

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 11 September 2017  
11.00 am

5th floor conference suite (South Side), 5th  
floor, Layden House, Turnmill Street,  
London, EC1M 5LG

**To:** Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board  
**cc:** Named officers for briefing purposes

[www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

This meeting is



## **Guidance notes for members and visitors**

### **Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

#### **Welcome!**

Layden House is located directly opposite the Turnmill Street entrance to Farringdon station, which is served by the Circle, Hammersmith & City, and Metropolitan lines as well as the Thameslink national rail route.

#### **Security**

Layden House has a swipe card access system meaning that a swipe enabled security passes will be required to access the lifts and floors 1-5.

Most LGA governance structure meetings will take place on the **ground floor** of Layden House which is open access and therefore does not require a swipe enabled security pass. **Access** to the rest of the building (floors 1-5) is via swipe enabled security passes.

When you visit Layden House, **please show your Local Government House security pass to reception** and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1-5 if required. **Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

#### **Fire instructions**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately via the nearest fire exit onto Turnmill Street and take the next turning on your left – Benjamin Street to St John's Gardens.  
**DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.**  
**DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.**  
**DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.**

#### **Soft Seating Area**

There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

#### **Toilets**

There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

#### **Accessibility**

If you have special access needs, please let the meeting contact know in advance and we will do our best to make suitable arrangements to meet your requirements.

Parking is available at the rear of the building for Blue Badge holders, accessed via the Turks Head Yard, North underpass. Disabled WCs are situated on the ground and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. An induction loop system is available in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor conference venue. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

### **Guest WiFi in Layden House**

WiFi is available in Layden House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling “Wireless Network Connection” on your computer and connecting to LGA-Free-WiFi. You will then need to register, either by completing a form or through your Facebook or Twitter account (if you have one). You only need to register the first time you log on.

### **Further help**

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

### **Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?**

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for twelve months and we expect to be back in LGH by October 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
11 September 2017

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There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 11 September 2017** 5th floor conference suite (South Side), 5th floor, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

**Attendance Sheet:**

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

**Political Group meetings:**

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

**Apologies:**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of Layden House is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Felicity Harris  
0207 664 3231/ [felicity.harris@local.gov.uk](mailto:felicity.harris@local.gov.uk)

**Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.50 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

**Social Media**

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgassc

## Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (8)</b>	
Cllr Morris Bright (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Targowska	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Judith Wallace	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Cllr Colin Spence	Suffolk County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Labour (7)</b>	
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Jane Black	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>	
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Helen Carr	Brent Council

## Agenda

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### **Safer & Stronger Communities Board**

Monday 11 September 2017

11.00 am

5th floor conference suite (South Side), 5th floor, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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<b>3. County lines exploitation</b>	13 - 18
Presentation from Sarah Hegarty, CSE Prevention Officer, and Lucy Capron, Public Affairs Manager at The Children's Society.	
<b>4. Board Policy Priorities for 2017-18</b>	19 - 24
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**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 22 November 2017, 11.00 am, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2017/18: How it works for you, Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and approval.

### **Summary**

This report sets out how the Safer and Stronger Communities Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to note the Board's membership and agree their Terms of Reference and nominations to Outside Bodies for the 2017/18 year.

### **Recommendations**

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

1. agrees note its Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**);
2. formally notes the membership for 2017/18 (**Appendix B**);
3. agrees the Board's nominations to outside bodies (**Appendix C**);
4. note the dates of the future meetings (**Appendix D**); and
5. review and appoint member champions (**Appendix E**).

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

**Contact officer:** Felicity Harris  
**Position:** Member Services Officer  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3231  
**E-mail:** [felicity.harris@local.gov.uk](mailto:felicity.harris@local.gov.uk)

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2017/18: How it works for you, Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **Background**

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

### **2017/18 Terms of reference, membership and future meeting dates**

3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's terms of reference, membership and future meeting dates are set out at **Appendix A, B and D** respectively for agreement and noting.

### **Safer and Stronger Communities Board Lead Members**

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
5. The Lead Members for 2017/18 are:
  - 5.1 Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair
  - 5.2 Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chairman
  - 5.3 Cllr Anita Lower, Deputy Chair
  - 5.4 Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair

### **The Safer and Stronger Communities team**

6. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with Policy colleagues and designated Member Services Officer, being those which you are likely to have regular contact with.
7. The Safer and Stronger Communities team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities, and also a number of other issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA press office and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on community safety issues in the media, directs our lobbying



work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.

8. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance if each engagement.
9. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

### **Communications and Events**

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. Upcoming events:
  - 18-19 October 2017 – Fire Leadership Essentials
  - 7 February – Annual Licensing Conference 2018
  - 13-14 March 2018 – Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition
12. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, regular e-bulletins with a personal introduction from the Chair of the Board, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

### **Safer and Stronger Communities Board outside body appointments**

13. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities.
14. A list of the organisations to which the Board is asked to appoint member representatives is attached at **Appendix C**. The Board are asked to nominate the appointments for this meeting cycle, which as far as possible are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA. As an LGA representative, Members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.
15. To maximise the value of attending regular or ad-hoc outside engagements, Members appointed to represent the LGA on an outside bodies are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

### **Member Champions**

16. For 2016/17, the Board appointed the following member champions:

16.1 Abuse & exploitation – Cllr Lisa Brett

- 16.2 Anti-social behaviour – Cllrs Anita Lower and Clive Woodbridge
  - 16.3 Bereavement services – Cllr Ian Gillies
  - 16.4 Community cohesion and integration – Cllr Janet Daby
  - 16.5 Domestic violence – Cllrs Kate Haigh and Bill Bentley
  - 16.6 Licensing – Cllrs Jim Beall, Joy Allen and Chris Pillai
  - 16.7 Regulatory services – Cllr Nick Worth
  - 16.8 Prevent and counter-extremism – Cllrs Simon Blackburn and Janet Daby
17. A role description for member champions is set out at **Appendix E**. The Board is requested to review the current areas covered by member champions and consider whether these should continue, or whether different areas need to be addressed.

### **Financial Implications**

18. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

## **Appendix A: Terms of Reference: Safer and Stronger Communities Board**

The purpose of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in the promotion of the safety of local communities, including issues of crime and anti-social behaviour, policing, licensing, and emergency planning – in line with LGA priorities.

The Board will also have responsibility for LGA activity in relation to fire and rescue authority issues where the issues are of a cross-cutting nature or involve the setting of a new LGA policy. On such matters the Board may choose to seek recommendations or guidance from the Fire Services Management Committee, and from time to time may be requested by the Committee to consider recommendations on such matters.

Boards should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
2. Developing a work programme to deliver their brief, covering lobbying, campaigns, research, improvement support in the context of the strategic framework set by Improvement & Innovation Board and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
3. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
4. Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA, including making public statements on its areas of responsibility.
5. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
6. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
7. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board may:

- Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.
- Appoint member champions from the Board to lead on key issues.

### **Quorum**

One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

### **Political Composition**

Conservative group:	8 members
Labour group:	7 members
Liberal Democrat group:	2 members
Independent group:	1 members

Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

### **Frequency per year**

Meetings to be held five times per annum.

### **Reporting Accountabilities**

The LGA Executive provides oversight of the Board. The Board may report periodically to the LGA Executive as required, and will submit an annual report to the Executive's July meeting.

## Appendix B: Safer and Stronger Communities Board Membership 2017/18

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (8)</b>	
Cllr Morris Bright (Vice-Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Targowska *	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Judith Wallace *	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Katrina Wood *	Wycombe District Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Cllr Colin Spence *	Suffolk County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Paul Findlow **	Cheshire East Council
Cllr Vic Pritchard **	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Labour (7)</b>	
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Janet Daby	London Borough of Lewisham
Cllr Carole Burdis *	North Tyneside Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Jane Black **	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat (2)</b>	
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)	Newcastle Upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton *	Gloucestershire County Council
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Helen Carr **	Brent Council

\*New Member

\*\*New Substitute

## Appendix C: Outside Body Appointments

Organisation / contact details	Background	Representatives 2016/17	Allowances/ Expenses	LGA Contact Officer
<b>Advisory Board for Female Offenders</b>  Contact: Hanifa Begum Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:cjwst@justice.gsi.gov.uk">cjwst@justice.gsi.gov.uk</a>	The Board is a ministerial chaired board and meets quarterly to bring together key stakeholders and partners to provide expert advice and challenge around the multiple and often complex needs of female offenders.	<b>1 place</b>  Cllr Kate Haigh (Labour)	The LGA will cover reasonable travel and subsistence.	Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser 020 7664 3241 <a href="mailto:mark.norris@local.gov.uk">mark.norris@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Criminal Justice Council (CJC)</b>  Contact: Stefanie Harding Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:stefanie.harding1@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk">stefanie.harding1@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk</a>	The Council meets quarterly: to keep the criminal justice system under review; to advise the Government on the form and manner of implementation of criminal justice reforms and to make proposals to it for reform; to advise on the framing and implementation of a communication and education strategy for the criminal justice system.	<b>1 place</b>  Cllr Chris Pillai (Conservative)	Travel and subsistence expenses are paid for by the CJC.	Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser 020 7664 3241 <a href="mailto:mark.norris@local.gov.uk">mark.norris@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>National FGM Centre Advisory Group</b>  Contact: Lucy Ellender	The Advisory Group meets quarterly to provide advice and support to the development of the National FGM Centre, a joint project between the LGA and Barnardo's.	<b>2 Places</b>  Cllr Lisa Brett (Lib Dem) Cllr Goronwy Edwards	The LGA will cover reasonable travel and subsistence.	Lucy Ellender Adviser 020 7664 3321 <a href="mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk">lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse</b>  Contact: Hannah Buckley/Charlotte Hickman Tel: 020 7035 8579 Email: <a href="mailto:hickman-buckley.jobshare@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk">hickman-buckley.jobshare@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</a>	The National Oversight Group is chaired by the Home Secretary and meets approximately quarterly to oversee progress against the recommendations from HMIC's reviews of the police response to domestic abuse.	<b>1 Place</b>  Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	The LGA will cover reasonable travel and subsistence.	Rachel Duke Adviser 020 7664 3086 <a href="mailto:rachel.duke@local.gov.uk">rachel.duke@local.gov.uk</a>

