucy Yates
- Louisa Brownlee

**Introduction and matters arising**

1. Mark Prisk welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

**Item 1: Follow Up to January Board**

2. Peter Schofield and Philip Cox introduced the item which followed up on the Enterprise Zone discussion at the last meeting. Peter explained how it would be useful for the Non-Executive Directors to help drive the Enterprise Zone agenda

forward through linking them with sites where their commercial expertise could be used.

3. The Board noted that Delivery Plans for the Zones would be received by the end of March 2013.

#### **Item 2: Growth**

4. Peter Schofield introduced the item and set out the role of DCLG in the growth agenda. The three key areas of departmental focus were: planning, housing and local leadership. The Growth and Infrastructure Bill would support delivery in all of them.
5. The Board discussed incentives for local leaders to enable growth and agreed that these should be strong. The Board discussed the role of DCLG and recognised the collaborative working underway with other Government departments.
6. The Chair then introduced the Permanent Secretary of BIS, Martin Donnelly, and Director-General Bernadette Kelly, who gave a presentation on the Industrial Strategy. The key principles of which are:
  - Long-term, whole of Government approach
  - Partnership with business at its heart
  - Building confidence and giving greater certainty
  - Covering sectors, technologies, access to finance, procurement and skills
7. In discussion a number of areas of particular relevance to DCLG were highlighted: construction strategy; planning; and procurement. It was also noted that BIS and DCLG were working closely together in relation to local growth and City Deals.

#### **Item 3: Hot Topic – Community Action**

8. Don Foster introduced the item, providing the Board with the context behind the Government's work to promote community action and updating on recent progress and achievements.
9. In discussion it was agreed that the Department should continue its work to extend local people's influence over decisions which affect their local area.

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

10. The Board discussed the paper on performance which provided a review of performance and key delivery challenges for the Department. It was noted that performance against Business Plan commitments remained strong.

#### **AOB and concluding remarks**

11. Sara Weller introduced her Board Evaluation paper and summarised her findings after interviewing Board members individually on Board effectiveness.

End