

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

## Agenda

Monday, 11 June 2018  
11.00 am

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith  
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

**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



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Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
11 June 2018

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There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 11 June 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00 pm.

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<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 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

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

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 8)</b>	
Cllr Morris Bright MBE (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Chris Pillai JP	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>Substitutes</b>	
<b>Independent ( 1)</b>	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

## Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Attendance 2017-2018

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>11/9/17</b>	<b>22/11/17</b>	<b>15/1/18</b>	<b>19/3/18</b>	
<b>Conservative Group</b>					
Morris Bright MBE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Jo Beavis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Chris Pillai	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Lisa Targowska	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Judith Wallace	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Katrina Wood	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Nick Worth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Colin Spence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Labour Group</b>					
Simon Blackburn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kate Haigh	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Alan Rhodes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Jim Beall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
James Dawson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Janet Daby	No	No	No	Yes	
Carole Burdis	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>					
Anita Lower	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Jeremy Hilton	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Independent</b>					
Clive Woodbridge	No	Yes	No	Yes	
<b>Substitutes/Observers</b>					
Vic Pritchard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Helen Carr	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Paul Findlow			Yes		

## Agenda

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

Monday 11 June 2018

11.00 am

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Item	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
2. Commission for Countering Extremism	1 - 6
3. Update on LGA Work to Develop a National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3)	7 - 10
4. Serious Violence Strategy Update	11 - 18
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Board End of Year Report 2017/18 and 2018/19 Work Plan	19 - 26
6. Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings	27 - 38
7. Update Paper	39 - 44
8. Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting	45 - 51

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 3 September 2018, 11.00 am, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ





## **Commission for Countering Extremism**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

Sara Khan, Lead Commissioner for Countering Extremism, will be attending the meeting to provide an overview of the Commission's work and emerging outcomes, and discuss ways to engage with councils around countering extremism. This paper provides an overview of the national policy framework and background on the Commission for Countering Extremism, and sets out some issues members may wish to raise.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. note the updates on national counter-extremism policy, the Commission for Countering Extremism and support for local authorities; and
2. consider the issues and suggested questions outlined in paragraph 20, which members may wish to raise with the Lead Commissioner at the meeting.

### **Action**

Officers to note Members' views on emerging issues to inform the LGA's response to the anticipated call for evidence from the Commission.

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## **Commission for Countering Extremism**

### **Background**

1. Sara Khan was appointed as the Lead Commissioner for Countering Extremism earlier this year. Sara is keen to engage with councils as part of the Commission's work and has been invited to attend to provide the Board with an update on the work of the Commission so far, emerging issues, and future plans.

### **National Policy Framework for Countering Extremism**

2. Nationally, work on countering extremism is framed by the government's cross-departmental Counter-Extremism Strategy, which was published in October 2015. The Strategy sets out how the government will defeat extremists and defend shared values.
3. The Strategy defines extremism as "the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard calls for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist".
4. The Strategy comprises four strands:
  - 4.1 countering extremist ideology;
  - 4.2 building partnerships with those opposed to extremism;
  - 4.3 disrupting extremists; and
  - 4.4 building more cohesive communities.
5. It notes that extremism causes a wide range of harms, including the promotion of hatred and division, violence and discrimination against women and girls, the encouragement of isolation, and the rejection of the democratic system and the rule of law.
6. The Strategy identifies threats from Islamist extremism and far-right extremism as priorities, but seeks to cover extremism in all its forms.
7. The Strategy identifies local authorities as key partners for government, in particular in developing links with individuals, groups and organisations already standing up to extremists in their communities. However, it asserts that some local authorities have failed to confront extremism as fully as they should have done.
8. It should be noted that the Counter Extremism Strategy is separate from the national Counter-Terrorism Strategy and 'Prevent' (which is one of the four strands of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy). Prevent is concerned with stopping individuals from being drawn into terrorism and providing support to those at risk of being radicalised; counter-extremism work is concerned with tackling extremists/extremist groups and ideology, building community resilience, and responding to some of the wider harms from

extremism beyond terrorism, including harmful illegal cultural practices and hate crime. Prevent and counter-extremism are presented by government as two 'distinct but complementary' policy areas.

9. While Prevent is underpinned by a statutory duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, there is currently no specific legislation on counter-extremism; Bills announced in the Queen's Speech in May 2015 and in May 2016 did not subsequently materialise.

### **Commission for Countering Extremism**

10. In June 2017 the Queen's Speech announced the establishment of a new statutory independent Commission for Countering Extremism. Its purpose is to support the government, public sector, civil and wider society and families to identify and challenge all forms of extremism.
11. The appointment of Sara Khan as Lead Commissioner was announced in January 2018. The role is for a period of three years, and will be supported by a small secretariat.
12. The Commission's Charter sets out that it will:
  - 12.1. provide government with impartial, expert advice on the tools, policies and approaches needed to tackle extremism;
  - 12.2. support the public sector, communities and civil society to confront extremism wherever it exists; and
  - 12.3. promote a positive vision of our core, shared values.
13. The objectives for the Commission's first year have been announced as:
  - 13.1. Engaging widely and openly on extremism and Britain's values across the public sector, communities, civil society, and with legal and academic experts.
  - 13.2. Producing a strategic assessment of the threat faced from extremism, and the current response.
  - 13.3. Advising Ministers on the Commission's future structures, work programme and the appointment of further commissioners.
14. It is expected that there will be a formal call for evidence announced shortly, which is likely to invite submissions on the scale of extremist threats; the impact and harms of extremism in communities; and the current response to extremism, including examples of good practice.
15. The Commission has indicated that it views local authorities as key stakeholders and is keen to engage with both the LGA and individual councils.

**Support for local authorities**

16. From summer 2016 the Home Office began to establish a network of 'supported areas' – 41 local authority priority areas in England and Wales, with funding for a dedicated 'Community Coordinator' post. Community Coordinators are responsible for:
  - 16.1. improving local understanding of extremism, including drivers, prevalence and harms caused;
  - 16.2. shaping local strategies and interventions; and
  - 16.3. making links with/building the capacity of local community groups.
17. Forty areas have or have had Coordinators; 35 are currently in post with recruitment underway for the remaining areas. Coordinators are currently funded by the Home Office on a year-by-year basis.
18. The LGA has been supporting Leeds and Luton Councils to establish a Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE); a local authority-led network across England and Wales which launched in November 2017 to provide support to councils, and develop and share good practice. The SIGCE's programme of work includes delivering a series of free thematic seminars and developing associated resources.
19. A key feature of the SIGCE is that it can help councils that have not received funding for a Community Coordinator post by disseminating best practice and sharing ideas across all local authorities.
20. The SIGCE is supported by an online Knowledge Hub, co-facilitated by LGA officers, which hosts the emerging outputs from the SIGCE's work, including a resource library and a platform for discussing issues and ideas. There are currently 52 local authorities signed up to the KHub and we are keen to expand the network further.
21. The LGA continues with a broader programme of work to support councils around countering extremism, including producing case studies and guidance materials and running a series of leadership essentials courses for elected members.

**Issues and points for discussion**

22. Members are asked to note the following issues and suggested questions for the Lead Commissioner:
  - 22.1. Extremism challenges and trigger events can be very locally focussed. Effective responses require a sound understanding of the complexities and nuances of the local context, as well as well-established relationships with local grassroots groups. What is the Commissioner's view on a locally-led versus national top-down approach to countering extremism?
  - 22.2. The challenges from extremism are constantly evolving and require a flexible and dynamic response – including notably the recent rise in anti-minority groups

exploiting sexual assault allegations to mobilise support. What does the Commissioner see as the most pressing current and future threats?

- 22.3. While 'supported areas' receive dedicated Home Office funding for Community Coordinators to support local activity, it is clear that extremism presents issues for local authorities across the country. While we are seeking to support these areas through the SIGCE and beyond, there are concerns that non-supported areas do not have the resources they need to respond and build resilience. What are the Commissioner's views on ensuring that all areas get the support they need?
- 22.4. Councils have identified some specific difficulties or blockages to local counter extremism work which may require a national response (such as a reticence amongst some partner agencies to introduce an injunction like the one used by Bedfordshire Police to limit Britain First activity). How can we ensure that existing tools are being fully utilised? How can the LGA work with the Commissioner to help disseminate learning and develop practice across different partners?
- 22.5. The establishment of the Commission sits alongside a number of other significant national developments in related policy areas, including the recent publication of the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper and the new Contest counter-terrorism strategy. Where does the Commissioner see counter-extremism in relation to these other areas and how can we ensure a joined-up approach at national and local levels?
- 22.6. The Commission is expected to issue a call for evidence shortly. How can the LGA and councils best engage with this?

### **Implications for Wales**

23. The Commission's remit covers both England and Wales. LGA officers will seek to liaise with the WLGA regarding a response to the call for evidence, once this has been announced.

### **Financial implications**

24. LGA improvement activity for counter-extremism is supported by grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

### **Next steps**

25. Members are asked to note the issues and questions set out under paragraph 20. Officers will note specific concerns raised by members at the meeting to feed into the LGA's response to the anticipated call for evidence.



## **Update on LGA work to develop a National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3)**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

In June 2017, the LGA commissioned the development of a National Register of taxi licence Refusals and Revocations, or NR3. Through facilitating sharing of information between licensing authorities, the objective of the register is to prevent individuals who have had a licence refused or an application for one revoked by one authority from securing a licence elsewhere by failing to declare their previous licensing history. This paper updates the Board on progress on the development of NR3.

### **Recommendation**

That the Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the progress outlined in the paper.

### **Action**

Officers will continue to progress the development of the national register on refusals and revocations.