**Appendix D: Meeting Dates 2017/18**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>Location</b>
11 September 2017	11.00 – 13.00	5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Suite, Layden House
22 November 2017	11.00 – 13.00	Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House
15 January 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House
19 March 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House
11 June 2018	11.00 – 13.00	Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House

## **Appendix E: Board member champions role description**

**Board member champions, and support member champions, where required, take responsibility for a specified subject area or programme and act as spokesperson**

**This is in addition to any formal role representing the LGA on outside bodies.**

### **Accountabilities**

- To be the main spokesperson for the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) in relation to a specified subject area or programme, including media interviews, writing articles and making speeches at appropriate events.
- To keep abreast of developments locally and nationally in relation to a specified subject area or programme.
- To attend residential conferences and other events initiated by the board, leading and chairing sessions as required.
- To engage actively with councils and groupings of councils to secure the views and involvement of the wider membership to inform the board's specific policy line on the specialist subject.
- To communicate back to the wider membership the work and successes of the board in relation to the specified subject or programme area.
- To lead/participate in task and finish groups set up to look in more detail at the specific areas of policy.
- To be the principal representative of the Board on that subject area or programme at meetings with partner bodies and other key decision-makers.

### **Knowledge and Experience**

Member champions may be portfolio holders for that policy area in their home authorities or have experience/knowledge of, and special interest and commitment to, the policy area.

### **Appointment and support**

The expectation is that the SSCB will review these roles at the start of the Board cycle every September, along with formal appointments to outside bodies.



Previously the Board has taken a flexible approach as to whether having a single or two member champions was most appropriate for each role, in light of the need to balance the volume of LGA activity with members' commitments in their home authorities.

As an LGA spokesperson, a champion speaks for the Association, and not one particular political Group.

Members will be assisted in their role by officers as capacity allows. This will include passing on invitations to meetings and events in good time, preparing briefings, taking notes of meetings, providing press lines and including agenda items for a wider Board discussion at key points to inform policy making.

### **Travel and expenses**

This role can require attendances at meetings in London and in other parts of the country.

Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee whilst carrying out a representative role on behalf of the LGA.





**Safer and Stronger  
Communities Board**

11 September 2017

## **County lines exploitation**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The Children's Society will attend the meeting to outline the work that they are engaged in on county lines. This report provides background for their presentation and outlines other work that is underway, as well as suggesting how the LGA could respond.

### **Recommendation**

Safer and Stronger Communities Board members are asked to consider how this work can be progressed in partnership with the LGA's Children and Young People Board, following the suggestions in paragraph 17.

### **Action**

Officers to proceed as directed.

**Contact officer:** Lucy Ellender / Ian Dean  
**Position:** Adviser / Senior Adviser (CYP)  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3321/ 020 7664 3878  
**Email:** [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk) / [ian.dean@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dean@local.gov.uk)

## County lines exploitation

### Background

1. County lines is a term used for urban gangs and organised crime groups extending drug dealing activities beyond their urban area into suburban, market and/or coastal towns using dedicated phone or “deal” lines<sup>1</sup>. Lines can also be run within a smaller geographical area. County lines is a cross-cutting form of harm which can involve drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking and missing persons, often involving vulnerable children and young people.
2. It is a widespread issue. Feedback from police forces in England and Wales to the National Crime Agency (NCA) on the issue in 2016 showed that 71 per cent of respondents reported established county lines activity in their areas and 12 per cent reported an emerging picture of activity<sup>2</sup>. While gangs from London dominate activity, the NCA’s report highlighted an emergence of gangs from other areas using the county lines model.
3. The Children’s Society have recently begun a new national child sexual exploitation/child sexual abuse prevention service, commissioned by Norfolk Police for the whole of England and Wales and funded by the Home Office. They are working within regional organised crime units (ROCU<sup>3</sup>) on scoping work around these issues, with the aim of creating strategies looking at a range of issues, but tailored towards local needs. They will also create toolkits which will help professionals work in response to particular vulnerabilities. A part of this work is focussed on harm caused through county lines exploitation.
4. The Children’s Society have also recently advised on the production of a new short film on county lines, which is currently being made into a feature length. They will speak about some of the issues that they have identified through their national service and previous work on county lines.

### What is county lines exploitation?

5. Typically urban gangs move to establish new bases in areas outside of their urban areas to facilitate the selling of drugs – normally heroin or crack cocaine but also other drugs such as cannabis or cocaine<sup>4</sup>. This may be done for a range of reasons. There may be less of an established market or capable competition, thus potentially increasing profits

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626770/6\\_3505\\_HO\\_Child\\_exploitation\\_FINAL\\_web\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626770/6_3505_HO_Child_exploitation_FINAL_web_2_.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file>

<sup>3</sup> ROCUs form an important part of the national policing network, providing a range of specialist policing capabilities to forces to help them to tackle serious and organised crime effectively

<sup>4</sup><http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file>

and operating outside of an area in which they are known, and which may be targeted by enforcement activities, providing a perception of increased anonymity.

6. The phone line is central to the operations of the gang in the new area. In 2015 the NCA stated that this can often be a long standing number, running for years or even decades that is then marketed to users within the area using a variety of methods<sup>5</sup>. However, the NCA's most recent report from 2016 noted that there has been an emerging trend of changing the deal number<sup>6</sup>.
7. Gang members engage in marketing of the deal line, including introductory offers such as buy one get one free<sup>7</sup>. Once a market is established and a brand name for the drug line known, those at the top of the hierarchy within the gang will typically seek to use others as runners, seeking to reduce the risk to themselves. The exploitation of children or vulnerable adults to carry drugs or cash is a typical feature of county lines activity. Boys, girls and vulnerable men and women can all be at risk of exploitation. This may be referred to by members as "going country"<sup>8</sup> and children as young as 12 have been identified as being exploited, however the typical age is 15-16 years old<sup>9</sup>.
8. Gangs are known to target vulnerable children and adults. The Home Office's guidance on county lines published in July 2017 outlined the following factors which heighten a person's vulnerability:
  - 8.1. Having prior experience of neglect, physical and/ or sexual abuse
  - 8.2. Lack of a safe/stable home environment, now or in the past (domestic violence or parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality, for example)
  - 8.3. Social isolation or social difficulties
  - 8.4. Economic vulnerability
  - 8.5. Homelessness or insecure accommodation status
  - 8.6. Connections with other people involved in gangs
  - 8.7. Having a physical or learning disability
  - 8.8. Having mental health or substance misuse issues

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/620-NCA-Intelligence-Assessment-County-Lines-Gangs-and-Safeguarding/file>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/620-NCA-Intelligence-Assessment-County-Lines-Gangs-and-Safeguarding/file>

<sup>8</sup> <http://saferlondon.org.uk/2016/09/county-lines-i-need-know/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626770/6\\_3505\\_HO\\_Child\\_exploitation\\_FINAL\\_web\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626770/6_3505_HO_Child_exploitation_FINAL_web_2_.pdf)

- 8.9. Being in care (particularly those in residential care and those with interrupted care histories).
9. Typically gangs target children from urban areas who are then trafficked to the new location. This has been reported as being via trains but can also be via private hire cars and taxis. They transport drugs and money as well as selling drugs from 'trap houses' – locations where drugs are made or sold and gang associates base themselves. They may be subjected to other forms of exploitation including child sexual exploitation. They may also witness or experience a wide variety of other behaviours which could cause trauma including witnessing adult sexual behaviour, seeing drugs being injected, witnessing rapes, being victims of sexual or physical violence or sleeping in unsafe conditions around drug paraphernalia.
10. The exploitation of vulnerable adults can take a range of forms:
- 10.1. In establishing a base in a new area, gangs may target vulnerable adults, taking over their addresses through force or coercion. This is called "cuckooing". Adults, who may already have drug dependency issues, may be given drugs to initiate a relationship and then may fall into debt bondage and/or further dependency which sees them having to work for the gang and being exploited.
- 10.2. 90 per cent of the police areas who responded to the NCA's survey found that there was criminal exploitation of women. They may enter into what they regard as a relationship with a gang member but then can be controlled and subject to domestic abuse<sup>10</sup>. The NCA found that the most common form of assistance was the use of their address, followed by holding and running drugs. They were also employed to book hotels and hire cars, identify local addresses for cuckooing, act as drivers and sometimes enforcers. They may have children themselves who can then be exposed to the activities of gang members.

