

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOARD MEETING

2 DECEMBER 2014

Minutes

Present:

- Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Chairman)
- Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State
- Lord Ahmad, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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

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

- Michael Cassidy, Chairman Designate Ebbsfleet Urban Development Corporation (Item 1)
- Emma Fraser, Deputy Director, Housing Growth (Item 1)
- Nula Clark, Housing Growth (Item 1)
- Matthew Style (Item 2)

Apologies:

- Kris Hopkins MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Penny Mordaunt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Stephen Williams MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
- Helen Edwards, Director-General
- Louise Casey, Director-General

Secretariat:

- Nina Shuttlewood
- Ruth Candlish

Introduction and matters arising

1. The Secretary of State welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. The minutes from the October Board meeting were agreed.

Item 1: Ebbsfleet

3. Peter Schofield welcomed Michael Cassidy to the meeting and reiterated the importance of this project for the department.
4. Emma Fraser set out the three challenges for the project:
 - a. Getting legislation in place to establish the Urban Development Corporation
 - b. Getting support systems in place, subject to Treasury approval of expenditure
 - c. Getting commercial delivery underway
5. Michael Cassidy gave a short overview of the work that he had done to date. He outlined the need for the Garden City to establish a positive legacy, and the need to make progress on a range of infrastructure requirements on the site, including schools and transport.
6. In discussion the Board highlighted the importance of creating genuine communities, well supported by infrastructure in the Garden City and endorsed the objective of delivering 15,000 homes in 10 years.

Item 2: Autumn Statement

7. David Rossington briefly presented on the emerging details of the Department's key interests in the Autumn Statement
8. Matthew Style updated the Board on preparations for the Local Government Finance Settlement and reported that it remained on track.

Item 3: Performance

9. The Secretary of State opened this item by noting that the Troubled Families team had won the policy team of the year award at the Civil Service awards.
10. Andrew Campbell reported that good progress continued to be made on delivery of business plan priorities but that ERDF delivery remained challenging. Andrew noted that there would be continued focus on the Better Care Fund through the winter period. The Board briefly discussed the likely timing of publication of Sir Bob Kerslake's review of Birmingham City Council, due early December and Louise Casey's reviews of Rotherham.

Item 4: AOB

20. The Board agreed that the agenda for the next meeting on 2 March 2015 could include:

- a. ERDF
- b. The Budget
- c. Performance

21. The Chairman thanked attendees for their contribution to the meeting.

Board Secretariat
December 2014