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## **Update on LGA work to develop a National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3)**

### **Background**

1. This note updates the Board on progress on the development of the National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations or NR3, including the launch timetable, register functionality and key issues.

### **Objective**

2. In June 2017, the LGA commissioned the development of NR3, with the objective of preventing individuals who have had a licence refused or an application for one revoked by one authority from securing a licence elsewhere by failing to declare their previous licensing history.
3. The register allows licensing authorities to record details of where a taxi or PHV drivers' licence has been revoked, or an application for one refused, and also enables them to check new applicants against the register.
4. At the moment, if drivers do not disclose information about a previous revocation or refusal, there is often no way for a licensing authority to find this information out if it is not included on a Disclosure and Barring Service check. This means that vital intelligence about an applicant's past behavior is missed and an individual might be able to get a new licence in another area, despite having their licence revoked elsewhere for reasons that demonstrate they are not a fit and proper person.
5. High profile instances of this happening have undermined public confidence in the safety of taxis and PHVs, and left licensing authorities open to criticism for something that is currently very difficult for them to control.
6. The LGA therefore commissioned the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) to develop and host the register. NAFN is a local authority owned, not for profit organization specialising in data and intelligence services, and is hosted by Tameside council.
7. Development of the register has been supported by a user group comprising officers from a range of licensing authorities (including Transport for London), who have advised on the specification of the register, as well as testing its functionality.

### **Accessing the register**

8. Access to the register is only available to members of NAFN. Whilst over 90% of local authorities are already members of NAFN, those who are not will need to join to use it. Membership costs £1,050 annually and provides access to a range of different services as well as NR3. While this is a cost which can be recouped through licensing fees, it is recognised that for some smaller licensing authorities this could represent a significant cost across a relatively small number of licensees and therefore a potential barrier to



access. However, it would be difficult to establish and maintain a system of this nature without incurring some costs in doing so.

9. Subscribing to NR3 requires local authorities to sign up to data sharing and data processing agreements with NAFN. These agreements outline the necessary steps the authority and NAFN will take to ensure NR3 is compliant with both the Data Protection Act (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which replaces this from May 2018.
10. Authorities will need to designate an officer as a single point of contact as part of the registration process. Authorities will then be able to set up user accounts for other officers to be able to search and input into the register.
11. The LGA has written to all licensing authorities to introduce the new register and set out the steps they will need to take to sign up to it, as well as advising how to become a member of NAFN where appropriate. To date, 200 licensing authorities have shared contact information with NAFN and they have had enquiries from 21 non-member authorities, three of which have now subscribed.

### **Register functionality**

12. The register has two basic elements of functionality; it enables authorities to record details of relevant drivers, and it enables them to undertake searches of the data held in the register. User guidance and training materials on using the register will be published by NAFN as the register is launched.
13. Licensing authorities will be responsible for adding basic details of drivers who have had a licence revoked or an application for one refused. The intention is that when a licensing authority receives an application for a licence or renewal of one, the applicant's details will be checked on the register to confirm that there is no record of them having being revoked or refused elsewhere.
14. Details contained on the register will be limited to information that will help to identify an individual to a certain degree of accuracy, including name, address and national insurance number, but will not give a reason or explanation of why an action was taken. It will be up to individual authorities to follow up on any potential matches with the appropriate licensing authority, whose contact details will be included in the search result.

### **Update and issues**

15. The basic functionality for the register has been completed; further work is now being undertaken to develop the bulk upload facilities that Transport for London require to use the system given the volume of licensees that they are dealing with.
16. The LGA has also written accompanying guidance for licensing authorities which provides a comprehensive overview of the steps authorities will need to take to use the register in a way that complies with existing and new data protection requirements, as well as with human rights law. The guidance aims to minimise the work that must be undertaken by individual authorities by providing suggested wording to use to update policies and application forms, and draft letters that can be sent to existing licensees to

make them aware of the new register and the fact that refusals and revocations will in future be entered onto the register. Letters will also need to be sent to former licensees or applicants whose data will also be entered onto the register.

17. The LGA has sought advice from expert counsel to ensure the guidance is authoritative, given obvious sensitivities around information sharing and the potential for individuals whose details will be included on the register to object to this.
18. The key feedback from counsel was the need to ensure that use of the register is proportionate and underpinned by supporting policies setting out how authorities will use NR3. In particular, we were advised that authorities must have an approach for managing the sharing (and subsequent use) of information between authorities that may take place once a match has been identified on the register; rather than assuming a blanket approach in which information will always be shared, whatever the circumstances or timing of the original refusal or revocation. We have therefore expanded the supporting guidance to provide a suggested policy on this, and are undertaking a final check of the guidance with counsel and the Information Commissioner's Office.
19. As soon as this process is complete, we will circulate the guidance to licensing authorities. In doing so, we will make clear that although we have been through an extensive process to ensure that the register and supporting processes comply with relevant legislation, each individual licensing authority will need to work with its own informational governance and legal team to assure themselves of the work they put in place to implement use of the NR3 by their authority.

### **Implications for Wales**

20. Welsh licensing authorities will be able to access the register if they choose to.

### **Financial Implications**

21. The IT development and legal costs incurred in establishing the register have been met from the LGA's improvement grant, a proportion of which is allocated to regulatory issues. As set out above, NAFN members pay an annual fee to contribute to the running of the overall service.

### **Next steps**

22. Once guidance has been disseminated, licensing authorities will be able to start using the register. The first step, once subscription to the register has been completed, will be to populate the register with historic data of licence revocations and refusals.
23. While the establishment of the register is an important, sector led step towards strengthening taxi and PHV licensing, we will continue to lobby Government for a comprehensive reform Bill and the creation of a national database of all taxi and PHV drivers and operators.

## **Serious Violence Strategy Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

Dan Greaves, Crime Director at the Home Office, will attend the meeting to provide an update on the launch of the Serious Violence Strategy and the new Serious Violence Taskforce. This paper provides a brief overview of the Strategy and seeks the Board's views on the document and appropriate LGA next steps.

### **Recommendation**

That Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the update on the Serious Violence Strategy and provide their views to help develop the LGA's next steps on this issue.

### **Action**

Members' views on the content of the strategy will help to develop the LGA's supporting activities to councils on this issue.

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## **Serious Violence Strategy Update**

### **Background**

1. The [Serious Violence Strategy](#) was launched by the former Home Secretary Amber Rudd on 9 April 2018. Cllr Simon Blackburn attended a breakfast roundtable meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss the Strategy and later attended the launch with LGA Chief Executive Mark Lloyd.
2. We issued a [response](#) to the Strategy which welcomed the significant emphasis placed on the value of early intervention support, which we said is vital to prevent young people becoming involved in crime in the first place. The LGA also highlighted the importance of adequate funding to enable councils to take forward this preventative work. At that time, councils had still not received their youth justice grant allocations, which made it impossible for youth offending teams to plan effectively to ensure positive outcomes for young people. The grants have now come through youth offending teams.
3. Following the launch of the Strategy, the LGA was invited to be a representative on the new [Serious Violence Taskforce](#). Other representatives include a coalition of Government ministers, cross-party MPs, police leaders, public health bodies and the voluntary sector. The first meeting of the Taskforce took place on 26 April 2018. Cllr Simon Blackburn represented the LGA at this meeting, which predominantly focused on the terms of reference for the Taskforce and presentations on county lines issues.
4. The next Serious Violence Taskforce meeting is planned for 11 June 2018. Ahead of this meeting, we have asked councils to send through some case studies on tackling serious violence crime to highlight examples of best practice, which we will subsequently share with our member councils.

### **Serious Violence Strategy – An overview**

5. The Strategy is concerned with specific types of violent crime, including homicide, knife crime and gun crime. It also highlights the emerging crime threats such as the use of corrosive substances as a weapon and the violence around moped enabled crime. The Strategy will focus on areas of criminality with gangs, county lines drug dealing and robbery.
6. The Strategy recognises that serious violent crime is a national problem, with all forces seeing an increase in serious violence. It calls upon key partners at a local, regional and national level to help prevent this type of crime.
7. It's important to note the LGA has been a member of the Home Office's action group on two-wheeled powered vehicle crime. LGA representatives have also attended Home Office-led meetings on other forms of violent crime, such as knife crime, county lines drug dealing and acid attacks. We are mentioned as part of the County Lines action plan in the Serious Violence Strategy as helping disseminate best practice locally and nationally.

8. Due to the relatively small number of individuals committing the majority of crime and serious violence, the Strategy indicates there is a large potential benefit to preventative intervention. The Strategy suggests that cost benefit analysis shows preventative interventions offer value for money, help to reduce incidents of crime and lead to better health, education and employment outcomes.
9. The Strategy does not include issues such as domestic abuse or child sexual exploitation and abuse, as there are separate work programmes looking at these issues. There will be links with the forthcoming refresh of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy expected to be published in the coming months.
10. There are four key themes in the Strategy:
  - 10.1 Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs;
  - 10.2 Early intervention and prevention;
  - 10.3 Supporting communities and partnerships; and
  - 10.4 Effective law enforcement and criminal justice response.
11. The Strategy proposes a number of new commitments and initiatives of direct relevance to councils, including:

**Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs**

12. There is a commitment to deliver the second phase of activity under the County Lines Action Plan to consolidate and build on the work undertaken to date and address new and specific threats and challenges. £3.6 million will be provided to support the development of the new National County Lines Co-ordination Centre. The Home Office will continue to work with the CPS and NPCC lead on the prosecution of county lines encouraging the use of Modern Slavery Act offences where appropriate.
13. There will be county lines practitioners' guidance and a nationwide media campaign to raise awareness of the threat of county lines to young and vulnerable people. The Home Office will update the Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance to reflect the risks to children of serious violence including serious risk of harm associated with county lines. The LGA is mentioned in the County Lines Action Plan as supporting the dissemination of best practice on this issue. We have worked with the Home Office to agree the wording in the Strategy.
14. Action will be taken on county lines mobile phones lines and restricting drugs supply, through partnership action to tackle heroin and crack use in targeted areas. The Home Office will support the role of the Recovery Champion in providing leadership and advice on standards of provision for drug treatment. We have said it will be important for the police to work with local government and public health services to ensure the relevant support services are in place, should targeted action be taken in the local area.

