

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 13 January 2020
11.00 am

Westminster Room, 8th 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

This meeting is



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Safer & Stronger Communities Board
13 January 2020

There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 13 January 2020** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

Attendance Sheet:

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Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: martha.lauchlan@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@lga.local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Benn Cain
0207 072 7420 | benn.cain@local.gov.uk | 07554 334 900

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2019/2020

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Katrina Wood (Vice Chairman)	Wycombe District Council
Cllr Lois Samuel	West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Eric Allen	London Borough of Sutton
Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Andrew Joy	Hampshire County Council
Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Dave Stewart	Isle of Wight Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Richard Auger	Daventry District Council
Cllr James Gartside	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (7)	
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 Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
Substitutes	
Cllr Daniel Francis	Bexley Council
Cllr Clive Johnson	Medway Council
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Bridget Smith (Deputy Chair)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Hannah Dalton (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Ashfield District Council

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Attendance 2019-2020

Councillors	2/9/19	12/11/19
Conservative Group		
Katrina Wood	Yes	Yes
Jason Ablewhite	No	No
Eric Allen	Yes	Yes
Mohan Iyengar	Yes	Yes
Andrew Joy	No	Yes
John Pennington	Yes	Yes
Dave Stewart	Yes	Yes
Labour Group		
Simon Blackburn	Yes	Yes
Kate Haigh	Yes	Yes
Alan Rhodes	Yes	Yes
Jim Beall	Yes	Yes
James Dawson	Yes	Yes
Farah Hussain	Yes	Yes
Claudia Webbe	Yes	No
Lib Dem Group		
Bridget Smith	Yes	Yes
Jeremy Hilton	Yes	Yes
Independent		
Hannah Dalton	Yes	Yes
Philip Evans JP	Yes	No
Substitutes/Observers		
Clive Johnson	No	No
Jon Ball	No	No
Daniel Francis	No	Yes
Jo Beavis	No	Yes
Helen-Ann Smith	No	No
Lois Samuel	Yes	Yes
James Gartside	Yes	No
Richard Auger	No	No
Tim Roca	No	No

Agenda

Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Monday 13 January 2020

11.00 am

Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 16 March 2020, 11.00 am, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

The Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales

Purpose of report

For discussion

Summary

This paper provides a brief overview the role of the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales and outlines some of the key issues affecting victims and witnesses of crime. It accompanies a presentation by Dame Vera Baird DBE QC, the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, who will be speaking about her role and her upcoming priorities.

Recommendation

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are asked to note this paper and provide any further feedback.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed.

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The Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales

Background

1. The Victims' Commissioner aims to listen to and represent the views and needs of victims and witnesses. The Commissioner's office carries out research into victim's services and produces reviews which reflect on what is and what is not working, in order to recommend positive changes to improve the support offered to victims.
2. The Victims' Commissioner is appointed by ministers but is independent of the Government and free to advise, challenge and offer their own views.
3. The role of Victims' Commissioner is outlined in the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. The four key principles are:
 - 3.1 Independence of Government and criminal justice agencies.
 - 3.2 Inclusivity in representing all victims and witnesses, particularly the most vulnerable members of our community.
 - 3.3 Transparency in all work, including in the issues the Commissioner raises with policy makers and our priorities for change.
 - 3.4 Encouraging responsibility through work with all criminal justice and local agencies to ensure the voices of victims and witnesses are heard and that each organisation takes responsibility for them.

Appointment of Dame Vera Baird QC

4. Dame Vera Baird DBE QC was appointed as the new Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales in May 2019.
5. Dame Vera Baird's appointment is expected to last for three years. Her role will involve:
 - 5.1 Engaging with victims to build up a picture of how support services are working and how they could be improved.
 - 5.2 Promoting the interests of victims and witnesses.
 - 5.3 Encouraging good practice in their treatment.
 - 5.4 Keeping the operation of the Victims' Code under review.
6. Dame Vera was previously the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northumbria from 2012. Dame Vera has taken an active role in promoting the views of victims, also serving as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's (APCC) lead for supporting victims and

reducing harm. She was also a Member of Parliament (MP) for Redcar from 2001 to 2010, and she worked as the Solicitor General for England and Wales from 2007 to 2010.

Victims Law Reform

7. In the Queen's Speech 2019 (December), the Government announced it would continue to develop and implement a Victims' Law that guarantees victims' rights and the level of support they can expect. The Government confirmed there would be a consultation on this in early 2020.
8. The Queen's Speech confirmed a revised Victims' Code, which will clearly set out the minimum level of service victims can expect from criminal justice agencies, will also be published in early 2020.
9. The Government has said it plans to consult on enhancing powers for the Victims' Commissioner so that they can better hold the Government to account. Dame Vera Baird has also called for the Office of the Victims' Commissioner to have stronger powers.
10. In addition to the new reforms outlined in the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill and wider protections for victims, the Government has also committed to exploring how to strengthen support offered to survivors of terrorism and their families.