## **Councils**

11. In January 2017, nineteen London Boroughs wrote to the Home Secretary to highlight the importance of tackling county lines at a national level. They called for a national strategy and action plan, arguing that the geographical spread of county lines exploitation meant that a national approach was necessary to tackle the issue effectively.
12. This work was co-ordinated by Islington Council, and further information is available on their website:  
[www.islington.media/r/6442/call\\_to\\_protect\\_london\\_s\\_vulnerable\\_young\\_people\\_from](http://www.islington.media/r/6442/call_to_protect_london_s_vulnerable_young_people_from)

## **LGA Activity**

13. Safer and Stronger Communities Board Members heard from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner in January 2017 and agreed that we would jointly produce a

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/753-county-lines-gang-violence-exploitation-and-drug-supply-2016/file>

guide for councillors on modern slavery. That guide will highlight the issue of county lines exploitation. Members also agreed that the LGA would highlight further case studies on modern slavery and trafficking which could also include county lines. The LGA Children and Young People Board is currently working on guidance for councillors on youth justice, which will also include case studies and guidance around county lines. Additionally, the LGA will be looking to produce a series of workshops on modern slavery to highlight the issue and increase awareness.

14. The LGA was involved in the Home Office's recently published guidance on county lines to support practitioners:  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/626770/6\\_3505\\_HO\\_Child\\_exploitation\\_FINAL\\_web\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/626770/6_3505_HO_Child_exploitation_FINAL_web_2_.pdf). The LGA is also a part of the cross-government county lines working group, responsible for developing an action plan and overseeing its implementation. The working group is seeking to raise further awareness about county lines with local authorities, and is also keen to collate examples of different approaches and good practice from councils.
15. Gangs' links to violent crime will be explored as part of an LGA conference planned for this autumn.

#### **Next steps**

16. The cross-cutting nature of county lines exploitation is relevant to both SSCB and the Children and Young People Board, which is also considering this issue at their September meeting. We therefore propose taking forward this work jointly, and will prepare a joint paper summarising discussions and recommendations from both meetings with suggested actions for both Boards to agree.
17. Members may wish to consider:
  - 17.1. The production of additional resources for different council departments around modern slavery and trafficking
  - 17.2. How this issue is considered within the regional workshops on modern slavery.
  - 17.3. Whether the LGA should consider calling for a national strategy and action plan, supporting the work that is already underway in a number of London Boroughs.
  - 17.4. What more the LGA could do to raise awareness of this issue amongst our members, and to support the development of a coherent and co-ordinated national response.
  - 17.5. How the LGA could encourage greater joined up working at a local level between the relevant authorities.



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### **Implications for Wales**

18. Councils in Wales are subject to the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Welsh Government is tackling the issue of modern slavery specifically through the employment of an Anti-Slavery Coordinator, responsible for making Wales hostile to slavery and to co-ordinate the best possible support for survivors. The Welsh Government has also set up the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group with membership from the Home Office, the National Crime Agency, Welsh local authorities and the WLGA amongst others.

### **Financial Implications**

19. The development of new council resources may require incur financial cost, however this is likely to be met within existing team budgets.



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## **Board Policy Priorities for 2017-18**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and decision.

### **Summary**

This paper sets out proposals for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board's (SSCB) priorities and work programme for 2017-18. The proposals are based on both corporate LGA priorities and options for broader work based on a combination of areas of interest previously indicated by Board members, ongoing work and recent policy announcements by Government. Subject to members' views, officers will develop a work programme to deliver these priorities.

### **Recommendation**

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board discuss and agree the Board's priorities and work programme for 2017-18.

### **Action**

Officers will undertake the projects set out in the report.

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## **Board Policy Priorities for 2017-18**

### **Background**

1. At this first meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB), members are asked to consider the policy priorities for the work programme for the coming year. In making these decisions, members are asked to consider two issues:
  - 1.1. The work that the LGA Leadership Board has asked Boards to undertake based on the overall policy priorities of the LGA.
  - 1.2. Specific policy priorities based on the remit of this Board.
2. This paper builds on the draft priorities outlined in the end of year report considered by the Board in June.

### **Work commissioned from LGA policy Boards by the LGA Leadership Board**

3. As in previous years, LGA policy Boards are being asked to incorporate cross-cutting LGA priorities within their work programmes. The LGA's business plan, refreshed last Autumn, sets out the organisation's existing corporate priorities:
  - 3.1. Britain's exit from the EU
  - 3.2. Funding for local government
  - 3.3. Inclusive growth, jobs and housing
  - 3.4. Children, education and schools
  - 3.5. Promoting health and wellbeing
  - 3.6. Devolution
  - 3.7. Sector led improvement
4. The work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board makes a contribution to a number of these overarching themes. Of particular relevance are the importance of supporting and promoting community cohesion alongside tackling violent extremism in the wake of the attacks in London and Manchester earlier this year, and the link between skills, the economy and community, and the intersection between fire safety and the LGA's work around housing.

### **Supporting councils to respond to the Grenfell tragedy**

5. Alongside the corporate priorities set out in the business plan, supporting the sector to manage the aftermath and implications of the Grenfell fire tragedy is also a critical organisational priority.
6. This has already had a major impact on the work of the team, with both the Principal Policy Adviser and one of the team's two Senior Policy Advisers heavily involved in the LGA's response over the last three months. This seems likely to continue for at least the first half of the new Board cycle, with possible implications for the team's capacity to deliver other Board priorities during this period. At the recent lead members meeting, it

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was agreed that the resource requirements created by work on Grenfell vis-à-vis the Board's wider remit would need to be kept under review.

**Specific work of relevance to this Board's remit**

7. Alongside Brexit and other corporate work, LGA Boards will continue to develop specific work within their policy areas. These priorities will be reported back to the LGA Executive.
8. As set out in the end of year report in June, we have proposed retaining the same overarching key themes as agreed by the Board for 2016-17, in light of the fact that much of the work in these areas is still in progress and will continue into the next year.
9. The proposed priorities also reflect the need to respond to the Government's policy agenda, as set out by the Queen's Speech in June. Although the Queen's Speech set out a comparatively limited domestic policy agenda for the next Parliament, with the legislative timetable for the next two years set to be dominated by Brexit, much of the work that Government outlined fell within the remit of the SSCB. Our existing overarching themes are therefore likely to be well placed to support priority agendas over the coming year.
10. The draft priorities outlined below suggest a series of activities underpinning each of the five themes:
  - 10.1. **Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion**
    - 10.1.1. We will formally respond to the Casey Review on integration, and deliver a series of events and guidance documents to support councils' work to promote cohesion and integration in their communities. We will also work with both Government and councils in relation to the anticipated new integration strategy and supporting work programme.
    - 10.1.2. We will continue our work to support councils in countering extremism, including holding a series of training sessions for councillors, sharing good practice through supporting the Special Interest Group on Counter Extremism and the development of new guidance documents.
    - 10.1.3. We will ensure that the views of local government are represented in the planned reviews of the counter terrorism strategy, Contest, in particular on Prevent, and make the case for local government's involvement in shaping the creation of the new statutory Commission for Counter Extremism.
  - 10.2. **Community safety**
    - 10.2.1. Continuing work from 2016-17, we will take forward the recommendations from our community safety review and use this to inform the Home Office's emerging proposals to refresh the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, continue our support for the water safety campaign and respond to the Camber Sands inquest findings, follow up earlier work on violent crime and maintain our work with the National FGM Centre.

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- 10.2.2. Domestic violence and wider violence against women and girls (VAWG) is expected to be a significant area of focus, following the Queen's Speech announcement of a draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill and creation of a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner. We will work with and lobby Government to ensure the views of local government are taken into account in the development of this agenda, and continue to support councils on their work in this area.
- 10.2.3. As part of our joint work with the office of the Modern Slavery Commissioner, we will publish guidance for councils on modern slavery, and run a series of awareness raising events on this issue.
- 10.2.4. We will develop a piece of work to explore the concerns raised by members of the Board about neighbourhood policing and engagement, and address the issues councils are experiencing with the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies.
- 10.3. Blue light services and civil resilience**
- 10.3.1. We will support the Fire and Rescue Service on the first wave of Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) governance transfers to Police and Crime Commissioners, the new duty for blue light collaboration and new inspection processes.
- 10.3.2. Fire Services Management Committee's priorities mean we will continue existing work to shape the role of the 21<sup>st</sup> century fire fighter and service.
- 10.3.3. We will contribute to the LGA's response to the review of building regulations and fire safety announced by the Government in July and continue to contribute to the wider LGA work in response to the fire at Grenfell Tower.
- 10.3.4. We will engage with the Cabinet Office review of civil resilience to shape its recommendations, issue good practice guidance drawing on the experience of chief executives in recent civil emergencies, and work with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives to improve civil resilience in the sector.
- 10.3.5. We will continue to support police and crime panels in their scrutiny of PCCs, including rolling out new guidance on FRAs and providing training on the scrutiny implications of new PCC-style FRAs. We will strengthen our engagement with PCPs by supporting them to create a Special Interest Group to represent their views and share good practice.
- 10.4. Licensing and regulation**
- 10.4.1. We will maintain our efforts to strengthen taxi and PHV licensing by delivering a national register of licence refusals and revocations, publishing guidance on CCTV in taxis/PHVs and participating in the Ministerial working group on taxis/PHVs.

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- 10.4.2. We will continue to lobby Government in regard to the review of gaming machine stakes, and respond to the anticipated announcement and consultation of proposed changes. We will develop guidance for councils on supporting problem gamblers, and work with the Gambling Commission to ensure councils are preparing to fully update their statements of licensing principles.
- 10.4.3. We will continue to press for the localisation of all licensing fees.
- 10.4.4. We will continue to engage with the Food Standards Agency as they develop proposals for the future of food regulation.

#### **10.5. Crematoria, coroners and medical examiners**

- 10.5.1. With reforms to the death certification process enabled by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 expected to be introduced in late 2018 or early 2019, we will continue our work to support councils in implementing medical examiner reforms. We will also work with Government to ensure that the new system does not impose additional costs on councils, and that there is appropriate guidance and support available.