15. Following the launch of the Serious Violence Strategy, the LGA has planned a [county lines conference](#) on 12 July 2018 to share examples of best practice in local government of tackling county lines issues and criminal child exploitation. The Home Office will be speaking at this event.

### **Early intervention and prevention**

16. Both Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will have access to the new Early Intervention Youth Fund (£11 million over two years), to help support youth and community groups providing intervention programmes in England and Wales. The bidding process is still to be agreed, but there is likely to be an element of match-funding.
17. We welcome the additional funding provided to Community Safety Partnerships as part of the Early Intervention Youth Fund. We have previously emphasised the importance of providing CSPs with the opportunity to make larger funding bids, on a sub-regional and regional basis and in partnership with PCCs or other key partners, rather than 'penny packets' which often can only be used to fund short term, one off interventions.
18. Young people involved in or at risk of being involved in gangs and serious violence will have access to more intensive, tailored support through early access to the DWP Work and Health Programme.
19. The Home Office will work closely with the Department for Education to consider what further specific actions may be needed to support Looked After Children at risk of criminal exploitation and being drawn into crime. The Home Office will work with the NPCC and the Department for Education to improve police-school relationships, so children do not feel the need to carry weapons for protection.
20. The Home Office will roll out Liaison and Diversion services in police stations and courts to help improve outcomes for people in mental health crisis, and provide face-to-face support for parents of children with mental health problems and improve early interventions on young people with mental health issues.
21. In our response to this announcement, we have said the action to tackle the crisis in children and young people's mental health is long overdue. Children who are in need of support have to wait 18 months before they receive vital services and guidance, which is unacceptable. As part of our Bright Futures campaign, we are calling on the Government to deliver long-term root and branch reform on children's mental health and ensure the system speeds up, rather than delays, children asking for help. We want to ensure children can access the support as early as they need without having to go on a waiting list, as well as reduce overall demand on specialist services. The Government's green paper on children's mental health is an opportunity to address this important issue, and we will continue to work with the Government on this.
22. The Home Office will continue to support and fund the Young People's Advocates scheme working with gang-affected young women and girls, and explore whether the model should be expanded to other areas.

23. The Government will refresh the Missing Strategy and publish an implementation plan to reflect those who go missing in the context of county lines criminality.

**Partnerships and local communities**

24. The Knife Crime Community fund will provide further rounds of funding to community groups to prevent knife crime in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
25. Support will be provided to Community Safety Partnerships to take a leading role in strengthening local links and sharing information. The Home Office will support CSPs by hosting conferences to bring partnerships together to share best practice and innovation.
26. PCCs will be expected to prioritise and identify what action they are taking against serious violence in their annual Police and Crime Plan. The Home Office will also look at opportunities to expand the role of PCCs in relation to public health. This is somewhat concerning as PCCs have been expressing interest in councils' public health funding. The commissioning of drug and alcohol treatment should not be solely viewed through the prism of offending. There are lots of people who receive treatment who are not involved in offending, and taking the money from public health will compromise councils' ability to address wider public health issues.
27. PCCs and CSPs will be encouraged to take a leading role in strengthening local links to best make use of the information gathered through the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence Initiative.
28. Strategic reviews will be available to local areas through the Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation (EGVE) programme, and funding will be provided to support community projects tackle gang related violence and knife crime through the EGVE fund. There will be action plans for promoting police guidance and training on acid attacks, moped enabled crime, social media abuse and firearms.
29. The Home Office will encourage smaller independent retailers to join the voluntary commitment on the responsible sales of corrosive substances, including not selling products containing the most harmful substances to under 18s. Sulphuric acid will be added to the list of substances subject to the Poisons Act 1972 to restrict access to it. The Home Office have also commissioned the University of Leicester to research the range of motivations for those who carry and use acid and corrosives for criminal activity.

**Law enforcement and the criminal justice system**

30. Trading Standards teams will be supported to undertake prosecutions of retailers who sell knives to under-18s through developing a specific prosecution fund to support this activity. In our response to this announcement, we have highlighted that trading standards has experienced significant cuts since 2009 – in common with many other council services. Trading standards teams face the particular challenge of trying to balance a range of local and national objectives, and are subject to a growing list of additional responsibilities given to them by Government without adequate additional funding.

31. Tackling knife crime is a key priority in a number of areas and it is useful the Government is providing funding to support prosecution against online and in-store retailers relating to knife crime. However, with staffing capacity significantly reduced across the service, there will be challenges in some places with resourcing the test purchasing operations that will lead to prosecutions, as well as with balancing this with competing priorities. This important service needs to be properly funded to enable it to take action on the wide range of public safety issues for which it is responsible.
32. There will be a greater focus on serious violence within the existing Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Service police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection reports from 2018. The Home Office will also work with HMIC to support a thematic inspection of county lines in 2018-19.
33. The Home Office will work with the NPCC lead to implement preventative measures in respect of online video platforms encouraging gang related violence and take action against illegal material posted online.
34. The Home Office will continue tightening up legislation on knives, corrosive substances and firearms, including action in relation to online sale of knives.
35. The Home Office will develop the Victims Strategy to recognise the importance of, and need for, a joined-up approach across Government in supporting victims.

#### **Delivering impact and next steps**

36. The Home Office will outline the next steps for the Inter-Ministerial Group on Serious Violence (formerly the Inter-Ministerial Group on Gangs), the new cross-sector Serious Violence Taskforce and plans for the International Violent Crime Symposium to be held in autumn 2018.
37. As part of the Strategy, the Home Office will look to test and evaluate interventions to identify effectiveness in preventing victimisation and perpetration of serious violence.
38. There is also a commitment from the Home Office to deliver a series of national and regional events with key sectors to assess changes in the nature and threat of serious violence and challenge impact.

#### **Questions to consider**

39. Members may wish to raise the following questions regarding the Serious Violence Strategy:
40. The Strategy outlines details of a Prosecutions Fund which will be made available to trading standards teams. Is there any further detail on how much funding will be available through this fund and how the bidding process will work?
41. When will Community Safety Partnerships and Police and Crime Commissioners have access to the new Early Intervention Youth Fund?



42. The Home Office have committed to providing support to Community Safety Partnerships to take a leading role in strengthening local links and sharing information, by hosting conferences to bring partnerships together to share best practice and innovation. The LGA is ideally placed to share best practice in local government. Will the Home Office agree to work with the LGA on these future conferences?
43. As part of our Bright Futures campaign, the LGA has called on the Government to deliver long-term root and branch reform on children's mental health and ensure the system speeds up, rather than delays, children asking for help. In light of this, will the Home Office provide a future update on how successful the roll out of Liaison and Diversion services in police stations and courts has been?
44. The LGA is holding a conference on county lines issues in July. Would the Home Office be supportive of future events to share best practice on this issue in local government? And will the Home Office give a commitment to work with the LGA on future regional events?

#### **Implications for Wales**

45. There are Welsh representatives on the Serious Violence Taskforce to highlight their views on the Serious Violence Strategy. The LGA will continue to feedback any next steps from the Taskforce that may have an impact on the devolved regions.

#### **Financial Implications**

46. All work can be carried out using existing LGA resources.

#### **Next steps**

47. Members are asked to provide their views on the content of the strategy to help develop the LGA's supporting activities to councils on this issue.



## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board End of Year Report 2017/8 and 2018/9 Work Plan**

### **Purpose of report**

For direction.

### **Summary**

This paper sets out the Safer and Stronger Communities end of year report, including initial proposals for the 2018/9 work plan.

### **Recommendation**

That Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the end of year report and consider the Board's work priorities for 2018/9.

### **Action**

Officers to prepare a paper for the first meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in 2018/19 on the work plan for that year, in line with Members' discussions.

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## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board End of Year Report 2017/8 and 2018/9 Work Plan**

### **Background**

1. At its meeting in September the Board considered its priorities for 2017/8 and agreed five overarching themes:
  - 1.1. Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion;
  - 1.2. Community safety
  - 1.3. Blue light services and civil resilience;
  - 1.4. Licensing and regulation; and
  - 1.5. Crematoria, coroners and medical examiners.
2. Alongside these Board priorities, the contribution the Board would make to cross-cutting priorities identified by the Leadership Board – in particular supporting councils to respond to the Grenfell tragedy and Britain's exit from the EU – was also recognised in the work plan.
3. This paper provides an overview of the achievements delivered against these themes, and seeks an initial steer from the Board on its priorities for 2018/9. This will subsequently be developed into a full paper for consideration at the first meeting of the 2018/9 Board cycle in September.

