

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

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

### **Present:**

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

### **Secretariat:**

- Nick Dexter
- Helen Courtis

### **Apologies:**

- Diana Brightmore-Armour, Non Executive Board Member

### **Introduction**

1. The Secretary of State welcomed the Non Executive Directors to the Board meeting and thanked them for their input on the Audit Commission work and for their observations from the induction day.

### **Item 1: Policy Pipeline: Implementation of 2013 Goals and Business Plan Refresh**

2. Sir Bob Kerslake introduced the paper. The purpose of the Policy Pipeline was to provide an illustration of the major pieces of policy development against Ministerial priorities up to 2013.
3. The Secretary of State invited the Board to comment on the paper. In discussion, the following points were made:
  - The schematic and the organisation of policies under common themes were welcomed. Its usefulness would be further enhanced by including additional stages of policy development, such as legislative milestones and implementation phases.

- It would be important to track progress against the policies for the Board to review at each of its meetings. It was noted that the SRP refresh would need to be reflected in the Policy Pipeline, once completed.

### **Item 2: Growth and the Budget**

4. Richard McCarthy introduced the discussion by updating the Board on the impact of the Budget (published the previous day) on the Department. A number of commitments would be delivered by the Department, which together emphasised the Department's strong economic role.
5. The Secretary of State invited the Board to comment on the paper. The Board focussed on three Budget commitments for which the Department would lead - Enterprise Zones, the National Planning Policy Framework (including the Presumption in favour of sustainable development) and the new product for first time buyers.

### **Item 3: Future of Transparency and Open Data in DCLG**

6. David Prout introduced the paper by setting out what the Department had already done to open up data to the public, the extent to which that data had been used and its impact, and options for going further.
7. The Secretary of State invited the Board to comment on the paper. In discussion, the following points were made:
  - It was noted that in some cases offering too much information can be overwhelming, so it would be important to ensure any further opening up of data was aligned to what people want.
  - There was a case for publishing the salaries of all Senior Civil Servants (SCS) in the Department. The Cabinet Office was leading on the policy issues around transparency in SCS pay.

### **Item 4: Strategic Risk**

8. Sir Bob Kerslake and Sara Weller introduced their papers on strategic risk. In discussion the following points were made:
  - Sara noted that the next few months had a higher risk profile and suggested that the Board focus on one or two big risks at each of its meetings, which the Secretary of State agreed.

### **Item 5: Concluding remarks**

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

**Helen Courtis**  
**March 2011**