LGA's view

11. One of the key priorities for the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board is to support councils to improve community safety, for example by helping them to address key issues such as serious violent crime, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour.
12. In much of our work, we highlight the vital importance of investing in early intervention to prevent crimes from occurring in the first place. We have seen how strong partnerships that take a multi-agency preventative approach to improving community safety can make a considerable difference.
13. It is clear that every victim will have different experiences, reactions and needs. This is why it is so important that local areas continue to have services that are flexible and responsive to the victim's experience and voice.
14. Across the range of community safety issues, the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board will continue to press for the victim's voice to be central to developing and improving support services. We will continue to work with the Government, the Commissioner and partners on the proposed victim's law reforms and wider victim's support services. We will also lobby for improved support services for domestic abuse victims and greater investment in perpetrator intervention programmes, when the Domestic Abuse Bill is introduced into Parliament.

LGA's Anti-Social Behaviour Conference

15. In October 2019, Dame Vera spoke at the Local Government Association's Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Conference. She touched on a number of issues, including support for victims of domestic abuse, particularly during the court and prosecution process, and continued support for victims of anti-social behaviour.
16. Dame Vera highlighted the importance of the community trigger process and called on local authorities to ensure information and guidance is made readily available to members of the public. This follows the former Commissioner Baroness Newlove's [report](#), "Anti-Social Behaviour: Living a Nightmare", which outlines a series of recommendations on the community trigger process.
17. At the conference, Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Simon Blackburn outlined that many anti-social behaviour offences are serious issues for local residents and businesses. This is why councils are keen to protect them from offenders who can make the lives of those they target a misery.
18. The LGA is a member of the Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour Advisory Board and has worked closely with partners to publicise the community trigger process.

Possible questions (in response to Dame Vera Baird's presentation)

19. How do you see your role as the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales working with local authorities?
20. What are some key actions that local authorities could take to help support and promote the interests of victims of anti-social behaviour?
21. How do you think the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill will help to support victims and witnesses of domestic abuse? Are there any additional reforms you would like to see included in the Bill?
22. How does the Victims' Commissioner see herself working with the other Commissioners (for example, the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and the Children's Commissioner)? And how collectively will they ensure their work is coordinated and their remits are understood by local partners?
23. Do you think your office has been given the right resources and powers to promote the interests of victims and witnesses?

Financial Implications

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

Next steps

25. Officers to note any feedback from SSC Board Members and take forward any future work, as directed.

Queen's Speech

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The Queen's Speech on Thursday 19 December 2019 set out the Government's legislative agenda for the next session of Parliament. This report sets out an overview of the Bills and announcements contained within the speech which will be of specific interest to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the Bills and announcements in the Queen's Speech of interest to the Board.

Action

Officers to incorporate members' comments in future work on these areas, and to use members' comments on the priority of Bills relevant to the Board's work to inform the LGA's Leadership Board's and Executive's discussions on future lobbying priorities.

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Queen's Speech

Background

1. Following the General Election on Thursday 12 December 2019, the Queen's Speech took place on 19 December.
2. Since the previous Queen's Speech took place just a couple of months beforehand, a number of the Bills included within it will already be familiar to the Board, with key Bills such as the Domestic Abuse and Serious Violence Bills retained within the Government's legislative plans. This paper provides a detailed overview of the key proposals from the Board's perspective, linked to its 2019-2020 work plan, as well as of other Bills and announcements which may impact the council services within the Board's remit. The LGA's full briefing on the Queen's Speech is available to view [here](#).
3. This paper also includes for background reference a summary of manifesto commitments made by the Conservative Party during the General Election relevant to the work of the Board. This is drawn from a summary of the local government related manifesto commitments made by all the main parties during the General Election campaign, which was published by the LGA's public affairs team.

Domestic Abuse Bill

4. The Queen's Speech included the Domestic Abuse Bill, which looks set to be unchanged from the previous version of the Bill introduced to Parliament earlier in 2019.
5. As the Board will recall from the [paper](#) for its November meeting, the Bill will for the first time create a statutory definition of domestic abuse; provide for new domestic abuse protection notices and orders to help better protect victims; place a duty on tier one councils (county councils, metropolitan and unitary councils and the Greater London Authority) to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation; and create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts. The Bill will also establish in law the post of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, following the appointment of Nicole Jacobs as Designate Commissioner last summer.
6. Our response to the announcement echoed the points made about the Bill in the November board paper, emphasising that tackling domestic abuse is a high priority for councils and that we support the clarity and focus that the new legislation and Commissioner will bring. However, we also emphasised the need for a greater focus on prevention and early intervention measures to tackle the root causes of domestic abuse and support more victims, including more funding and investment for evidence-based perpetrator programmes.
7. Officers have engaged with the Home Office and other stakeholders throughout the development of the draft Bill, and will continue to do so as the Bill is re-introduced to

Parliament. A focus going forward will be ensuring the costs to councils of providing safe accommodation to victims of domestic abuse are full funded.