### **Issues**

#### **Prevent, counter extremism and cohesion**

4. We formally responded to Dame Louise Casey's review of integration. In order to inform our response we drew on member authorities' experience, holding a well-received workshop for council officers working on integration, and going forward we are co-hosting a roundtable for a group of Chief Executives to discuss this issue with SOLACE. We worked closely with officials at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MCHLG) to shape the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper in the run up to the publication and have developed an LGA response to the consultation. We have made contact with the five integration area councils who will be working with the Government to pilot the ideas in the strategy, and intend to host a meeting of them shortly. Our updated guidance for councillors on community cohesion will be published later this summer.
5. Over the course of the year, we held five well attended Leadership Essentials courses; three on Prevent and two on Counter-Extremism. We continued to work closely with Leeds and Luton councils to build the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism, including sitting on the SIGCE steering group and delivery group, facilitating the KHub

and hosting the Ministerial launch in November. We had early engagement with the new lead Commissioner for Counter Extremism, and fed in the views of local authorities on her priorities for her first year in the role. We commissioned a longitudinal case study on anti-minority mobilisation and commissioned work to explore approaches to community engagement around extremism.

6. We successfully lobbied Government on the implementation of Dovetail for the administration of Channel panels, raising sector concerns and securing assurances from officials about further piloting to address these before national roll out. We also established the elected member Prevent Champions Network to offer advice and support on Prevent to other members.

### **Community safety**

7. We published the first guidance for councils on tackling modern slavery; the document was commended by senior figures at the National Crime Agency as being valuable for other partners as well as councils. In conjunction with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's office, we held five regional workshops on modern slavery around the country. More than 250 delegates from almost 100 councils attended the events to hear more about councils' role in disrupting modern slavery and work to support victims. We worked with the Home Office to shape the National Referral Mechanism reforms, and helped ensure that it remained a national rather than a localised service for potential victims of modern slavery.
8. We updated our guidance for councils on using Public Space Protection Orders following changes to government guidance on using anti-social behaviour powers, and are hosting a conference on this issue in June. Our report on the future of community safety partnerships was published, and we represented the sector in a number of Government working groups and task forces, on county lines, moped crime, serious violence and serious and organised crime. A conference on county lines is being jointly organised with the Children and Young People's Board for July. We met with the College of Policing to outline the LGA's view on their new neighbourhood policing guidelines and continue to work closely with them on this issue.
9. On domestic abuse, we continued to articulate the need for councils to have the flexibility to commission a range of services for victims, and for the need to invest in perpetrator programmes to reduce incidents of offending. Our views were set out in our response to the Government consultation on the new Bill and the creation of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, and through our participation in the National Oversight Group chaired by the Home Secretary. We also ensured that domestic abuse issues were included in related social housing consultation responses. The Chair of the Board spoke at the APPG on Domestic Abuse.
10. The National FGM Centre received a further three years funding from the Government in summer 2017 and has expanded its remit to include child abuse linked to faith or belief and breast ironing/flattening alongside FGM. Cllr Anita Lower has continued to chair the Centre's Advisory Group whose membership has now been expanded to reflect the wider remit of the Centre. We have continued to work with them in partnership on sustainability and helping to communicate the Centre's offer to councils.

11. We continued to offer support to Rother in responding to the tragedy at Camber Sands, launched a water safety toolkit for councils and continued to promote the drowning prevention messages to members, including devising a campaign aimed at our members to run this year alongside the launch of an updated version of the toolkit.

### **Blue light services and civil resilience**

12. We ran two leadership essentials courses for fire, and a diversity masterclass aimed at FRA-members. We organised the LGA's annual fire conference and have held a diversity summit to follow up on last year's Memorandum of Understanding. Four fire and rescue services are affected by three Police and Crime Commissioners' (PCCs) plans to take on the governance of fire and rescue services in their area, and we have provided support to them. We have published our Fire Vision 2024 setting out where we see the future of the service and including a new target for 30 per cent of new firefighter recruits being women by 2024 and a series of case studies promoting diverse recruitment and inclusion within the service more generally.
13. We ran two workshops for Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) in areas where the PCC is taking over the Fire and Rescue Authority role, with a third scheduled later in summer. We provided significant support to PCPs to assist them in establishing a National Association of Police and Crime Panels within the auspices of the LGA; an application from the new Association to become an LGA special interest group is expected to be approved by the LGA Leadership Board this summer.
14. We shaped the outcome of the Cabinet Office's review of civil resilience commissioned after the Grenfell Tower fire, and have strengthened relationships with MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division (this assisted in the provision of support to Wiltshire following the recent incident in Salisbury) as well as working closely with SOLACE to coordinate activity in this area. We published a document drawing on the learning from chief executives involved in the response to the Westminster Bridge and Manchester Arena attack. We also worked with the LGA Leadership Team to host a pilot councillor masterclass on civil resilience and emergency planning. The event received extremely positive feedback.

### **Licensing and regulation**

15. We have made substantial progress on the work to develop a national register of taxi / PHV licence refusals and revocations (NR3). The register functionality has been developed, and we have drafted a suite of supporting guidance and template materials to enable licensing authorities to use the register. The register is expected to go live this summer. We worked with the Institute of Licensing to support the development of guidance on the fit and proper person assessment and a standardised approach to convictions. We have also contributed to the Ministerial working group on taxis and PHVs. Guidance for licensing authorities on CCTV in taxis and PHVs will be published in summer.
16. We updated our councillor handbook on gambling licensing to coincide with the requirement for licensing authorities to update their statements of gambling licensing policy. We have also developed new guidance on taking a whole council approach to problem gambling, which will be launched at an event on this issue in mid-July. Our work

to lobby Government on the review of gaming machines and social responsibility resulted in the announcement in May that the stakes for fixed odds betting terminals would be reduced to £2, a considerable success for the Board's long running work in this area. As a result of our engagement with GambleAware, the charity responsible for research, education and treatment of problem gambling, the members from the Board were invited to sit on the advisory panel for the major responsible gambling advertising campaign being launched as part of the response to the Government's review.

17. We have supported the LGA's cross-cutting work on Brexit by working with port health authorities, councils and professional bodies to highlight the potential impact on regulatory services and port services from leaving the EU.

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

18. Over the last year we have continued to be involved in the Department of Health and Social Care's programme to implement the changes to death certification set out in the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, including the introduction of medical examiners. We have continued to make the point that councils need a two-year transition period to establish a new medical examiners service; although the government's intention is to introduce the new service in April 2019, it is unlikely to be delivered by councils.

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

19. Officers in the Safer and Stronger Communities team have led the LGA's response to the Grenfell tragedy. This has involved assisting MHCLG and councils with identifying council and other social housing blocks with aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding systems similar to that on Grenfell Tower, and working with councils on the removal of that cladding. In May the government announced that £400 million would be made available to pay for the removal and replacement of ACM from council and housing association blocks.
20. The LGA also successfully called for a review of building regulations and fire safety. The interim report from Dame Judith Hackitt reflected all the significant points the LGA had made in its submission to the review, and her final report, published in May, sets out how the regulatory system for high-rise buildings can be made fit for the twenty first century. Additionally the Board has looked at issues associated with tower blocks built using the large panel system method of construction. The LGA continues to work on issues related to fire doors, enforcement powers, identifying ACM cladding on private blocks and the impact this may have on leaseholders.

#### **Conferences, events and media**

21. The Board ran a range of events over the last year in addition to those already listed, including the annual licensing conference, the annual fire conference and the violent crime conference.
22. Over the last year the Board issued press releases or responded to stories on domestic abuse, modern slavery, faulty white goods, product safety, taxi licensing, food hygiene ratings, Fixed Odds Betting Terminal stakes, gambling advertising, fake goods, integration, serious violence, anti-social behaviour, FGM and fake news.

**2018/9 Priorities**

23. It is expected that the themes for the 2018/9 work priorities will remain broadly consistent with 2017/8, with a number of workstreams continuing into the new Board cycle.

However, changes in some of the existing priority areas (for example, in relation to crematoria, coroners and medical examiners) and the conclusion of elements of work in others (for example, the NR3 register and taxi / PHV Ministerial working group) means that there is scope for the Board to provide new direction on the issues it would like to focus on in some areas. The likelihood of additional resource to support the team on Grenfell work also means that there may be some additional capacity to support this.

24. The table below sets out some initial thinking on workstreams that will continue into the new Board cycle:

Priority area	Proposed activity
Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work to support councils in countering extremism and implementing the Prevent duty, including holding further training for councillors, sharing good practice through supporting the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism, trialing approaches to community engagement and publication of guidance and case studies.</li> <li>Respond to the new Contest strategy/supporting councils to implement changes, particularly around Prevent; feed into the development of the revised Hate Crime Strategy and represent the views of local government to the statutory Commission for Counter Extremism.</li> <li>We will continue to work with MHCLG as it takes forward the response to the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, putting forward the views of councils on key issues. We will host further learning events to share best practice across councils.</li> </ul>
Community safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby Government and Parliament in regard to the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill.</li> <li>Support LGA input to the Serious Violence Taskforce.</li> <li>Subject to funding, hold two further events focusing on specific aspects of modern slavery, develop case study document and undertake work looking at changing consumer habits in key areas.</li> <li>Run a small campaign directed at LGA members around drowning prevention.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for follow up work on community and neighbourhood policing.</li> </ul>
Blue light services and civil resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the LGA's existing councillor guidance on civil contingencies, explore with SOLACE and MHCLG local authority mutual aid arrangements, and host a series of councillor masterclasses on this around the country.</li> <li>• Liaise with the new National Association of Police and Crime Panels, including looking at the scope to review the existing suite of PCP guidance and develop new guidance on complaints.</li> <li>• Continue to support fire and rescue authorities over PCC transfers.</li> <li>• Continue to support the fire and rescue sector work on fire reform initiatives (inspection, standards etc).</li> </ul>
Licensing and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish the new councillor handbook on the Licensing Act 2003.</li> <li>• Continue work to strengthen gambling licensing and the adoption of a whole council approach to harmful gambling.</li> <li>• Work with councils and the Government to ensure a sustainable post-Brexit approach to port health and regulatory services.</li> <li>• Support councils to develop innovative approaches to managing the night-time economy.</li> <li>• Work with councils to explore best practice in commercialisation to support sustainability of regulatory services.</li> <li>• Work with the police to develop tools to support effective enforcement of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act.</li> </ul>
Support councils to respond to Grenfell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with government to deliver those recommendations from the Hackitt Review which will deliver a regulatory system for high-rise and high-risk buildings fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</li> <li>• Respond to the government consultation to ban the use</li> </ul>

	<p>of combustible materials on the exterior of high-rise buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with councils and MHCLG to identify those private high-rise buildings with ACM cladding, and lobby for the changes to regulations need for councils to take action where building owners are not taking remedial action.</li> <li>• Continue to explore issues with external wall insulation and large panel system buildings.</li> </ul>
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25. Alongside this, the Board may wish to consider whether there are any cross-cutting themes in community safety issues that they would like to explore – for example mental health, disrupting crime through community safety and regulation, multi-agency enforcement, information sharing or innovative practice. One area of work the Board has been asked to consider by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT) is to examine the impact of councils' activities on GRT communities.

26. Officers welcome Board Members views on areas they would like to focus on.

### **Implications for Wales**

27. We will work with colleagues at the Welsh LGA to identify areas where our work will be applicable to Wales, and where WLGA may wish to use our work as a basis for Welsh specific work of its own.

### **Financial Implications**

28. The work priorities identified for 2018/9 will be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes dedicated capacity to support work on cohesion, extremism and Prevent, and new additional capacity to support Grenfell work.

### **Next steps**

29. The Board are asked to reflect on the work delivered this year, and consider and comment on their priorities for 2018/9.

## **Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This report outlines the recommendations from the final report of the independent review of building regulations and fire safety led by Dame Judith Hackitt published in May, the implications of these for councils and fire and rescue authorities, and the LGA's other building safety related work since the last Board meeting.

### **Recommendations**

That Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

1. Note the publication of the final report from the independent review of building regulations and fire safety, and the government's announcements in response as well as on the funding of remediation work.
2. Comment on the review's recommendations and the implications for fire and rescue and local authorities to inform future LGA work.
3. Note and comment on the LGA's other building safety work.

### **Actions**

Members' views on the review's recommendations will be used to inform the LGA's response to them and its lobbying around the government's plans to reform the building regulation system.

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## **Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings**

### **Background**

1. Since the Board's last meeting the final report from the independent review of building regulations and fire safety led by Dame Judith Hackitt has been published, while the government has also made a range of announcements related to the national building safety programme. This paper updates the Board on the final recommendations of the Hackitt Review, the government's announcements and associated LGA work related to fire safety in high-rise buildings.

### **Investigation into the cause of the fire**

2. The cause of the fire at Grenfell Tower and the reason it spread so quickly through the tower block is still the subject of an on-going investigation by the Metropolitan Police (MPS). However a report commissioned by the MPS from fire investigation experts BRE Global and written in January 2018 was leaked to the media in April. From what has been published about the report it appears the fire started in a fridge-freezer, in a flat on the fourth floor situated one metre from the window, and the fire travelled out of the window and took hold in the cladding system on the outside of the block.
3. Printed extracts from the BRE Global report show it concludes the refurbishment of the block failed to meet the fire safety standards set out in the building regulations. The deficiencies identified in the report include:
  - 3.1. the fact that the core of the aluminium composite material (ACM) panels and the insulation used were combustible;
  - 3.2. the incorrect installation of cavity barriers, which meant a chimney effect was created in the cladding system;
  - 3.3. the materials used around the window frames allowed the fire to spread back into other flats rather than stopped its spread;
  - 3.4. the absence of door closers on many front doors meant they were inadvertently left open, contributing to the breaching of compartmentation in the block; and
  - 3.5. the lack of access for fire engines at the base of the tower and the lack of a wet water riser.
4. The BRE Global report suggested further areas for investigation, including whether the fire spread through the open window or the extractor fan in the flat's kitchen, and whether the fire doors used in some of the flats had resisted the fire for as long as they were supposed to.

5. In addition to the MPS investigation, the public inquiry chaired by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, has also been tasked with identifying the immediate cause of the fire. Although it initially hoped to have produced a report on the causes of the fire by Easter 2018, the inquiry will only start taking evidence from London Fire Brigade firefighters from this month and residents from September to help it establish where and how the fire started, how it spread, and how the fire was fought. This phase of the inquiry started on 21 May with commemorations of the lives of those who died in the fire.

### **The independent review of building regulations and fire safety**

7. At its meetings in January and March the Board considered the interim report published on 18 December 2017 by the independent review of building regulations and fire safety led by Dame Judith Hackitt; the LGA's response to the interim report; and our engagement in the review's second phase of work. The review's [final report](#) was published on 17 May 2018. A summary of the main sections of the report are set out below.

### **A New Regulatory Framework**

8. In the report Dame Judith Hackitt sets out a proposal for a new regulatory framework for residential properties 10 or more storeys high – higher risk residential buildings (HRRBs). At the heart of this new framework is a new regulator, the Joint Competent Authority (JCA), to oversee better management of safety risks. This will not be a new body, but rather a mechanism for existing regulators (council building control functions, fire and rescue services and the Health and Safety Executive) to operate collectively to ensure the safety of HRRBs. The JCA will be funded on a cost recovery basis. Under the proposals a mandatory incident reporting system will also be put in place.

### **Design Construction and Refurbishment (Chapter two)**

6. The proposals envisage 'dutyholders' with responsibility for building safety at the design, construction and refurbishment stage and also at the occupancy stage of the building's life cycle. Dutyholders will be subject to rigorous and demanding duties and responsibilities. The report suggests three Gateway Points are established where the dutyholders will have to satisfy the JCA they have met a robust set of criteria before they can progress on to the next stage in constructing a new HRRB. It also recommends the JCA has effective sanctions and powers to penalise non-compliance. Any significant changes from the approved full plans will need to be notified to the JCA. Building control oversight for HRRBs will be solely provided by councils.

### **Occupation and Maintenance (Chapter three)**

7. Once occupied HRRBs will need to have a dutyholder with responsibility for the safety of all parts of the building, with a nominated building safety manager to manage the building on a day-to-day basis and act as a point of contact. The dutyholder will have to regularly demonstrate to the JCA that they are discharging their responsibilities, and as part of this process dutyholders for existing buildings will need to gather information on

the design, structure and materials used. Residents will also have clear obligations to maintain the safety of their flats.

#### **Residents' Voice (Chapter four)**

8. In the report Dame Judith sets out measures to provide reassurance and recourse for residents, including a no-risk route for residents to escalate concerns about safety to an independent statutory body, potentially the suggested single housing ombudsman. The report also proposes that dutyholders should have resident engagement strategies in place and that residents should have access to fire risk assessments, safety case documentation and information on maintenance and asset management.

#### **Competence (Chapter five)**

9. To overcome the concerns that the current approach to levels of competence is disjointed and not rigorous enough, the report recommends that professional and accreditation bodies should present a coherent approach to government within one year that sets out the remit and role of an overarching body to provide oversight of competence requirements of competent people working on HRRBs. The report states that the competence requirements for local authority employed building control officers and Approved Inspectors should be consistent. Approved Inspectors will lose their ability however to provide a building control role for HRRBs, though they will be able to provide those building them with advice and can work for councils' building control.

#### **Guidance and Monitoring (Chapter six)**

10. Dame Judith proposes that the responsibility for developing guidance on building regulations and fire safety should be moved to industry, with government support and a new structure to validate and assure guidance. The report argues that the full suite of building regulation guidance should be owned by industry who are accountable for managing risk and have an incentive to ensure that guidance keeps pace with innovation. The key focus is on building regulation guidance, but the report also suggests that the Fire Safety Order be reviewed and updated as necessary. It is proposed that there should be a periodic review, at least every five years, of the effectiveness of the whole system.

#### **Products (Chapter seven)**

11. Dame Judith's interim report sought to restrict the use of assessments in lieu, known as "desktop studies". The final report notes that the government is taking this recommendation forward and does not propose further restrictions on their use. The report notes that using products that are non-combustible or of limited combustibility is "undoubtedly" a lower risk option. But, rather than recommending that combustible products on the outside of HRRBs be banned, the final report argues that a system of mitigation be put in place when using materials that are required to pass a full system test. The report recommends that a more transparent and more effective specification and testing regime of construction products must be developed and that products that are critical to the safety of HRRBs should be subject to periodic retesting to ensure that quality and integrity has been maintained over time in production. In addition the report recommends that all products used in HRRBs must be traceable. A strengthened

compliance regime is proposed possibly through an extended remit for the Office of Product Safety and Standards.

### **Building Information (Chapter eight)**

12. The report recommends the creation of a digital record throughout the building life cycle. A Business information Modelling approach is proposed, which the report says will enable the dutyholders to ensure accuracy and quality of design and construction, and a suitable evidence base to maintain the safety and integrity throughout the life cycle of the building. The review also recommends that for existing buildings a set of minimum building data be included in the safety case provided to the JCA when the building is being refurbished or assessed.

### **Procurement and Supply (Chapter nine)**

13. The review states that the aim of the procurement process should be to obtain best value rather than lower cost. The review recommends that for HRRBs principal contractors and clients should devise contracts that specifically state that safety requirements must not be compromised for cost reduction. Tenders should propose how any proposed building solution results in safe buildings.

### **Government's Response**

14. In his response to the report on 17 May 2018, the Rt. Hon. James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, said that the government agreed with Dame Judith's analysis that the current system of building regulation is not fit for purpose, and supported the principles behind the report's recommendations for a new system. The Secretary of State went on to add that the government also agreed the system should be overseen by a more effective regulatory framework, with stronger powers to inspect high-rise buildings and stronger sanctions to tackle irresponsible behaviour. In addition the Secretary of State announced the government would be:
  - 14.1. launching a consultation on banning the use of combustible materials in cladding systems on high-rise residential buildings;
  - 14.2. banning desktop studies if the recent consultation – which closed on 25 May – does not demonstrate that they can be safely used;
  - 14.3. ensuring residents have a better mechanism for blowing the whistle on landlords who do not maintain safe buildings;
  - 14.4. changing the law to achieve meaningful and lasting reform of the building regulatory system, with strong sanctions for those who fail to comply;
  - 14.5. inviting views on how culture and practice could start to be changed immediately, with the government using the responses to inform a more detailed statement in the autumn on how it intends to implement major reform of the regulatory system; and
  - 14.6. restructuring building regulations fire safety guidance to ensure it is clear.

### **LGA Response to the Report**

15. The LGA's immediate response to the report centred on the absence of recommendations to prohibit the use of combustible material in cladding systems on high-rise residential buildings and to ban the use of desktop studies. Reforms of this sort to the building regulation system would address concerns about the robustness of the testing regime, issues with the clarity of information on a product's performance as well as the ease of identifying it once in use the report seeks to address. The Secretary of State's commitment to consult on banning the use of combustible materials in cladding systems in response to the report's publication was therefore a welcome response to LGA lobbying.
16. Looking ahead we will want to consider the report's recommendations in more detail, and their implications for councils and fire and rescue authorities. Many of the recommendations in the report reflect LGA positions and our lobbying including a new regulator that brings together building control, fire and rescue services and the Health and Safety Executive; the creation duty holder roles and responsibilities; treating HRRBs as a single entity; the introduction of Gateway Points which have to be passed before work can progress; clear obligations on residents of HRRBs around fire safety; and an improved testing regime for products.
17. It would be useful to have members' views on the recommendations and what they mean for councils and fire and rescue authorities to guide further LGA work in this area, and to aid that discussion the following paragraphs highlight some of the issues the LGA will need to consider.

### **Implications for Fire and Rescue Authorities**

18. The final recommendations in the report have significant implications for fire and rescue authorities (FRAs). As a key element of the new tripartite regulator, the Joint Competent Authority, FRAs will have a significantly greater role in the approval process for building high rise residential buildings. This includes being consulted at the planning stage for the building of new HRRBs, and when any applications are submitted in relation to other buildings in the immediate vicinity of a HRRB. FRAs will also be involved in reviewing fire safety in existing buildings.
19. There will of course be resource implications to this for FRAs both in carrying out the work and ensuring they have suitably qualified people. The recommendation that the JCA should be funded on the basis of full cost recovery would provide the resources to pay for the work, but consideration may need to be given to funding training to increase the pool of qualified staff to undertake the work.
20. The detail of how the JCA will operate is not clear from the report and Dame Judith herself was unable to add any clarity when questioned on this by the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee on 17 May. However as she pointed out to the Committee there are existing arrangements in place that could be used as a basis for the JCA. A key challenge though will be ensuring a consistency of approach by the JCA in different areas.



21. One issue that the LGA raised in its submission to the Dame Judith Hackitt's call for evidence last year, and again in the second phase of the review's work, was the interrelationship between the Fire Safety Order and the Housing Act 2004. Although the final report acknowledges there is an issue with their interaction, it does not specifically suggest that they are revised, relying instead on the JCA to ensure that enforcement under both regimes is coordinated.

### **Implications for Councils and Building Control**

22. The recommendations also have significant implications for councils. Local authority building control functions will be part of the JCA, and will be re-branded as local authority building standards. Approved Inspectors will lose their ability however to provide a building control role for HRRBs, though they will be able to provide those building them with advice and can work for councils' building control. The report also recommends a new competency framework for building standards inspectors. The representative body for councils' building control staff, Local Authority Building Control, has already established a competency framework for council building control staff and it is likely that this will become the new framework for all building control inspectors working on HRRBs.
23. The report has a particular impact on councils as building owners. Councils will be required to nominate dutyholders, and put together a range of building information about the HRRBs they own to satisfy the JCA the building is safe. The requirements on consulting residents of HRRBs will also apply to councils, but much of what is proposed in the report is already good practice amongst local authorities. To assist councils the LGA is commissioning a project to investigate, capture and present good practice by council landlords in engaging and empowering tenants, which will also set out recommendations and guidance for how councils can practically implement good practice for the benefit of their own tenants and communities.
24. Set against that there will be an obligation on residents to maintain the safety of their flats, which should address some of the issues councils have encountered with right-to-buy properties where changes can be made by leaseholders (such as to fire doors) that compromise the safety of the block as a whole. One area that is again left unaddressed in the report at this stage is how the JCA would enforce against a council in its role as a building owner, given that local authorities cannot enforce against council housing under the Housing Act.

### **Other building safety issues**

#### Social housing high-rise buildings

##### *Progress in remediation work*

25. Councils and housing associations have continued to make steady progress in carrying out remediation work to the 45 council owned blocks and 100 plus housing association blocks with combinations of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding and insulation that have been found not to meet the building regulation standards. Undertaking this work is of course complex, and for many of the buildings involves the commissioning of major construction work that has to be planned, consulted on and carried out.

26. The latest published statistics by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), which were made available at the end of May, show that remediation work has now started on 107 of the 159 social housing blocks. In the case of the 45 local authority blocks we understand the failed cladding systems have been removed from a significant majority, and the councils responsible for these blocks are now in the process of replacing the cladding with a new system or have commissioned work to replace it. Remediation work has been completed on ten of social housing blocks.

*Materials to use in remediation*

27. As members will recall the LGA has been pressing MHCLG for clarity around the materials that building owners can use to replace the cladding and insulation they have removed as part of the remediation process. Further questions have been raised about the validity of the BS 8414 fire safety test as a result of research conducted by the Fire Protection Association on behalf of the Association of British Insurers. This research attempted to more realistically model what actually happens in fires in high-rise residential buildings. It found for example that, given the materials commonly used in flats, the temperature at which a real fire would burn could be up to 100 degrees hotter than those created in a BS 8414 test, and the flames a metre longer.
28. With these uncertainties it was helpful that when MHCLG wrote to council leaders after the announcement on 16 May about funding for the costs of remediation work, they stated that unsafe cladding had to be replaced with materials which meet the A1 and A2 European classifications, and are therefore non-combustible.

*Funding the costs of the remediation work*

29. One issue social landlords have had to consider in commissioning the remediation work is the cost of doing the work. The LGA has highlighted the implications of funding this work to MHCLG since the fire at Grenfell Tower. The announcement during Prime Minister's Questions on 16 May that the government will fully fund the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding, at an estimated cost of £400 million, will assist the fifteen councils carrying out remediation work, though we are exploring what the implications are for the Affordable Home Programme where it appears the funding will come from.

Private high-rise buildings

*Data Collection*

30. Members will recall from previous reports that councils have for some months been gathering information on private high-rise residential buildings with ACM cladding systems. MHCLG set a deadline of the end of May for councils to complete this process. We anticipate that councils will have either confirmed which private high-rise residential buildings in their area have ACM cladding, or requested information from building owners using their powers under the Housing Act where councils have been unable to confirm whether the cladding on a building is ACM or not.

31. The next stage of work will be to confirm whether there is ACM on the outside of these 'unknown' buildings. Officers are in discussion with MHCLG, the National Fire Chiefs Council and London Councils about how local authorities can be supported in this work, which may require applications to court to enable councils to take samples of the cladding for testing to confirm what it is.
32. It should be noted that this exercise on behalf of MHCLG has required councils to gather information on thousands of buildings, with some authorities having to inspect hundreds. It has presented a number of challenges for councils, including establishing the number of private high-rise residential buildings in their area when not all will have required planning consent, and working through complex management and ownership arrangements to identify who the building owners are. It is a testament to councils' commitment to ensure all residents in their areas are safe that the process has been completed by the MHCLG deadline.
33. The work has also required considerable resources. MHCLG's new burdens assessment originally anticipated the total costs to the sector of this work would amount to £239,000. The LGA has been clear that this underestimates the actual cost to councils of the work they have had to undertake. MHCLG therefore wrote to the LGA on 1 March 2018 to announce an additional £1 million was being made available to assist councils with this work. This has been allocated to those authorities that had more than ten private high-rise residential buildings in their area.
34. It is unclear at this point the extent to which councils will be expected to continue to gather data on the remediation work being undertaken on private high-rise buildings. That MHCLG makes reference to publishing data on remediation work on private high-rise buildings gathered by councils in their latest data release suggests that this work could continue to be relative intense going forward. If this is the case we will look to make the case for the relevant councils to be appropriately funded.
35. As discussions with MHCLG have moved on to looking at what can be done to assist councils identify what cladding is on those buildings where this is still not clear, we have continued to highlight the need for MHCLG to progress the suggestions the LGA and London Councils have made to reduce the risks associated with taking action under the Housing Act and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). Due to changes in personnel at MHCLG the work to examine the statutory guidance and the statutory operating directions relating to the HHSRS with a view to reinforcing local authorities ability to take action against private residential high-rise building owners has not yet progressed as far as we had hoped.

#### Fire doors

36. An additional issue for some councils has arisen in relation to the fire doors in their blocks. The MPS investigation into the spread of the fire in Grenfell Tower identified concerns about whether some of the fire doors in the block could resist fire for 30 minutes, as is required by the building regulations. On 15 March the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that a door from the block tested by the MPS as part of their investigation had failed after only 15 minutes.

37. As a result MHCLG sought additional advice from its Expert Panel and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), as well as technical experts and the government's Chief Scientific Advisers. Extra tests on other doors from the same batch as those at Grenfell Tower made by Manse Masterdors (which ceased trading in 2014), were commissioned, as have tests on other doors from the same manufacturer. This testing has included taking the doors apart and analysing the materials used in this batch of doors.
38. A further statement about the fire doors testing programme was made on 16 May. This stated that the government's Expert Panel had concluded there is a performance issue with Manse Masterdor fire doors, as they do not consistently meet the 30 minute standard. The NFCC have advised that the risk to public safety remains low, as fire protection in a building relies on a range of measures, and all doors provide protection in a fire provided they are closed. Additional guidance has been produced for owners of buildings with this type of door by the Expert Panel. This advises that where a building owner suspects fire doors do not meet the 30 minute requirement a fire risk assessment process should be used to determine how quickly the doors should be replaced. Customers of Manse Masterdor have been written to by MHCLG to notify them they have bought fire doors where there are concerns. The letter asks the customers to carry out a further fire risk assessment to determine how quickly the doors should be replaced and to provide details of the buildings where the Manse Masterdor fire doors were installed to the NFCC. MHCLG is also looking at the wider fire door market and will be testing doors from other suppliers.

#### Large Panel System buildings

39. At the January meeting Members were updated on the developments in relation to large panel system buildings in Southwark and Haringey, which should have been strengthened following the explosion at Ronan Point in 1968. Since then it issues in relation to the strengthening and construction of large panel system buildings have been identified in other local authorities. We are therefore looking to discuss the implications for large panel system blocks with MHCLG officials.

#### **Implications for Wales**

40. Building regulations and fire and rescue services are devolved responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly Government, and the main implications arising from the recommendations of the Hackitt Review and the government's response to it are on building regulations and fire safety in England. However the Welsh government has already announced that it will be making the changes recommended in the report to the regulatory system in Wales. An expert group will be established to advise on how to incorporate these change into law, policy and practice in Wales.
41. As an interim measure the Welsh government has also announced that ti will be consulting, as MHCLG has indicated it will be doing to ban the use of combustible materials in cladding systems on high-rise buildings in Wales.

**Financial Implications**

42. None. The work arising from this report will continue to be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes new additional capacity to support the LGA's building safety work.

**Next steps**

43. The LGA will want to respond to the recommendations from Dame Judith Hackitt's review and shape the government's reforms of the building regulation and fire safety system as this work progresses over the summer and into the autumn.
44. Members' views on the review's recommendations and the other issues set out in this report will be used to inform the LGA's response to the review's report and its lobbying around the government's plans to reform the building regulation system.





11 June 2018

## **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**

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

### **Contact officer:**

Mark Norris

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## **Update Paper**

### **Police pursuits**

1. In May, the Home Office launched a consultation on [police pursuits](#) of suspected criminals, seeking views on whether any legislative change should apply to police response driving to offer better legal protection for officers. The Home Office want to make clear in future guidance that a suspect being pursued is responsible for their own decision to drive dangerously and that blame should not be attached to the pursuing police officer. This will be discussed at the next moped, motorbike and scooter roundtable meeting, which Cllr Blackburn is due to attend.

### **County Lines**

2. In May, the Home Office held the County Lines working group session and updated members of the group on the commitments made in the Serious Violent Crime Strategy. The LGA is highlighted in the County Lines Action Plan as being supportive of disseminating best practice on tackling county lines issues. We will be hosting a [conference](#) on county lines and tackling criminal child exploitation on 12 July in Westminster. The Home Office will also be speaking at this event.

### **Sisters for Change – Domestic Abuse**

3. In May, Cllr Anita Lower spoke at the Sisters for Change roundtable event on the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden and Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird QC also contributed to the roundtable. During the meeting, Anita highlighted the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling domestic abuse – to ensure prevention and early intervention are central aspects of the new Bill. She urged stakeholders to contribute to the Home Office's consultation and outlined the LGA's proposed response.

### **Domestic Abuse consultation**

4. The LGA submitted its [response](#) to the Government's consultation on the new Domestic Abuse Bill. Our key messages are outlined on the LGA website [here](#). We will continue to work with the Government and our local partners on this important issue, as the consultation progresses.
5. As part of the consultation process, the LGA hosted a training session organised by the Domestic Abuse charity Standing Together on 'violence against women and girls issues' for local government colleagues. During the training session, we sought views from local government colleagues on the LGA's response to the Government's consultation. The feedback we received helped us develop the LGA's response.
6. In May, the LGA also joined the Employment Initiative on Domestic Abuse, led by Elizabeth Filkin OBE. We will be raising awareness of domestic abuse issues and support services within the organisation and we have invited Elizabeth Filkin to present at the next employee forum.



**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government audit of domestic abuse services**

7. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have commissioned Ipsos Mori to survey councils on the provision of local domestic abuse services in England. Once the results of the survey have been finalised, MHCLG officials will present their recommendations to the Minister on the future funding of domestic abuse services. LGA officers are liaising closely with the MHCLG team as this issue progresses.

**Police Foundation report on neighbourhood policing**

8. The Police Foundation launched the [final report](#) on the future of neighbourhood policing which examined how and why neighbourhood policing has changed since 2008 and what it looks like in 2017/18. The report found that this form of policing has become increasingly diverse but also fragmented and diminished. Drawing on insight from 31 forces the report presents a set of principles for delivering preventative and integrated local policing services for the future; these include neighbourhood policing carried out by dedicated teams and targeted at the areas of greatest need while retaining a focus on place rather than the case-management of individuals. The full report is available [here](#).

**Surveillance Camera Commissioner meeting**

9. In May, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner held an advisory group meeting on the use of facial recognition systems to identify and detect perpetrators of crimes. The LGA attended the meeting and we agreed to work with the Commissioner's office on the dissemination of any best practice materials to local government on this issue. We updated councils on their responsibility to adhere to the surveillance code of conduct in the Chief Executive and Chairman's bulletins.

**Community Safety Survey**

10. To complement the Community Safety Survey 2016, we issued a summary report identifying key trends and outlined next steps for our work on community safety at the LGA. The summary report is [available here](#).

**Counter-terrorism and Prevent**

11. The Government has published its long-awaited updated counter-terrorism strategy, [Contest 3.0](#). This follows the announcement of a review of the Strategy in the Queen's Speech in June 2017, to ensure that the police and security services have adequate powers, that custodial sentences are sufficient to keep people safe, and look at what more can be done to halt the spread of online extremist propaganda.
12. We held our third Prevent leadership essentials course at the end of March, which was attended by 14 elected members from a range of authorities. Further courses around

Prevent, counter-extremism and community cohesion are being developed for the coming year and will be publicised shortly.

### **Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper**

13. Members will recall that officers from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government attended the last Board meeting to provide an input on the recently launched Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. The consultation on the proposals closed on 5 June; LGA's response set out broad support for the Strategy's objectives, including the importance of locally-led approaches to integration, but argued that there would be limited progress around many of the issues highlighted in the Strategy without further resources and powers for local authorities.

### **National FGM Centre**

14. The National FGM Centre (NFGMC) will be taking part in the Innovation Zone at the LGA's Annual Conference on the 5 July alongside Thurrock Council, who they work in partnership with. The presentation will focus on the NFGMC's independently evaluated intervention model, it will showcase how its partnership with local authorities has led to a transformation in the way children are safeguarded and communities are engaged with.
15. Councillor Anita Lower chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group in May. The group discussed the sustainability of the Centre and how the Centre's work was developing since the last Group meeting in January. The Group also had a presentation on the Centre's FGM Assessment tool, which has been developed by the Centre for social workers to help them assess cases where FGM is a concern. It comprises two parts, best practice guidance and the online FGM assessment tool and is available on the Centre's [website](#). The Group also discussed arrangements for the September meeting, which will take the form of a workshop rather than a meeting to look at the offer of the Centre.

### **Competition and Markets Authority – Funeral Markets Study**

16. The Competition and Market's Authority are undertaking a study on the funerals industry in the UK, looking at both private providers and local authority cremation services. They will examine how competition between funeral directors works and transparency issues in the provision of funerals; we will also focus on how competition works in the crematoria segment of the industry. Further information is available on the CMA's [website](#).

### **Gambling licensing**

17. In May the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issued their [response](#) to the consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures, which launched in October 2017 and receive over 7,300 responses.
18. The key announcement was the reduction to the maximum stake on B2 gaming machines (FOBTs) from £100 to £2, something that the LGA has been actively campaigning for. The decision to opt for the £2 stake followed a supplementary call for evidence on FOBT stakes in March 2018, the analysis of which showed a degree of support for the reduction

of stakes to £2. The response also confirmed that government plans to maintain the status quo on stakes, prizes and allocations for all other gaming machines, a position which the LGA has also supported.

19. A package of measures for improving player protection on category B machines including the potential ending of sessions when player limits are met and exploring in more detail the costs and benefits of tracked play. Measures for strengthening player protection online were also set out and The Gambling Commission has been tasked with taking this forward and will be looking at age verification, unfair terms and conditions, implementing strong penalties for businesses who breach advertising guidelines, and reviewing gambling product characteristics to identify whether particular features pose greater risk of harm than others.
20. The measures on advertising proposed as part of the consultation will be taken forward, including a major responsible gambling advertising campaign led by GambleAware. Members of the Board have been invited to sit on the advisory panel for this campaign being launched later this year. GambleAware has also commissioned research on the effects of marketing and advertising on children, young people and vulnerable groups.
21. In terms of problem gambling, Government have also committed to continue to work with the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to improve evidence on treatment and assess gaps. The LGA will continue to support local authorities in this area, and has developed new guidance on taking a whole council approach to problem gambling, which will be launched at an event on this issue on 10 July.
22. In response to calls from the LGA and local authorities for greater powers to limit the clustering of betting shops, the government remains of the view that local authorities can address this using existing powers for example a local risk assessment. Government have also confirmed that there are no plans to introduce a mandatory levy on the gambling industry to fund research, education and treatment instead the Commission will focus on strengthening the existing voluntary system.