#### **Legislation**

- 11. As noted above, much of the agenda set out by the Government in the Queen's Speech will be directly relevant to the Board; specific pieces of legislation are expected to include a Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill. Additionally, the regulatory implications of Brexit legislation, specifically the Customs Bill, will need to be reflected in our Parliamentary work.

#### **Communications and Events**

- 12. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
- 13. We have a full programme of conferences and events which support these draft priorities and are designed to support members and officers with new issues and improving their ability to protect the public and communities they serve. Conferences already being planned include:
  - 13.1. 12 September 2017: PCP training event
  - 13.2. 25 September 2017: Community cohesion officer networking pilot
  - 13.3. 18-19 October 2017: Leadership Essentials Fire and rescue
  - 13.4. 1-2 November 2017: Leadership Essentials Counter Extremism / Prevent
  - 13.5. 6-7 December 2017: Leadership Essentials Counter Extremism / Prevent
  - 13.6. 7 February 2018: Annual Licensing Conference

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13.7. 13-14 March 2018: Annual Fire Conference

13.8. 20-21 March 2018: Leadership Essentials Counter Extremism / Prevent

13.9. Winter 2017-18 TBC: Modern Slavery workshops

14. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, regular e-bulletins with a personal introduction from the Chair of the Board (though the LGA's e-bulletins are due to be reviewed), outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

### **Next steps**

15. Following the Board's discussion, officers will prepare a detailed work programme to manage the day to day work. The priorities agreed by the Board will also be reported back to the LGA Executive.

### **Implications for Wales**

16. Where the proposed policy area relates to a non-devolved issue we will liaise as appropriate with the WLGA, and where they relate to devolved issues our focus will be on English authorities with the WLGA leading on work in Wales.

### **Financial implications**

17. This programme of work will be delivered with existing resources, including the improvement grant funding for cohesion and related work which will support the recruitment of an additional short term post until the end of the financial year. Additional supporting projects may be commissioned subject to funds being available from a small directorate / team budget.



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## **Grenfell Tower and fire safety in high rise buildings**

### **Purpose**

For information and discussion.

### **Summary**

This paper provides an update on the work of the LGA following the Grenfell Tower tragedy on 14 June and actions taken by central and local government in response to the fire to ensure that buildings are safe.

### **Recommendations**

That Safer and Stronger Communities Board members:

1. Note the LGA's work to address the issues for local authorities arising from the Grenfell Tower fire.
2. Consider and comment on the actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres.
3. Consider what issues in relation to fire safety the Safer and Stronger Communities Board would want the LGA to raise in its submissions to the Public Inquiry and review of building regulations and fire safety.

### **Action**

Officers to proceed as directed.

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## **Grenfell Tower and fire safety in high rise buildings**

### **Background**

1. As was reported to the June meeting of the Board, a fire broke out in the early hours of the morning of 14 June at Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Although firefighters from the London Fire Brigade were at the tower block within minutes of the alarm being sounded, the fire rapidly spread throughout the tower block. The Metropolitan Police estimate that 80 died in the fire.

### **Investigations and Inquiries**

2. The cause of the fire and the reason it spread so quickly through the tower block is still the subject of an on-going criminal investigation by the Metropolitan Police. In addition, the Prime Minister announced on 14 June 2017 that there would be a Public Inquiry into the fire. The Inquiry is chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick QC, a former Court of Appeal judge. Following a short consultation the terms of reference for the Inquiry were announced on 15 August.
3. The Inquiry will consider the immediate cause of the fire; the design and construction of the building and the decisions relating to its refurbishment; the scope and adequacy of building and fire regulations and other legislation; whether they were complied with at Grenfell Tower, and the fire safety measures in place; the fire prevention and fire safety measures in place on 14 June; and the response of central and local government in the days immediately after the fire. The Inquiry will start holding preliminary hearings in the middle of the month and the aim is to produce an initial report covering the cause of the fire and means by which it spread by Easter 2018.

### **Implications for other high rise residential buildings**

4. Much of the early reporting following the fire focused on the possibility that the external cladding applied to the building had caused the fire to spread rapidly. Given these and other public concerns about the safety of other tower blocks, councils reviewed fire safety assessments, relevant documentation relating to any refurbishments work, took the advice of their fire and rescue services, and contacted residents to reassure them.
5. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) also surveyed councils to identify the number of tower blocks that might have similar cladding to that on Grenfell Tower and therefore be at risk, while the LGA wrote to council leaders and chief executives about the steps being taken by the sector to reassure residents and themselves that a similar fire could not occur in their own tower blocks.
6. The possible involvement of cladding in the spread of the fire at Grenfell Tower led to a series of actions to test the cladding on other buildings with a floor over 18 metres. DCLG wrote to all stock holding councils and registered social landlords outlining the arrangements it has put in place to enable aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding on buildings with a floor over 18 metres to be tested and its type identified. Of those tested all were found to be of two types; ACM polyethylene (PE) and ACM fire retardant



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polyethylene (FR). Using this information councils engaged with their local fire and rescue service to review fire safety in relevant blocks and to seek advice on the requirement for additional fire safety measures.

7. Following representation from the Local Government Association and others and the advice of the Independent Expert Panel on Safety, established by DCLG, further testing was conducted during July and August to help landlords to ensure the safety of their buildings. These large scale tests aimed to establish how different types of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels in combination with different types of insulation behaved in a fire, and whether they were compliant with building regulations.
8. A total of seven combinations of ACM cladding and insulation were tested by Building Research Establishment (BRE) at DCLG's request, with the following results:
  - 8.1. Test 1 - ACM PE + foam insulation – fail
  - 8.2. Test 2 - ACM PE + mineral wool insulation – fail
  - 8.3. Test 3 - ACM FR + foam insulation – fail
  - 8.4. Test 4 - ACM FR + mineral wool – pass
  - 8.5. Test 5 - ACM A2 + foam insulation pass
  - 8.6. Test 6 - ACM A2 + mineral wool – pass
  - 8.7. Test 7 - ACM FR + phenolic foam – fail

### **Council tower blocks**

9. 15 councils were found to have tower blocks with combinations of ACM cladding and insulation that failed the BRE tests. DCLG have been liaising closely with affected councils. Now that councils are aware that they have to replace the cladding on their buildings plans are being put in place to do this, where the process has not already started.
10. Councils (and others) are of course keen to understand what they can replace the failed cladding with. DCLG have agreed to issue consolidated guidance based on test results and other work such as advice from the expert panel so far. But they have not set a timetable for further guidance or changes in the building regulations so landlords will have to make judgments based on the best information available at the time.
11. DCLG are also considering the need for further tests on other cladding materials. While this would provide greater clarity on what can be used to replace failed combinations of cladding and insulation, it raises the possibility that the number of buildings found to require remedial work could be widened.

### **Private sector blocks**

12. Now that all the social housing residential high rise blocks with failed combinations of ACM cladding and insulation have been identified, DCLG's attention has turned to the private sector. The Department is currently considering what it can do to ensure that private owners of buildings check whether they have dangerous cladding and, if they do have it, inform residents, take remedial steps and remove it.

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13. Councils are seen as key to the process. The Secretary of State has already written to councils to remind them of their responsibilities under the Housing Act 2004 for the condition of housing in their area. DCLG officials are now considering how councils can help them identify all residential buildings over 18 metres in height, and establish which of these have combinations of cladding and insulation that have failed the BRE tests.
14. The correspondence from DCLG has raised questions over the resources that will be required to gather an accurate list of private sector residential high rise blocks when some areas have tens of blocks if not hundreds. In particular it may not be possible to identify what sort of cladding a building has from planning or building control documents, and there are indications that the existing data DCLG has may significantly underestimate the number of residential high rise buildings.
15. In the event a private landlord is not cooperative about sending samples of cladding to be tested by BRE, there is some uncertainty over the legal powers councils have in these circumstances.

#### **Large Panel System-built blocks**

16. Due to concerns about building safety after the fire at Grenfell Tower, another safety issue has been identified following an inspection of tower blocks in Southwark. The four blocks of the Ledbury Estate were inspected by Arup following residents' concerns at gaps between wall/floor panels that compromised fire safety. The blocks do not have cladding.
17. The blocks were built shortly after the Ronan Point Collapse in 1968, by the same company (Taylor Woodrow Anglia) using the same system of factory-built panels fitted together on site. At Ronan Point a gas explosion caused part of the block to collapse and building regulations were later rewritten to strengthen the requirements for such blocks to withstand explosive force. Arup raised concerns that the strengthening work following Ronan Point may not have been sufficient and Southwark took the decision to turn off the gas supply to the blocks pending further investigations.
18. Southwark made their report public and it was shared in LGA bulletins to all councils on 11 August in the following terms:
  - 18.1. *You may have seen the announcement from Southwark Council regarding safety concerns at its tower blocks on the Ledbury Estate. The blocks were constructed between 1968 and 1970 using a method called the large panel system, in which large concrete sections were bolted together on site. The same technique was used at Ronan Point, a tower block in East London which partly collapsed in 1968 following a gas explosion. Engineers working on behalf of Southwark have raised concerns about whether safety work required after the disaster was properly carried out. The council is investigating further.*
  - 18.2. *We have been in touch with other councils we know may have blocks constructed around this time using the same system. These councils will be double-checking that post-Ronan Point safety work was carried out and remains appropriate. If you have*

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*blocks in your council area of this type but have not heard from us, please do contact your Principal Advisor and also make DCLG aware using this email address: [towercaseworkteam@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:towercaseworkteam@communities.gsi.gov.uk).*

19. Arup is undertaking a further review to establish whether the necessary strengthening has taken place and is expected to report to DCLG shortly.

#### **Additional fire safety measures including fire suppression systems**

20. As stated, councils have been working with local fire and rescue services to assess the need for additional fire safety measures in tall blocks. A number of councils have already taken the decision to enhance fire safety measures including retro-fitting sprinkler systems, and installing smoke detectors and fire alarms.
21. The LGA approach to the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems or other fire suppression methods was discussed at a joint meeting of the lead members of this Board, Fire Services Management Committee and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board at the start of August. At the end of the meeting it was noted that across the three boards:
- 21.1. There were strong views in support of sprinklers being installed in new buildings, and that there should be risk assessed retro-fitting of sprinklers or other fire suppression systems in existing buildings;
- 21.2. The height of the building was less important as a risk factor than the resident's vulnerability and the characteristics of the building; and
- 21.3. Residents in some areas had expressed concerns about the retro-fitting of sprinklers and there were also issues associated with costs, skills and timescales to do the work. It should be a matter for local decision as to what buildings were retro-fitted.

During the discussions it had also been noted that the effectiveness of retro-fitting sprinklers was dependent on them being installed in large proportion of the flats in a block, and the presence of a large number of leaseholders due to right-to-buy sales could impact on any retro-fitting programme as leaseholders could not be compelled to have sprinklers fitted in their properties.

#### **Building Regulations and fire safety**

22. What has become apparent during the LGA's work on building safety in high rise residential buildings after the fire at Grenfell Tower is how complicated and confusing the guidance published to support the building regulations is. This is not the first time this issue has been raised. After the 2009 Lakanal House fire Inquest, which reported in 2013, the Coroner stated that Approved Document B (which covers fire safety in high rise buildings) "is a most difficult document to use".
23. The Coroner recommended that it be reviewed to ensure that it "provides clear guidance in relation to Regulation B4 of the Building Regulations, with particular regard to the

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spread of fire over the external envelope of the building”. However this review has not yet taken place, so the LGA pressed for an urgent review of the building regulations.

24. DCLG announced on 28 July that there would be a review of the building regulations and fire safety chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt, former chair of the Health and Safety Executive.
25. After the review was announced the LGA wrote to Dame Judith to ask she consider the need to clarify building regulations (including Approved Document B); the ability for such regulations and guidance to be implemented effectively by those who need to use them, for example in the construction and manufacturing industries; and the roles and responsibilities for fire safety.
26. The terms of reference for the review were published on 30 August:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-publication-of-terms-of-reference>
27. The review will assess the effectiveness of current building and fire safety regulations and related compliance and enforcement issues, with a focus on multi occupancy high rise residential buildings. The review’s two key priorities are to develop a more robust regulatory system for the future and provide further assurance to residents that the buildings they live in are safe and remain safe. While the review will cover the regulatory system for all buildings, it will have a specific focus on multi occupancy high rise residential buildings. An interim report will be submitted in autumn 2017 and a final report submitted in spring 2018

#### **LGA work**

28. The LGA has worked to support councils and fire and rescue authorities in the wake of the fire to ensure that our member councils are equipped with the information they need to act swiftly, including seconding staff in to DCLG to provide direct support to councils as part of the national team dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. The LGA’s Chairman, Lord Porter or our Chief Executive have been attending the Building Safety Ministerial Group which has been meeting almost weekly since the fire.
29. The LGA has provided regular communications with Chief Executives, Chief Fire Officers and council leaders and created a Frequently Asked Questions page on our website (based on questions from councils) with links to relevant guidance, DCLG information and factual information about what we know so far. This has been regularly updated and can be found on the LGA’s website: [www.local.gov.uk/grenfell-tower-frequently-asked-questions-local-authorities](http://www.local.gov.uk/grenfell-tower-frequently-asked-questions-local-authorities).
30. The LGA has led the national media’s agenda to promote the response of councils to the Grenfell Tower fire. Lord Porter raised concerns about the initial fire safety tests and called for an urgent review of building regulations in a range of high-profile LGA media interviews on the BBC Radio 4’s Today Programme, Radio 4 You and Yours and Sky News. His appearance on the BBC Victoria Derbyshire show was the longest interview by any guest in the history of the programme. He has also called for previous fire test

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results on cladding systems to be published on BBC Newsnight. In total, the LGA has featured in 90 episodes of national media coverage.

31. During our work we have raised concerns from councils with officials and the Ministerial Group, most recently in relation to the proposed work to identify private sector tower blocks that might have combinations of ACM cladding and insulation that failed the BRE tests. Whilst councils share the Government's wish to ensure that all residents are safe, whoever owns the building they live in this work could add a significant resource burden, both to do the data collection – which we have argued should be seen as a new burden – and also wider costs to councils in undertaking this work.
32. Member councils have also been raising consistent concerns about the resources needed to undertake remedial work in relation to cladding, which in some areas is likely to cost tens of millions of pounds. The Government has stressed that the responsibility for making buildings safe rests with landlords, and councils have not delayed work because of lack of funds, but it is not yet clear what funding DCLG will make available to support councils with the work. Work to quantify the costs – both of remedial work to council-owned tower blocks, and of wider work in relation to other buildings - is ongoing and will be an important strand of LGA work in the coming weeks.

### **Lobbying priorities**

33. Immediately after the fire the LGA identified three key lobbying priorities for our work going forward. The LGA Leadership Board considered these at their meeting on 21 July 2017 and reiterated these priorities, which are to ensure that:
  - 33.1. National action focuses on what needs to happen to make buildings safe.
  - 33.2. Government agrees to find the necessary resources for any required changes, both for remedial work and for any new tighter requirements.
  - 33.3. A review of building regulations guidance and systems is undertaken.
34. With the announcement of the terms of reference for both the Public Inquiry and the review of building regulations and fire safety the last of these priorities will now focus on submitting evidence to them.
35. Overall responsibility for the LGA's Grenfell Tower response resides with the Leadership Board, with the Chairman and Group Leaders having responsibility for directing activity. In order to coordinate the LGA's work in this complex area a Task and Finish Group has been established, with individual boards continuing to provide input to the detail of policy as it relates to their specific areas of responsibility.

### **Implications for Wales**

36. The issues set out in this document are being addressed by the devolved administration and local authorities in Wales.

### **Financial Implications**

37. The LGA's work in response to Grenfell Tower has been intensive; however it has been met so far from existing resources.

### **Next steps**

38. Members are asked to:

38.1. Note the LGA's work to address the issues for local authorities arising from the Grenfell Tower fire.

38.2. Consider and comment on the actions that have been taken nationally and locally to identify and address fire safety issues in buildings over 18 metres.

38.3. Consider what issues in relation to fire safety the Safer and Stronger Communities Board would want the LGA to raise in its submissions to the Public Inquiry and review of building regulations and fire safety.



**Safer and Stronger  
Communities**

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## **Impact of Brexit on regulatory services and community safety**

### **Purpose**

For information.

### **Summary**

This note updates the Board on our work to consider the implications of Brexit on council regulatory services and community safety.

### **Recommendation**

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are asked to note the findings of the recent report from Cornwall and planned future activity on this issue.

### **Action**

Officers to take forward as directed.

**Contact officer:** Ellie Greenwood  
**Position:** Senior Adviser (Regulation and Community Safety)  
**Phone no:** 07795 413660  
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## **Impact of Brexit on regulatory services and safer communities**

### **Background**

1. The LGA Leadership Board has identified managing the impact of Brexit on local government as a key corporate priority. Of particular relevance to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board is the need to develop a new legal base for local government; councils' consumer protection and wider regulatory work relating to safer communities<sup>1</sup> is one of ten areas the LGA policy directorate has been asked to look at given that it is heavily shaped by EU law.<sup>2</sup>
2. As members will recall, given the very technical nature of many of the regulations, officers commissioned Cornwall Council to provide a high level narrative of the list of directives, rules and decisions identified by the LGA's Brussels office as being within the remit of this Board. In particular, Cornwall were asked to provide an insight into the scope for simplifying the regulations to reduce burdens on businesses or councils and the potential for any greater local control, discretion or devolution in how the regulation is carried out.
3. Officers from Cornwall Council have now provided a short report to the LGA providing a high level view of the opportunities and risks provided by Brexit. This is attached as an annex to this report. Additionally, the council has provided a comprehensive analysis of the individual regulations themselves, by rating the extent of routine and reactive enforcement of individual regulations and associated council resource requirement and level and nature of risk associated with removing the regulations.

### **Issues**

4. The report from Cornwall officers concludes that, in broad terms, the regulations provide important protection, and there is no obvious case for wholesale repeal of them. It appears that the opportunities for improving the regulatory landscape are predominantly associated with the way in which regulations are carried out, rather than in the detail of the regulations themselves.
5. Particular opportunities highlighted in the report include:
  - 5.1. The scope for consolidating regulatory responsibilities around farms (an issue the Government has been looking into already, with a commitment to significantly reduce the number of farm inspections taking place) and food safety.
  - 5.2. Greater use of risk based and accreditation schemes.

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<sup>1</sup> Broadly, this means including licensing, environmental health and trading standards work as it relates to safer communities, but excluding regulatory work with other objectives, eg environmental, which are being considered separately by relevant Boards.

<sup>2</sup> Including EU directives incorporated into UK law, EU rules and decisions.



- 5.3. Simplification of the food export process, with a greater role for local authorities.
- 5.4. Using a review of the regulations (as and when this happens) to introduce the use of fixed penalty notices as a default across all areas.
6. Key risks highlighted in the report include: the potential loss of useful regulations (for example around protected food names) and loss of regulatory knowledge of the single market if the UK's regulatory framework diverges over time, making it harder for UK officers to provide accurate advice to businesses looking to export.
7. The general conclusions in the Cornwall report are in line with the initial conclusions and specific policy asks set out in earlier papers to the Board, which is encouraging and helps us to firm up the narrative outlined in the paper considered by the Board in March. However, we are conscious that it provides a professional view of the regulations and have therefore asked Cornwall to undertake some stakeholder engagement work in order to provide a view from local businesses and councillors. This further information is likely to be received next month.

#### **Further work on Brexit issues**

8. As well as working with Cornwall, officers have been engaging with other organisations looking at the impact of Brexit on their work or wider sector.
9. The City of London has commissioned research on the impact of Brexit on its port health responsibilities; in contrast to a review of the regulations, this is a more operationally focused piece of work that seeks to identify the challenges that will need to be managed at the point at which the UK leaves the EU, specifically around ports of entry and imports / exports, even if the regulatory framework remain the same. In follow up to this discussion, officers are arranging a visit for members of the Brexit task and finish group and SSCB lead members to visit the City's London Gateway and Tilbury port operations. This will help inform the LGA's lobbying work around customs, an issue due to be subject to legislation over the course of this Parliament.
10. We are also liaising with professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Trading Standards, who are undertaking their own thematic reviews of different areas of EU legislation, to share information about any challenges arising from the adoption of EU laws via the Repeal Bill and longer term opportunities for change. Again, this will help to inform any necessary lobbying on this issue.

#### **Implications for Wales**

11. WLGA have been involved in the discussions between government and the other representative bodies for local government. Officers are liaising with WLGA officials to discuss this work.

#### **Financial Implications**

12. This work is being undertaken within existing resource and commissioning budgets.





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## **Update paper**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

### **Recommendation**

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board members note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
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## Update paper

### Food Standards Agency – Regulating our Future update

1. In January, the Board heard from the former Deputy Chairman of the Food Standards Agency's about the Agency's regulating our future project, which is intended to update the existing approach to food regulation. Following concerns expressed by the Board at the meeting, Cllr Blackburn met with the Chair and CEX of the FSA in April, and was assured by them that they saw councils as maintaining their key role in a new model of food regulation. This appears to be borne out by the latest proposals from the FSA and by presentations at a stakeholder event that officers attended in July.
2. The event heard that councils will retain a central, proactive and reactive role in food regulation. In light of some of the concerns raised by the Board about the prospect of self-certification, it was also encouraging to hear that the FSA is now talking instead about 'regulated private assurance' in order to be clear that aspects of the new model do not constitute self-regulation.
3. The FSA emphasised that the programme is about redirecting LA resources and involvement rather than reducing it, with councils focusing much more on initial business support and enforcement rather than the machinery of routine inspections. The long term aim is that councils should be able to charge for their interventions, as well as those bodies providing private assurance (something we had argued for), and that over time the number of LA inspections should reduce as private assurance increases - the FSA do not envisage a big bang change. However, for businesses that are not compliant or do not to go down the route of private assurance, it is not expected that the LA role will really change. The FSA are working with a consultation group to include the primary authority model as one of the private assurance options.
4. As stated, the long term aim is that councils should be able to charge for their interventions, as well as those bodies providing private assurance, and that there should be a fee for registering as a food business; again, something the Board has also called for. However, the Agency is realistic about what is likely to be achievable before Brexit, in light of pressures on Parliamentary time. It's unlikely that registration fees, wider charging or the private assurance options will be achievable in the near future, as they require legislative change: there is also the reality that post-Brexit government might not want to move to a business charging model, despite the fact that there is a reasonable amount of support for this across different stakeholders. This therefore means that the potential for full reform of the system is constrained in the short term, and will focus on enhanced registration and business awareness.
5. One concern raised by a smaller council at the event was that in an open market on this, larger councils may compete for primary authority / private assurance business and take over this work from other local councils. The LGA has previously argued that if there are commercial opportunities open to businesses, they should be open to councils too – however, we will need to be sensitive to the fact that some councils will undoubtedly be at a competitive disadvantage due to their size or the fact that they are not currently commercially active.

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6. The slides from the event are available at <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/laeventsversion1.pdf> - slides 11-14 offer a quick summary of the overall position for councils.

### **Product recalls and safety**

7. Consumer Affairs Minister, Margot James MP, made an announcement that she was accepting the recommendations of a working group on product safety, originally convened following a series of fires started by faulty tumble dryers. The recommendations included developing central scientific and technical capability to support this area, and creating a central hub of information and capacity to support it, with delivery as well as coordinating capability. Following the Grenfell disaster (which appears to have been caused by a fridge fire), the working group has now been tasked with looking at further areas, including whether to go further on a more sophisticated single register of faulty goods, options for registration at point of sale, standards for white goods and fire resistant materials and the merits of making safety checks on white goods used in tower blocks.
8. Officers have discussed the recommendations with Regulatory Delivery, who have been tasked with taking the proposals forward. They have emphasized that although the government is committed to doing something to enhance capability in this area, there is no intention to take resource or responsibility away from councils, as local work on this issue is valued. As yet there are no firm proposals in place; Regulatory Delivery are looking at an FSA type model, albeit not at that scale, but feel that there aren't any existing obvious options to take on the role. They have noted likely LGA red lines around performance reporting or powers being taken away from councils.
9. The working group was due to report on the second set of issues by the end of August, and we are awaiting the announcement of its conclusions.

### **GambleAware's Annual Harm Minimisation Conference 2017**

10. GambleAware's fifth annual Harm Minimisation Conference will be held on 6 and 7 December 2017 at the King's Fund, London. The theme for this year's conference will be focused on how young people are gambling and gaming in a rapidly evolving technical and social environment, and asking what implications this has for minimizing gambling-related harm in the future.
11. This is a free conference, which members may wish to consider attending. Speakers at the event will include Tracey Crouch MP (Minister for Sport and Civil Society); Rosena Allin-Khan MP (Shadow Minister for Sport); Sarah Harrison (Gambling Commission); and a number of others. The full programme will be published via GambleAware's website in advance of the conference but for further details and information about registration, please visit the following website: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gambleaware-harm-minimisation-conference-2017-tickets-37310659186>.

## **Taxi/Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) licensing**

### Ministerial working group on the future of taxi and PHV licensing

12. Following a Westminster Hall debate on taxis in July, John Hayes MP, new Minister of State at the Department for Transport responsible for taxis, announced the establishment of an informal working group to consider the adequacy and efficiency of legislation and guidance concerning the licensing of taxis and PHVs in England. This comes as a welcome surprise and the LGA has accepted an invitation to join the group to represent the interests of local authorities. Other members will include MPs, regulators, representatives from the trade and passengers.
13. The objective of the task and finish group will be to make recommendations for actions to address priority issues in this area and will be an opportunity to highlight issues with the current framework and to call for the necessary legislative change. The first meeting will be on 26 September, with a view to the group developing a report on their advice/recommendations before the end of the year. Further updates will be shared with the Board as this work develops.
14. Helpfully, the Board discussed the LGA's view on the key points of the Law Commission's previous report on this issue at their meeting in March. The consensus position emerging from the discussion was:
  - 14.1. Support for establishing national minimum standards for taxis and PHVs, set at appropriately high levels, to align standards across the country, while retaining local flexibility for councils above and beyond this.
  - 14.2. That councils must be able to take enforcement action against any driver operating in their areas.
  - 14.3. That there should be measures to ensure drivers are working predominantly in the area where they are licensed, while recognizing that there may need to be flexibility in some instances (e.g. where a driver takes a passenger out of area and wants to undertake jobs while returning to the area in which they are licensed).
  - 14.4. That legislation should be proportionate in terms of balancing concerns about public protection and safeguarding without acting as a burden to business or councils.
15. The Law Commission report also put forward a proposal to maintain the current two-tier framework for regulating taxis and PHVs, and recognise the differences in the London market compared to the rest of the country. In practice this would mean that authorities would retain greater local flexibility in relation to taxis such as the ability to impose quantity restrictions on taxis, regulate taxi fares and supplement national minimum standards with local conditions. However, many people, particularly outside London, believe that the separate regulatory approaches are no longer helpful or valid when app-based models have been described as providing the opportunity for electronic hailing. It would be helpful if the Board could indicate any views on whether to retain the two-tier system.

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### Private Members' Bill

16. The LGA has also been supporting Daniel Zeichner MP's Private Members' Bill on taxi/PHV licensing. It was presented to Parliament on 19 July 2017 and is due to have its Second Reading on 2 February 2018. The focus of the Bill is primarily on cross-border issues and safeguarding. Updates on progress of the Bill will be shared with the Board.

### National register of refusals and revocations

17. Progress continues to be made in regard to the development of a national register of taxi license revocations and refusals. The new register, which the LGA has commissioned the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) to develop, will support councils to tackle the problem of people making applications to different licensing authorities following a refusal or revocation elsewhere.
18. The technical specification for the new register has been scoped out with the support of a group of licensing officers from councils across England. Development is intended to be complete by the end of 2017 in order for the register to be launched at the LGA's Annual Licensing Conference in February 2018. We would welcome the Board's support in ensuring that all councils make use of the register once it is available.