Serious Violence Bill

8. The Serious Violence Bill was also re-introduced, with the key elements of the Bill intended to:
 - 8.1. Place duties on relevant public agencies and bodies (including councils) to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence. The Government has said it will provide sufficient flexibility so that organisations can engage and work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area, whether that be through a Community Safety Partnership or other multi-agency partnership such as local safeguarding arrangements. Statutory guidance will also be published that will set out the likely implications on a sector-by-sector basis.
 - 8.2. Amend section 6(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which sets out the strategies Community Safety Partnerships must formulate and implement, to explicitly include serious violence.
 - 8.3. Provide for new court orders to target known knife carriers, to make it easier for the police to stop and search those convicted for knife crime offences. The power will apply only to those convicted of a knife related offence.
9. Again, the LGA's response to the inclusion of the Bill in the Queen's Speech echoed our previous comments on the Bill, which have supported a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime, but emphasised the need for properly funded early intervention and prevention work in order to support this. This means that cuts to key services such as local youth services, youth offending teams and public health budgets must be reversed; additionally, new duties placed on councils, including those linked to knife crime orders, must be fully funded.
10. Officers expect to work with officials from the Home Office on the development of the Bill, and in particular the proposed statutory guidance, and meetings are already in the process of being arranged.

Police Powers and Protections Bill

11. A Police Protections Bill was announced in the October 2019 Queen's Speech to provide police officers with additional support and protection as they undertake their duties. The Police Powers and Protections Bill will include many similar measures including the establishment of a Police Covenant on a statutory basis. The details of what the Police Covenant covers have still to be developed, but if it is modelled on the Armed Forces Covenant there may be implications for local authorities. The other area of interest for councils in this Bill are the measures to criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an

unauthorised encampment in England and Wales, and the introduction of new police powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised encampments.

12. Our response to this Bill highlighted that the vast majority of travellers are law-abiding citizens, but noted the inconvenience caused to communities and significant costs created for councils when encampments are clearly breaching the law and local authorities have a duty to take action to ensure the law is upheld.
13. We therefore welcomed the proposed measures to strengthen police powers when dealing with unauthorised encampments, but emphasised that it will be important for these measures to be matched with practical and financial support for local authorities, particularly to help with the availability of transit sites and other issues of concern, such as clean-up costs which can occur following an unauthorised encampment.
14. The Home Office is currently consulting on the proposed measures, and officers will develop a draft response for sign off by the Board's lead members.

Building and Fire Safety legislation

15. The Queen's Speech announced legislation intended to create an enhanced safety framework for high-rise residential buildings. Further detail on the Building Safety Bill and Fire Safety Bill are set out in the paper on the Board's agenda on building safety.

Other Bills and announcements of interest

16. Alongside these key Bills, the Queen's Speech included details of a number of other Bills and announcements which also fall within the remit of or will otherwise be of interest to the Board.

Online Harms Bill

17. The Queen's Speech reintroduced the Government's proposed Online Harms Bill, which will include a range of measures to try to improve internet safety, including introducing a new duty of care on internet companies in relation to their users and an independent regulator to oversee the framework.
18. The LGA has previously [responded](#) to a consultation on the online harms white paper, supporting measures to tackle online harm and abuse and the establishment of an independent regulator. Our response to the Queen's Speech announcement reiterated this support, noting councils' wide ranging interest in preventing online harms, in terms of their statutory responsibilities for the safeguarding, protection and wellbeing of children; their responsibilities to protect local residents from radicalisation, terrorism and crime; and the fact

that many councillors have themselves been subjected to online intimidation, abuse and threats.

19. We also responded to an additional announcement linked to the Bill, with Government committing to review the Gambling Act, with a particular focus on tackling issues around online loot boxes and credit card misuse. The changing nature of gambling since the Act was introduced and the local impacts of gambling related harm have been a particular focus for the Board, so a comprehensive review would be welcome.