#### **Taxi/ PHV updates**

23. The Ministerial working group on taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) licensing have considered a first draft of a report and recommendations. A further draft will be shared with members of the working group before being presented to Minister for Taxis, Nusrat Ghani MP, to consider.



## Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

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**Title:** Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
**Date:** Monday 19 March 2018  
**Venue:** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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### 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from Cllrs Morris Bright, Chris Pillai and Lisa Targowska. Cllr Vic Pritchard attended the meeting as a substitute.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 Operation Dovetail update

The Chair introduced Matt Collins, Director of Prevent at the Home Office, who gave members an update on Operation Dovetail.

Matt explained that officials in Whitehall had worked with the police and various other partners to review the UK's counter-terrorism strategy and that the new Contest strategy (3.0) was awaiting sign off. Members were told that the emerging themes of the review included a new Counter Terrorism Bill, a new operating model to help align national and local work, relationships with Communication Service Providers and data.

Matt outlined the overall objectives for the Prevent element of the strategy; to safeguard and support vulnerable people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. He told members that the Home Office was looking at quality assurance across the country and that a new desistance and disengagement rehabilitation programme is being piloted to work with those known to have engaged in terrorist activity, including those in prison and coming back from Syria, providing greater emphasis on early intervention and reintegration.

Matt gave members an update on Operation Dovetail and was clear that a key focus of the project was to look at the balance of responsibility between the police and local authorities, and that relevant parties fulfil their appropriate roles. He noted that while the Dovetail pilots, carried out in nine areas, had been generally good, the evaluation had identified some issues, including vulnerability assessment framework training, CMIS database access, the commissioning process and managing counter terrorism risks. Following further feedback from the LGA identifying concerns about the proposals for national roll out, members were told that the Home Office had now

11 June 2018

decided to undertake further piloting, including testing the regional model, with an extended timeline for roll out. This will start in the North West with opportunities to learn further lessons before the model is introduced nationally.

Matt also updated members that a Prevent toolkit is being developed, as well as a self-assessment tool. The Home Office was keen to see elected members having greater involvement in Prevent peer reviews and was looking at providing more dedicated elected member support and training.

Members made the following comments:

- Members were encouraged by the feedback provided but had some concerns about the regional model, including a concern about working across different police and health service boundaries. Matt acknowledged these concerns and noted that this was why national roll out plans had been scaled back.
- Members briefly discussed the nature of and responses to different terrorist threats.
- It was noted that elected members already engaged in prevention work in other areas such as health, and that the models for this already exist. Matt agreed that it was vital to draw lessons from models which already worked well and that it was important to demystify the national security aspect of the project to ensure that effective measures being taken locally work across a range of areas.
- Members noted that there was an existing Prevent Champions Network but that it would welcome further direction from the Home Office.
- A conversation was had about resources, training and funding. Members said that authorities were keen to play their role but were concerned about the lack of additional funding available to deliver what they were being asked to.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the update.

## **3 Integrated Communities Strategy**

The Chair introduced Peter Fenn and Penny Hobman, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, who gave members an overview of the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper which had been published prior to the meeting.

The Integrated Communities Strategy builds on the Casey Review and sets out the Government's thinking on the main drivers of integration and how to tackle the causes of poor integration. The draft strategy sets out a national framework of policy proposals, but acknowledges the need for a localised approach to implementing them. The Government was keen to work with local authorities to try new, innovative approaches to integration, building on existing expertise and work already being carried out. The strategy focuses on the following eight themes:

1. Strengthening leadership

11 June 2018

2. Supporting new migrants and the communities into which they arrive
3. Education and young people
4. English language skills
5. Places and communities
6. Economic opportunities
7. Rights and freedoms
8. What works and how it is measured

Members were advised that the consultation on the proposals was now open and would run until 5 June.

The following comments were made:

- Councils have lots of experience in delivering around this agenda. The Syrian Resettlement Scheme was highlighted: this was and co-designed with local authorities and had therefore been very successful; whereas the Asylum Seekers Dispersal Programme, was not developed cooperatively and was not perceived to have worked in terms of cohesion.
- Some of the building blocks of community integration - such as youth centres, children's centres, libraries, community centres – have been closed as a result of basic cuts to funding. Councils want to be innovative but the levers to do so are not necessarily there. Peter and Penny from MHCLG acknowledged the funding pressures authorities were under but noted that the Government wanted authorities to think about how to use existing money effectively in delivering integration within other services like health and social care.
- Members voiced some concern about area-based programmes, noting that a larger regional approach might not work in addressing more local issues. Peter noted that the team would be co-designing strategies with five local authorities and would keep this in mind.
- Members wanted to see information about the strategy being published in Councillors' News magazine. Peter and Penny agreed, noting that they were keen to get the message out through a variety of means.
- The impact of home schooling was discussed and members were keen to see a register of home schooled children, as well as greater transparency and guidance on the requirements parents taking this decision needed to meet. The Chair noted that he had discussed home schooling at his ministerial meeting the previous week.
- Members mentioned a need for additional training around unconscious bias and the impact it had on the employment of particular groups.
- There was some discussion about what good integration looks like, how it is evaluated and from whose perspective. Penny responded that the consultation will explore what measures of integration should look like.

## **Decision**

Members **noted** the presentation.

11 June 2018

Rachel Phelps, LGA Adviser, outlined the report on the joint Home Office and Ministry of Justice consultation on the draft Domestic Abuse Bill. Rachel noted that four key themes run throughout the consultation: awareness, protecting and supporting victims, pursue and deterrence, and improving performance. The Government had committed to additional funding for this work and the consultation sought views on how this money would be distributed.

Members made the following comments:

- Members welcomed the Government's commitment to tackling domestic abuse and violence.
- Members felt that there ought to be an emphasis on victims remaining in their own homes and that funding should contribute towards sourcing adequate refuge provision.
- Members emphasised the need for funding to be ringfenced and sustainable. Members welcomed some of the proposed changes to housing benefit and supported housing but also made a plea for further additional resources and funding.
- A discussion was had about the definition of domestic violence and members raised concerns about the approach being framed within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy in case it alienates some victims. It was also noted that there was no clear reference to disabilities or the immigration status of victims. Members also wanted to ensure that male victims were not alienated.
- Members discussed the need for better awareness and understanding of relationships to be taught in schools. It was noted that parents of some faiths did not want their children being included in sex and relationship education so a conversation about how to address that challenge was needed. The Chair noted that there was an ongoing consultation on sex and relationship education on the Department for Education website and he encouraged members to contribute.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

### **Action**

Officers to draft LGA response to the consultation.

## **5 Fire safety in high rise buildings**

Mark Norris, LGA Principal Policy Adviser, gave members an update on the work around fire safety in high rise buildings. He noted that the LGA had a place on two of the six working groups established by Dame Judith Hackitt and that the leads from each of these groups were due to report on their draft recommendations. Mark explained that part of this work included looking at who the regulator might be going forward and whether it would replicate the Health and Safety Executive by there being



11 June 2018

a national lead with local partners responsible for delivery.

MHCLG officials said there were around 1,000 buildings which had not had their cladding identified and that additional funding was being provided to councils to conclude this work. A discussion was being had about how best to use that money but it was broadly decided that the money should support authorities with the longest list of buildings. Mark gave a brief update on the impact identification and cladding replacement work would have on leaseholders and advised members of the results of two tribunal cases in which the judge ruled that costs could be passed onto leaseholders. The LGA's position was that some leaseholders would struggle to pick up the costs of remedial work and that financial support needed to be offered to those individuals; however, members were clear that councils should not be expected to lend leaseholders money then claim it back from the sale of properties as the cost of this could run to billions. Mark also noted that the replacement of fire doors might become an issue over the next few months.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the update.

## **6 Update paper**

The following comments were made in response to the update paper:

- A press release had been issued in response to the Gambling Commission's recommendation that the maximum stake on certain types of FOBTs should be reduced to £30 or less. The LGA's position was that this did not go far enough. Cllr Lower was due to attend a meeting in the House of Commons with the campaign group calling for reduced stakes.
- Cllr Rhodes thanked officers for the work that went into the regional modern slavery events and he noted that Vernon Coaker MP, who chairs the APPG for Modern Slavery, was keen to work with the Board. Members were concerned that there were no modern slavery sessions planned for the LGA Annual Conference. It was noted that officers had asked for a session on the subject but were not successful.
- Cllr Lower told members that she had attended a meeting with the FGM Centre and that the toolkit had been launched and was available online. Members were encouraged to attend the FGM Centre's half day training event.
- Members asked if Sara Khan, the new Commissioner for Counter Extremism, could speak at a future Board meeting.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the update paper.

### **Action**

Officers to invite Sara Khan to a future Board meeting.

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

11 June 2018

The notes of the previous meeting were **agreed**.

### **Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	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
	Cllr Vic Pritchard (sub)	Bath & North East Somerset 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
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Apologies	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Chris Pillai JP	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Lisa Targowska	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
In Attendance	Cllr Helen Carr	Brent Council



# LGA location map

## Local Government Association

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

## Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

**St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

**507** Waterloo - Victoria

**C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

**88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

## Bus routes – Millbank

**87** Wandsworth - Aldwych

**3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

## Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