### **National FGM Centre**

19. Having reported to the last Board meeting in June that the National Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Centre, a joint project between Barnardo's and the LGA to improve the social work response to FGM, was due to run out of funding at the end of July, we are delighted to say that the Centre has secured further funding. The Centre has been awarded £1.77 million from the Department of Education's social care innovation programme to fund its work from July 2017 until the end of March 2020. This funding is tapered, with the expectation that the Centre raises increasing amounts of its own funding over the next three years. The Centre will continue to work with three of the pilot areas it has been working with over the last two years, and will also be expanding its work to cover other harmful traditional practices, such as breast ironing/flattening, as well as working in a further three low prevalence areas and three high prevalence areas.
20. As the Centre has a broader remit than previously we are working with Barnardo's on refreshing the membership of the Centre's Advisory Group. A recruitment process was also launched in August to recruit a new Head of Centre, and a meeting is now being arranged between the Centre and the Minister of State for Children and Families at the Department of Education at his request.

### **Civil Resilience Review**

21. Following the fire at Grenfell Tower the Cabinet Office is conducting a review to see if there are any early lessons for how civil resilience in light of the response to the fire. The review, which is being led by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS), is looking at four specific strands:

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- 21.1. Ensuring there is coherent support for victims of crises;
  - 21.2. How Government can assure itself that resilience standards are being met at a local level;
  - 21.3. Improving Government's ability to support where local capacity and capability may be overwhelmed; and
  - 21.4. Developing the proposal to establish the Civil Disaster Reaction Taskforce announced in the Queen's Speech.
22. LGA officers met CCS officials in late August to talk through these challenges around civil resilience and how they might be addressed. A range of options were discussed around providing Government with greater assurance that resilience standards are being met, including the LGA's peer review model. The discussion of the role of the new Taskforce centred around how mutual aid between local authorities in civil emergencies might be boosted, and how the work that the Department of Communities and Local Government has already done on this area could be used.
23. After the success of a session for chief executives at the LGA annual conference on the responses to the terrorist attacks in Manchester and Westminster earlier in the year, we have been talking to the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) about how our two organisations can better support the sector around civil resilience. At the request of chief executives we are writing up the session from the annual conference to share with them, and are considering with SOLACE how training for councillors and chief executives, the LGA's peer review process, and the use of peer mentors can strengthen local authorities' response to civil emergencies. As the scope of the LGA's work in this area becomes clearer we will report back to the Board.

### **Modern Crime Prevention Strategy**

24. The Home Office is currently in the process of looking at how it can reinvigorate its Modern Crime Prevention Strategy launched in March 2016. An initial meeting was held between Home Office officials, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and the LGA, with the Board's Chair, Cllr Simon Blackburn, attending. The meeting examined how local partnership arrangements could be strengthened, in particular the role of community safety partnerships (CSPs), and the work the Board has done over the last year on the future role of CSPs helped inform the discussions. The next stage will be to arrange further meetings between Home Office officials, the APCC and the LGA to consider how Government could better support local areas strengthen their partnerships.

### **Domestic abuse**

25. As reported at the last Board meeting, the Queen's Speech on 21 June included proposals for a new Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill, and new Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner. The aims of the Bill as announced in the Queen's Speech were set out as: transforming approaches to domestic violence and abuse to ensure victims feel



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- able to report abuse and will be supported; protecting victims; and giving the justice system greater guidance about the impact of domestic violence and abuse on families.
26. The main elements of the Bill proposed are expected to:
- 26.1. Establish a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner, to raise public awareness, monitor the response of statutory agencies and local authorities and hold the justice system to account.
  - 26.2. Define domestic abuse in law.
  - 26.3. Create a consolidated new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime.
  - 26.4. Ensure that if abusive behaviour involves a child, then the court can hand down a sentence that reflects the life-long impact that abuse can have on a child.
27. Cllr Blackburn recently attended the Home Office's National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse, a group chaired by the Home Secretary to oversee improvements to police responses to domestic abuse. Following the meeting, members of the Group were asked to submit some early written comments to the Home Office about the Government's outline proposals.
28. Our response set out support for the overall aims of the legislations, but outlined some broad concerns. These included that current measures such as the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and National Statement of Expectations for VAWG – setting out government's expectations for what actions local areas should take to ensure victims get the support they need – should be retained, with continued flexibility to shape local service provision to meet local need; that Police and Crime Commissioners have a statutory role to ensure adequate provision of support services for victims and any new statutory duties for domestic abuse provision should reflect this; and that any new statutory duties with implications for councils must be adequately funded.
29. There will be further opportunities to feed back our views as part of a formal consultation process over the coming months.

### **Counter-extremism and Prevent**

30. The second leadership essentials course on counter-extremism took place earlier this month, which is the first of five courses for elected members scheduled for this year (two focusing on counter-extremism and three on prevent). There are still some spaces available on future courses; further details and information on how to book are available on the LGA [website](#).
31. We anticipate that the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE) will be formally launched in the next few weeks. The SIGCE will re-establish the special interest group originally set up in 2013 to help councils deal with English Defence League (EDL) activity, but will now focus on broader counter-extremism work. We will continue to work with the Home Office, DCLG, and with Luton and Leeds Councils who will be co-chairing the group, as it develops.

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**Consultation on reforms to the Social Fund's Funeral Expenses Payments scheme**

32. The LGA responded to the Department for Work and Pensions consultation on reforms to the Social Fund's Funeral Expenses Payments scheme. This scheme is in place to help some people on qualifying benefits access support for meeting some of the costs of a funeral.
33. The consultation set out proposals for changes to the process for claiming funeral expenses payments as well as clarifying issues around eligibility. Families come into contact with these services in very difficult and distressing circumstances and we were supportive of the aim of making the processes easier and more flexible to ensure that the bereaved are able to access appropriate and effective services. We stated that it was important that the needs of those accessing the fund are fully considered in any changes.

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## **Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting**

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**Title:** Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
**Date:** Monday 26 June 2017  
**Venue:** 5th floor, South Side, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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### **Attendance**

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

### **Item Decisions and actions**

#### **6 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest**

The Chair received apologies and was notified of substitute members to the Board.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman welcomed the Board to the meeting and noted that recent events have had a strong impact on the local government family. The results of the General Election, the terror attacks in Manchester, Westminster, Finsbury Park and the tragedy at Grenfell Tower would all have a significant effect on the work of the Board, and there would be an opportunity to discuss all these issues during the course of the meeting.

#### **7 Prevent and counter extremism**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the item on Prevent and counter extremism. He gave apologies for Charles Loft, the report author, as he was assisting the Department of Communities and Local Government with their urgent work following Grenfell Tower. He confirmed counter extremism was to be a high priority in the government's agenda and would continue to be a high priority for the LGA following previous close engagement with the Home Office, Office of Security and Counter Terrorism and Counter Extremism Unit.

Mark outlined key areas of work moving forward. The Government was expected to move forward on reviewing the current Counter Terrorism strategy, including Prevent. Alongside this, the Home Office is supporting the relaunch of the previous special interest group on counter extremism (SIGCE). The LGA is also working with a council to explore a live case study in responding to EDL and far right activity.

Further to this Mark explained that the LGA had been given funding from DCLG towards further community engagement and counter extremism work. He also brought the Boards attention to a Scrutiny Guide that had been drafted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny covering both Prevent and counter-extremism which was due to be available

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later in the year and that there had been an updated to the Managing Far Right Activity toolkit commissioned by the SIGCE's predecessor in 2013.

In particular Mark brought the Boards attention to paragraph 17 setting out the proposed programme of work on counter extremism and community cohesion for the current year.

In the discussion that followed Members raised the following points;

- A concern was raised that there was no mention of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners and that it would crucial to ensure we are engaged with them. Reductions in neighbourhood policing were highlighted as a concern.
- Members emphasised the need to continue working with young people and to be mindful of the role of mental health in better understanding and preventing counter extremism.
- Members suggested that the Board should explore involving the media in new ways to best share this message.
- The significance of deprivation in the cohesion agenda was noted.
- The Chair emphasised the importance of the language used in future work produced and the branding of work such as Prevent.
- A view was expressed that the crisis communication toolkit and relevant case studies had been helpful to members.
- A view was expressed that Councils will need to be better prepared to act on far right extremism going forward, and identify it as such, given that this was the key cohesion challenges in some non-diverse areas.
- In light of members support for the proposed programme of work as it is set out in paragraph 17.6 the Chair emphasised that officers should do as many of the proposed actions as possible.
- Following a query from members Mark Norris confirmed that the proposed Leadership Essentials events would be available for all Councillors and that he would liaise with the marketing team regarding these events being advertised to a wider audience of Councillors.

### **Decision**

That the Board:

1. Noted the work already underway around Prevent and counter extremism set out in paragraphs 12, 13 and 16; and
2. Approved the proposed programme of work as set out in paragraph 17.6.

### **Action**

1. Officers to take forward the programme.

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2. Officers to liaise with the marketing team regarding events being advertised to a wider audience of Councillors.

## **8 Queen's Speech**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report on the Queen's Speech of 21 June 2017. In particular he detailed where the Queen's speech had made reference to the review of the governments counter extremism strategy CONTEST, a review of counter terrorism legislation and a Commission for Counter Extremism. He emphasised that the Board will want to be involved in both going forward. He also brought members attention to the speech referring to a draft Domestic Violence and Abuse bill and noted that the Board will want to engage with the new Domestic Violence and Abuse commissioner once they are appointed. Mark also indicated that a number of bills on the exit from the European Union were raised in the Queen's Speech; in particular the Customs Bill was raised as the one most likely to impact on the remit of the Board.

In the discussion that followed Members raised the following points;

- A concern was raised that the work referred to in the Queen's Speech would need to be far better focused to avoid duplication.
- A concern was raised that the Queen's Speech gave no indication as to how local government would resource all of these responsibilities, with no proposed Bills on the future of NNDR.
- The Chair stated that it would be useful to meet with the Domestic Violence and Abuse commissioner soon after they are appointed. Members raised a link with the impact on young people of violent pornography and the need to educate them about normal relationships.

Follow this discussion Mark also brought to the Boards attention where the Queens Speech had addressed the tragedy at Grenfell Tower. He informed the Board that nothing had been announced that was not already in the public domain. In terms of the LGA's response to the fire he explained that the LGA had offered its assistance to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The LGA is also supporting councils in testing cladding and as a priority will be seeking to ascertain from government how the necessary changes to accommodation will be funded. Mark also informed members that a joint meeting will be established between lead members of this Board, the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board and the Fire Services Management Committee to discuss fire suppression methods including sprinklers.

In the discussion that followed Members raised the following points;

- The Chair emphasised that he had seen first-hand how strenuous the LGA and local authority efforts to support the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea had been.
- The Chair also raised that it would be important ensure this was not seen to become a failure of the entire sector.

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- A view was expressed that we should focus on positive action from the LGA and what could be achieved from conversing with government.
- Members emphasised that an overarching approach, as has been taken with the sudden increase in arrivals of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in recent years, would need to be taken for Councils to be able to respond to the pressures on services.
- A member expressed a view that Councils emergency strategies will need to be thoroughly checked to ensure they are best prepared for a similar disaster, and that it would be useful to share learning on this.
- The potential risks to other buildings, including housing association and NHS buildings and student accommodation was noted.
- The Chair expressed a view that this tragedy was a strong case for us to explore the impact of austerity measures on the council role of safeguarding.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the Bills and announcements in the Queen's Speech of interest to the Board.

### **Action**

Officers to incorporate members' comments in any work going forward on these areas.

## **9 Strengthening local approaches to tackling problem gambling**

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser, introduced a report providing members with an overview of recent initiatives to address problem gambling, as requested at the previous Board meeting. She brought members attention to the research project on problem gambling undertaken by Leeds City Council which was detailed in the report, and explained that it had evidenced there was more that councils need to be mindful of in approaching problem gambling going forward, while recognising that councils did not have the responsibility or resources to support problem gamblers directly. She also emphasised that Gambleaware were keen to work with councils and the LGA in tackling problem gambling.

In the discussion which followed members raised the following points;

- A member asked if the Board could write to those licensing authorities who have not updated their gambling statements of policy, or developed a local area profile and accompanying approach to operator risk assessments, to further stress the importance of adopting the new requirements.
- Ellie confirmed she would seek to ascertain those licensing authorities who have not updated their gambling statements of policy, or developed a local area profile and accompanying approach to operator risk assessments, from the gambling commission.
- Members raised concerns that a greater focus on internet gambling would need

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to be taken going forward.

- A view was expressed that it is a positive and appropriate action for the LGA to provide support and new LGA guidance document on gambling, targeted at councils as proposed in the report.
- Members emphasised the wider impact of problem gambling taking money from the local economy and raised concerns that councils aren't always asking the right questions to understand what is happening in their areas.

### **Decision**

The Board agreed the actions outlined in report.

### **Action**

1. Officers to ascertain from the gambling commission which licensing authorities have not updated their gambling statements of policy, or developed a local area profile and accompanying approach to operator risk assessments.
2. Officers to put a greater focus on internet gambling going forwards.
3. Officers to produce a new LGA guidance document on gambling, targeted at councillors and regulatory / public health officers.

## **10 LGA future of community safety services review: summary and draft report**

Rachel Duke, Adviser, introduced the report which summarises changes to the draft report on the LGA's review of community safety services (made in the light of members' comments at the March meeting of the Board) and sets out proposed next steps.

Members emphasised their support for the importance of collaboration between local areas and partners, although concerns were raised that CSPs were more likely to take account of Health and Wellbeing Boards than vice versa. The Chair noted that he had recently met with the Director of crime at the Home Office who was very interested in the role of CSPs. A concern was raised that the role of policing in the community has been eroded, with lower visibility and capacity to deal with lower level issues such as ASB, which could lead to a breakdown in relationships between police and communities. It was noted that the meeting had highlighted in several areas how significant neighbourhood policing is.

### **Decision**

The Board approved the revised report on review of community safety services and the next steps identified.

### **Action**

11 September 2017

Officers to progress the approved report.

**11 End of year Board report and 2017/18 priorities**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report that provided members with an overview of the work of the Board over the past year, setting out key achievements as well as looking to next year's priorities.

**Decision**

The Board:

1. Noted the achievements against the Board's priorities in 2016/2017; and
2. Noted the Board's priority areas for 2017/2018.

**12 Update paper**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report outlining any additional issues of interest to the Board.

A member asked that the Board is updated on new legislation regarding taxi services throughout the 2017/2018 political cycle.

**Decision**

The Board noted the update.

**Action**

Officers to ensure the Board is updated on any new legislation regarding taxi services throughout the 2017/2018 political cycle.

**13 Notes of previous meeting**

Members agreed that the notes from the last meeting were an accurate summary of the discussion.

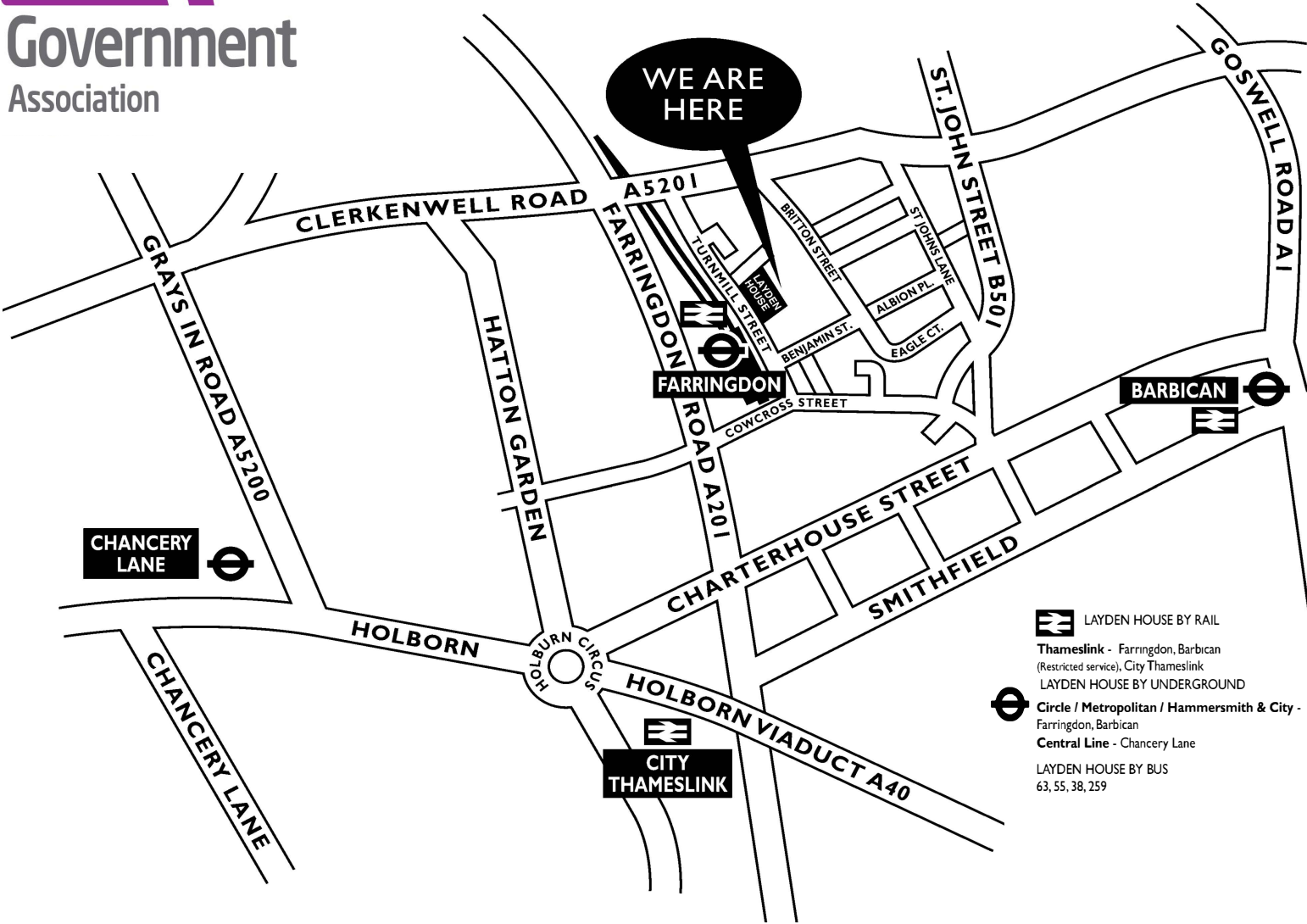
As the last meeting of the Board for the 2016/2017 political cycle Members expressed their thanks to the Chair for his Chairmanship over the course of the year.



11 September 2017

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Members	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
	Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Joy Allen	Durham County Council
Apologies	Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr Goronwy Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
	Cllr Daniel Duggan	Gateshead Council
In Attendance	Cllr Helen Powell	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council



**Layden House**

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*\*The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

**Public Transport**

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

**Bus routes - Farringdon Station**

- 63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
- 55 - Oxford Circus -High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
- 243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

**Cycling Facilities**

The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.  
 For more information please go to [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

**Car Parks**

- Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
- NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA