

**Department for Communities and Local Government**  
Minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 July 2013

**Present:**

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State
- Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (for part)
- 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
- Andrew Campbell, Director

**Also present:**

- Patrick White (Item 2)
- David Rossington (Item 2)
- Philip Cox, Director (Item 3)

**Apologies:**

- The Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Helen Edwards, Director-General

**Secretariat:**

- David Hill
- Lucy Yates
- Julie Nelson

**Item 1: Introduction and matters arising**

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

**Item 2: Spending Round**

2. The Director of Local Government Policy summarised the spending round outcome for Local Government Departmental Expenditure Limit (LG DEL). The Finance Director then summarised the spending round outcome for Local DCLG Departmental Expenditure Limit (DCLG DEL).

3. In discussion the Board agreed that the skill set in the department needed to reflect the tasks arising from the Spending Round settlement; and that October's Board should consider Troubled Families innovation and lessons learned for wider public service transformation.

### **Item 3: Growth**

4. The Director of Local Economies, Regeneration and European Programmes introduced the item and set out three key elements of the local growth agenda; the Heseltine Review, the Enterprise Zone programme and High Streets.
5. In discussion, the Board
  - Considered the department's approach to the Heseltine work
  - Reviewed progress in Enterprise Zones
  - Considered the range of challenges facing high streets and the measures being taken to promote their revitalisation

### **Item 4: Performance and Risk Appetite**

6. The Director of Strategy and Performance provided a review of performance and implementation challenges for the Department.
7. In discussion, the following points were made:
  - The Board recognised that the outturn rankings for last year's Business Plan demonstrated strong delivery of the Department's priorities
  - The Board noted that the Department's accounts had been qualified due to a breach of the net cash requirement and a breach of the LG DEL Capital Parliamentary controls following breaches in two Arms' Length Bodies
  - The Board noted that the next Audit and Risk Committee would consider the scope of the CIPFA-based review of the Department's finance function and agreed that the outcome should be reported to the Board

The Board agreed that there should be a report back to the October Board of the outcome of the CIPFA-based review of the finance function.

### **AOB and concluding remarks**

8. The Board agreed that the agenda for the next meeting.
9. The revised Terms of Reference were agreed.
10. The Secretary of State thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting.