

Department for Communities and Local Government Board Meeting

Minutes of the Board meeting held on 15 May 2012

Present:

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chair)
- Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

- Diana Brightmore-Armour, (Acting) Lead Non Executive Board Member
- Stephen Hay, Non Executive Board Member
- Stewart Gilliland, Non Executive Board Member

- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary
- David Prout, Director General
- Sue Higgins, Director General
- Peter Schofield, Director General
- Louise Casey, Director General
- Andrew Campbell, Director

Also Present:

- Philip Cox, Director of Local Economics, Regenerations and European Programmes (Item 2)
- Paul Woolston, Chair, North East Local Enterprise Partnership (Item 2)
- Maitland Hyslop, Chair, Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Item 2)
- Joe Tuke – Director of Troubled Families (Item 3)

Apologies:

- Sara Weller, Lead Non Executive Board Member
- The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Andrew Stunell MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Secretariat:

- Gillie Severin
- David Hill

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: Local Growth Stocktake

2. SoS asked Peter Schofield to introduce the Growth paper.

3. In introducing the paper, Peter noted that Local Enterprise Partnerships were central to delivery of the growth agenda, and that good progress had been made in setting them up. He noted that the Non Executive Directors had agreed with this view. The Board discussed where there were barriers to Local Enterprise Partnerships ambitions and noted that broadband, skills deficit and working capital were issues common to all Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Board then discussed how additional support could be provided.

Item 3: Troubled Families

4. Louise Casey introduced the paper on Troubled Families and asked the Board to note that 90% of Local Authorities had already agreed to work with the Troubled Families team.
5. In discussion the following points were made:
 - Louise asked the team to note several points on risk management:
 - The approach taken by the Community Budgets team in DCLG had meant that Louise and her team were not starting from scratch.
 - Very early on in the programme, the team had asked each Local Authorities to identify how many families they would be looking to support.
 - There was a huge imperative, both financial and moral to get right family intervention right. In particular, the impact would have a positive outcome on social care.
6. The Board noted the positive progress in Troubled Families, and agreed that Louise should keep the Board updated.

Item 4: Next Spending Review

7. Andrew introduced the Medium Term Financial Planning item and updated the Board on progress.

AoB and Concluding Remarks

8. The Secretary of State asked Board members to note the Annual Report and Accounts update and that the final document would be tabled in July for information once it had been approved by Audit and Risk Committee.
9. The July draft agenda was approved, with the addition of Growth as a standing item.
10. The Secretary of State thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting.