

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOARD MEETING

11 February 2014

Minutes

Present:

- Nick Boles MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Baroness Stowell, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (for part)
- Kris Hopkins MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Stephen Williams MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

- Sara Weller, Lead Non Executive Board Member (Chair)
- Stephen Hay, Non Executive Board Member
- Nick Markham, Non Executive Board Member
- Grenville Turner, Non Executive Board Member

- Sir Bob Kerslake, Permanent Secretary
- Helen Edwards, Director-General
- Peter Schofield, Director-General
- Andrew Campbell, Director-General
- Louise Casey, Director-General
- David Rossington, Director of Finance
- David Hill, Director of Strategy, Communications and Private Office

- Dame Barbara Stocking, Non Executive Director, Cabinet Office

- Paul Spooner (Item 1)
- Tom Walker (Item 1)
- Philip Cox (Item 1)

Apologies:

- The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP – Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Secretariat:

- Nina Shuttlewood
- Julie Nelson

Introduction and matters arising

1. Sara Weller welcomed attendees to the meeting. The Secretary of State was absent due to his involvement in the Government's response to the flooding in the South of England.

Item 1: Enterprise Zones

2. Tom Walker introduced Paul Spooner from Local Partnerships, author of a review of progress in implementing Enterprise Zones, and invited him to present his findings to the Board.
3. Paul Spooner took the Board through his presentation. He outlined the review framework, which covered three key areas: Leadership, Commercial proposition and Property Offer. Paul summarised that all zones should see success by 2015 in terms of physical development, attracting new business and creating new jobs. Nearly all zones could accelerate this performance by focusing on where impact could be greatest. The EZ brand was gaining credibility and was increasingly recognised by industry.
4. Regarding next steps, Paul set out a number of recommendations for maintaining momentum across the EZ programme and continuing to develop the EZ brand.
5. In discussion a number of points were made:
 - Branding and effective communications were very important, both internationally and a local level
 - Effective engagement of other government departments was a key factor in the success of the programme
 - The programme was expected to make demonstrable progress in the short term but was also about having a long-term impact over ten years. It would be important to have clear success measures in place

Action: The next Performance Report for the Board to consider Enterprise Zones

Item 2: Budget

6. David Rossington gave a brief update on preparations for the Budget. Ministers would be having further preparatory discussions over the next few weeks.

Item 3: Performance

7. Andrew Campbell introduced this item. Key areas of work, namely Troubled Families; Local Plans and Social Care Integration, would be high implementation priorities over the coming period.

8. Andrew then introduced the risk report, highlighting the work in hand to develop the department's capacity to manage financial instruments. On business plan commitments, 80% were expected to be completed on time, a comparable performance to last year.
9. Peter Schofield provided an update on the ERDF interruption. EC Commissioner Hahn would be visiting the UK at the end of February.

AOB and concluding remarks

10. The Board members agreed that the agenda for the next meeting should included the topics as set out in the Forward Look, subject to the Secretary of State's approval:
 - a. Better Care Fund
 - b. Local Growth and Town Centres
 - c. Board Effectiveness Evaluation
 - d. Performance
11. The Chair thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting. The meeting concluded at 13.00

Board Secretariat
March 2014