

LEADERS' BOARD – EAST OF ENGLAND

Agenda Item 8c

Portfolio Area: Leader of the Council
Report Presented by: Councillor Graham Butland

Background Papers: Letter from East of England, EERA reports and minutes
Corporate Implications: Please refer to table at end of report
Options: To agree or not to agree to establish a Leaders' Board for the East of England.
Risks: Lack of influence on regional issues after the cessation of the East of England Regional Assembly.

Executive Summary

As Members will be aware, there has been consideration discussion concerning the local government national representation and structure following the demise of EERA on 31st March 2010.

The attached letter from EERA is self-explanatory and is part of the statutory consultation.

Decision

(i) To support the arrangements for the establishment of a Leaders' Board for the East of England.

Corporate Implications

Financial:	NIL			
Legal:	NIL			
Equalities & Diversity:	NIL			
Customer Impact:	NIL			
Environment & Climate Change:	NIL			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	No	Partners	No
	Public	No	Staff	No
Key Decision:	No			
Public/Private Report:	Public			
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Designation:	Chief Executive			
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CONSULTATION ON THE SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LEADERS' BOARD FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Clause 71 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act commenced on 25th November 2009. This requires local authorities in the region to prepare a Scheme (proposed arrangements) for establishing Leaders' Boards. Prior to submitting the Scheme to the Secretary of State for approval, the Scheme should be the subject to a round of consultation. The consultation period should start immediately and would last for 6 weeks.
- 1.2 Set out below is the proposed Scheme for the East of England.

2. The Scheme

- 2.1 Pursuant to Clause 71 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the principal local authorities in the East of England, together with the Broads Authority are required to establish a Leaders' Board.
- 2.2 The Leaders' Board will have joint responsibility with the RDA for revising, implementing and monitoring the Regional Strategy in accordance with the Act.
- 2.3 This Scheme setting out the proposed arrangements was considered and agreed by the Assembly of the East of England Local Government Association at its inaugural meeting on 19th November 2009.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the Leaders' Board shall be the members of the Assembly of the East of England Local Government Association, that is the elected Mayors or Council Leaders of each of the principal local authorities (or their nominee), together with the Chairman of the Broads Authority. All principal local authorities will therefore be represented.
- 3.2 The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Assembly of the East of England Association will be the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Leaders' Board.
- 3.3 Each member of the Leaders' Board will have one vote at any meeting of the Leaders' Board.

4. Meetings

- 4.1 Meetings of the Leaders' Board shall take place under auspices of the agreed constitution of the East of England Local Government Association. Leaders' Board business will take place as part of the ordinary meetings of the Assembly of the Association with a separate part of the Agenda being set aside.
- 4.2 All meetings of the Leaders' Board will be open to the press and public unless there are grounds for exclusion of the press and public under the Access to Information provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Leaders' Board resolves to exclude them.

5. Joint Arrangements with the RDA (the Regional Strategy Board)

- 5.1 The Leaders' Board shall fulfil its obligations under the Act, jointly with the RDA, as the two "responsible regional authorities". The Leaders' Board shall appoint 16 of its members to a Regional Strategy Board, established jointly with the RDA to enable the Leaders' Board to discharge their statutory responsibilities. The Leaders' Board representatives on the Regional Strategy Board shall be accountable to the full Leaders' Board.
- 5.2 The Regional Strategy Board shall consist of 16 representative of the Leaders' Board (each with one vote), 8 Members of the RDA (each with two votes), 4 representatives of key delivery agencies and 2 representatives of the stakeholder partnership. It will normally meet four times a year.
- 5.3 The 16 Leaders' Board representatives are appointed as follows:
- One place for each Leader of a Unitary Council;
 - One place for each Leader of a County Council;
 - One place for a Leader of a District Council in each two tier County, to be determined by an election held amongst Leaders of District Councils in that County.
- 5.4 The Regional Strategy Board will endeavour to achieve a consensus rather than have recourse to a vote. Should there be seemingly irresolvable differences of opinion, the Government Office would be approached to broker an acceptable way forward.

6. Responses to the Consultation

- 6.1 Responses to this consultation should be via email to loretta.holden@eera.gov.uk and should be received no later than noon on Friday 26th February 2010.

Chairman: John Reynolds

Chief Executive: Brian Stewart

To all Local Authority Chief Executives in the East of England and the Chief Executive of the Broads Authority

Please ask for: Brian Stewart
Direct Dial: 01284 729410
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Date: 14 January 2010

Dear Colleague

Consultation on the Scheme for establishing a Leaders' Board in the East of England

We wrote to you on 30th November 2009, to draw your attention to the important outcomes of the inaugural meeting of the new East of England Local Government Association (EELGA), including the proposed establishment of a Leaders' Board comprising the 52 Council Leaders or elected Mayors of the local authorities in the region together with the Chair of the Broads Authority. In that letter we mentioned that whilst the arrangements for the Leaders' Board had been agreed, there was a statutory requirement to formally consult on the proposed Scheme.

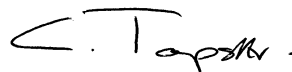
The purpose of this letter is to invite you to consider the attached Scheme and submit views by noon on Friday 26th February 2010. Please email your response to loretta.holden@eera.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Yours sincerely



Brian Stewart
Chief Executive
EERA



Caroline Tapster
Lead Local Authority Chief Executive
EELGA