



Manchester Week 16 – 20 March 2009

CITIES FOR COHESION

What Future for the Urban Dimension?

As Europe approaches its 2010 Lisbon deadline and is experiencing economic uncertainty, it is more important than ever to recognise that our cities are key to unlocking economic growth. The EU is continuing to strive to meet its Lisbon goals of growth and jobs, we are also at the beginning of a new EU funding programme and are already looking ahead to developing a regional policy post-2013 that is fit for purpose. In order to meet the challenge of creating future prosperity Greater Manchester has created a new and unique governance model. Is it time that local areas are given the power and resources to deliver?

SPEAKERS



Chair: Arlene McCarthy, MEP for the North West

Arlene has been an MEP since 1994. Since January 2006 Arlene has been Chair of the European Parliament's powerful Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee. She is the first Labour woman to Chair a co-decision committee in the European Parliament. Arlene is also a member of the Legal Affairs Committee. Through her role on these

committees she has developed an active interest in, amongst many other policy areas, consumer policy and protection issues, the creative and media industry and better regulation. She is a key children's rights campaigner and has worked closely with the NSPCC on legislation to protect children from paedophiles on the Internet.

As a Governor of the European Internet Foundation, Arlene takes an active interest in e-commerce issues, has also worked on key Parliament legislation on internet regulation and works closely with the US's Congressional Internet Caucus.

In 2005 Arlene was elected as a Fellow of the Industry and Parliament Trust (IPT) following a 21 day educational exchange with Bloomberg. Arlene also took part in the Police Parliamentary Scheme, from which she graduated in 2007. Arlene's involvement in the Police Service Parliamentary Scheme, through which she shadowed Greater Manchester Police, resulted in a major change to European legislation on gun control which was passed by the European Parliament in November 2007.

Arlene has a background in Local Government and Lectured in European Politics at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Manchester. She speaks fluent German and French. She is a Member of the Co-operative Party, Unison, UNITE and the Labour Party's National Policy Forum.



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Lord Smith of Leigh – Leader – Association of Greater Manchester Authorities

Peter Smith was elected to Wigan MBC in 1978 and was Chairman of Finance from 1983 to 1991 when he became Leader of the Council. Peter was a founder member of the innovative Wigan Borough Partnership sharing economic development with the private sector.

In June 2000 he was elected Chairman of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

Peter is active at the national, regional and sub-regional levels of local government. He was appointed by the Local Government Association to the Board of the Improvement and Development Agency on which he served until March 2003. He is also the vice-chairman of the Special Interest Group for Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA).

He chaired the meetings of the 22 excellent councils and was joint chairman with Nick Raynsford of the Innovations Forum.

At the regional level Peter was Chairman of the North West Regional Assembly for 1999-2000 and has been appointed the first chairman of the English Regions Network. In 2005 he was appointed as chair of the Executive Board of the NWRA which dealt with key regional matters such as the Regional Funding Allocation.

Peter is a director of a number of companies and is a past chairman of Manchester Airport plc.

In June 1999 he was created a Life Peer with the title Lord Smith of Leigh. In Parliament he takes particular interest in local government, health and transport matters.



Rupert Greenhalgh is Rupert is Head of Economics at Manchester Enterprises and Head of the Secretariat for the Manchester Independent Economic Review – a large-scale, year long review of Manchester's economic potential.

He joined Manchester Enterprises in 2003 and has previously worked as an economic advisor for the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council and at Wigan Borough Partnership - a local economic development agency.

Rupert holds a Masters degree in Resource Management, and has spent the majority of his subsequent work focussing on regional economic development and the performance of the Manchester City Region and North West economy.

Issues" including migration, enlargement, the economic effects of the EU's emerging energy policy and the Lisbon Treaty, on which he recently published.



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Madeleine Mahovsky, Cabinet of the Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner. Preparing advice to Commissioner Hübner in the formulation, communication and implementation of policy within her portfolio - Regional Policy – as well as her contribution to other policy areas. Regional policy responsibilities:



Urban actions, financial engineering and 7 Member States – Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany, Slovakia, Austria and Czech Republic. Contributing to the development of the Commissioner's contribution to non-portfolio areas: Economic and Financial Affairs, Eurostat, Taxation and Customs, Research, Trade, Lisbon Strategy and Group of Commissioners, Competitiveness Group of Commissioners. Representing the commissioner in relation to a specific policy in the Special Head of Cabinet meetings and at other internal and external meetings. Discussing and negotiating the Commissioner's positions in the framework of interinstitutional cooperation. Liaising on policy issues with other Cabinets, DG REGIO and counterparts in Member States. Drafting and supervising presentations, speeches and publications by the Commissioner.

Gisela Kallenbach, MEP, Germany, Rapporteur on the Leipzig Charter.

On 24-25 May 2007 the EU ministers responsible for spatial planning and urban development adopted the Territorial Agenda (TA) and the Leipzig Charter (LC) at an informal ministerial meeting in Leipzig. On the basis of a joint analysis of future challenges to spatial planning in Europe, the EU ministers agreed on territorial priorities for the development of the European Union and on recommendations for an integrated urban development policy, with particular reference to disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The TA is the result of many years of intergovernmental cooperation between the Member States, and is based on three essential objectives of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), which is still applicable:

- establishment of a polycentric and balanced urban system and the creation of a new urban-rural relationship,
- ensuring parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge,
- sustainable development, particularly through management and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage.

The adoption of the TA reinforces the territorial dimension and forms part of efforts to define and shape the concept of territorial cohesion more effectively.