

READ-OUT FROM OSC TDD WORKING GROUP 3 – MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2022

OSC COMMENT	IN-MEETING RESPONSE	ADDITIONAL COMMENTARY <i>(italics – indicate comment only)</i>
FINANCIAL SIMPLIFICATION		
Important to understand the total amounts of money for each of the “40 streams” mentioned.	ACTION: CP to provide figures.	
Total sum of the ‘green’ items in the financial ask, and over what period.	£3bn over 30 years	
Important to understand the relationship between Council Tax cap, Transport Levy, and any notion of a Precept. Increased prosperity should be a pre-requisite before increased levies.	Critical to take a genuine ‘negotiating’ position with HMG at this point [eg the region will consider options on the basis of HMG devolved fiscal powers]. Unhooking Transport Levy from Council Tax Cap provides those opportunities.	
Significant interest in the progress of UKSPF.	Officers had developed an outline Investment Plan which would be considered at the October CA Board.	This will be considered through the usual OSC governance arrangements.
Express & Star quoted as indicating Council Tax increases were planned to cover Metro extension.	Confirmed as not the case: July CA Board had been clear in recommending a ‘mitigation’ strategy, not Council Tax increase.	
Consideration of a ‘One Pot’ approach as per GMCA.	Concerns over negotiating with a single department (DLUHC) who may not know the priority issues as well as, say, DfT, DfE etc.	
HOMELESSNESS		
Accessibility to decent homes: national rather than regional policy?	Approach is to use ‘pilots’ to advise how national policy could be developed.	
Long-term education vital in preventing homelessness.	Intergenerational engagement recognised and included in approaches.	
Increased ‘enforcement’ powers could require additional capacity within LAs.	LA enforcement requests will align with DLUHC proposals. Additional responsibilities should carry additional resource.	
Concern over Live-Work units and pressures on affordable housing numbers.	Challenge lies in ‘viability’ between high capital costs and deflated rents.	Cllr Burrow has shared contacts with relevant groups; team grateful and will engage directly.
DWP Support Fund is proving challenging.	Recommendation is to seek a formal duty to collaborate and for LAs to be able to influence DWP decision-making.	
SOCIAL ECONOMY		
Concern over methodology on identifying ‘left behind places’ – eg Dudley omitted.	TDD asks are geared to tackle that issue so that regional intelligence drives decision-making. ACTION: CS to share ‘Left Behind Places’	

Careful consideration over governance of Common Wealth Fund.	Good governance imperative. Options being explored: eg allocated fund with appropriate conditions, or model involving direct control from local members.	
Concern that support of this kind will not deliver 'hard' outcomes such housing and skills.	Outcomes will be clearly measurable including demonstrating how they support region's inclusive growth aims.	
Concern over costs of administering the fund.	Recognised that administration needs to be both efficient and well-governed.	
Essential to ensure the new fund is non-detrimental to existing funding.	Fund will be developed in a way which 'goes with the grain' of existing funding streams with strong LA input.	
CULTURE		
Query over period the £15m will cover.	3-4 years – depending whether awarded mid-financial year.	
Concern over whether the amount is sufficient to meet the scale of the ambition.	Figure considered to be realistic (and therefore achievable) and is comparable to legacy funding elsewhere.	
HEALTH		
Important to integrate education into health prevention activities.	LA Public Health teams already working closely with schools – keen that CA only engages where it adds value. ACTION: MA to reflect this point to DPHs.	
Concern over sharing of patient records digitally and why CA needs to play a role in this.	Important in understanding the determinants of good health. CA acting as a convenor but recognise sensitivities of data control.	
Should the proposals include a 'Healthy Food Strategy'?	Original TDD asks extended to 19 in total – reduced to ensure deliverability, so this has not been included.	
Reference to a meeting with LA DPHs.	Proposals are firmly based on the discussions at that meeting.	
Health is already a 'crowded field' – need to clarify role of CA in this.	CA convening role requested by ICBs but need to be careful about clear areas of responsibility for outcomes. CA to engage only where it adds value.	
Clear relationship between unemployment and health.	One of the key asks is directly focused on supporting individuals into employment – bringing greater flexibility to an existing (successful) programme.	
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS		
None specifically.		