Animal welfare legislation

20. The Queen's Speech restated the Government's commitment to introducing animal welfare legislation which will: set out a clear statement in domestic law that animals are sentient beings, and a duty on Government to have all due regard to the welfare of sentient animals in policy formulation and implementation; extend the current maximum penalty for animal cruelty offences, specified under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, from six months imprisonment to five years imprisonment, and include measures to deliver on commitments to end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening, on primates as pets, cat microchipping, and on the import of trophies from hunting of endangered animals.
21. Our response welcome the announcement of new legislation to increase maximum sentences for animal cruelty from six months to five years and improve the welfare of live animals on journeys once we leave the EU. We noted that councils will always do what they can to respond to animal health and welfare concerns, to actively promote animal health and take forward prosecutions, but highlighted that local government needs proper resources to ensure a consistent, long-term approach to animal health and welfare, issues in which it has an inconsistent mix of both duties and powers and lack of adequate funding.

Environment Bill

22. The Queen's Speech also retained the proposed Environment Bill, which will include measures to establish a new Office for Environmental Protection, increase local powers to tackle air pollution and introduce charges for specified single use plastic items.
23. Although outside the remit of the Board, members may need to be aware of this Bill, since recent experience suggests that a number of local regulatory services which play a key role in supporting safer and stronger communities work will be expected to pick up additional enforcement duties placed on local government as a result of these new measures. The Board's lead members have previously written to the Secretary of State for Local Government to highlight concerns about the additional demands being placed on services such as trading standards, and this is an issue we will continue to highlight.

Victim's Law Reform

24. The Queens Speech announced that the Government will consult next year on a Victims' Law that guarantees victims' rights and the level of support they can expect. A revised

Victims' Code, to be consulted on in early 2020, will set out the minimum level of service victims can expect from criminal justice agencies, and the Government will explore how to strengthen the support offered to survivors of terrorism and their families.

25. The LGA's response agreed that there should be clarity about victims' rights and the level of support they can expect, and that support for victims of terrorism and their families should be strengthened.
26. However, we also noted that it is also important that a revised Victims' Code continues to reflect the breadth of different offences (including a range of different regulatory issues) that fall within the scope of the criminal justice system and take an appropriate, proportionate approach to them, an issue we have previously engaged with the Ministry of Justice on in relation to the Victim's Code.

Implications for Wales

27. Policing matters are not devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government so we will be engaging as necessary with the WLGA around the Domestic Abuse, Police Powers and Protections and Serious Violence Bills and the extent to which any changes in animal welfare legislation may apply to Wales.

Financial Implications

28. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report, though a number of the Bills included in the Queen's Speech will have financial implications for councils.

Next steps

29. Members are asked to note the Bills and announcements in the Queen's Speech of interest to the Board. The LGA's Leadership Board and Executive will be considering the priority given to the Bills and measures included in the Queen's Speech in the LGA's future lobbying activity, and any comments members have on the priority that should be given to those Bills relevant to the Board will help inform the Leadership Board's and Executive's discussions.

**Appendix A: summary of Conservative Party General Election
manifesto commitments of relevance to SSCB and Fire Services
Management Committee**

1. This appendix summarises those manifesto pledges made by the Conservative Party ahead of its victory in last month's General Election which are of relevance to the Board's work. The headings used reflect areas of work for the Board rather than the topic areas in the Conservative manifesto. Some, but not all of the pledges have now been incorporated within the legislative programme set out in the Queen's Speech.

Extremism

1. We will combat extremism and do all we can to ensure that extremists never receive public money.
2. We will keep our country safe from terrorism. We will invest in the police and security services and give them the powers they need to combat new threats. In the wake of the terrible events in Manchester in 2017, we will improve the safety and security of public venues.
3. We will ensure that those who work in countering extremism are protected from threats and intimidation.
4. The ability of our security services to defend us against terrorism and organised crime is critical. We will update the Human Rights Act and administrative law to ensure that there is a proper balance between the rights of individuals, our vital national security and effective government. In our first year we will set up a Constitution, Democracy & Rights Commission that will examine these issues in depth, and come up with proposals to restore trust in our institutions and in how our democracy operates.

Serious crime

5. New laws will require schools, police, councils and health authorities to work together through VRUs to prevent serious crime
6. Police will be empowered by a new court order to target known knife carriers, making it easier for officers to stop and search those convicted of knife crime. Anyone charged with knife possession will appear before magistrates within days not weeks. Those who use a knife as a weapon should go to prison.
7. We will counter the growing threat of serious and organised crime. We will strengthen the National Crime Agency so it can tackle the threats we face, from fraud, county lines gangs and child sexual abuse to illicit finance, modern slavery and people trafficking.
8. Safer streets, safer towns. A new Safer Streets Fund will invest in preventative measures like new CCTV or community wardens.

Cohesion and hate crime

9. We will protect people from physical attack or harassment whether for their sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or disability, and expand funding for and protect

places of worship. We will vigorously combat harassment and violence against all religious groups, and against LGBT people.

10. We will champion freedom of expression and tolerance, both in the UK and overseas.
11. Through the Cultural Investment Fund we will also support activities, traditions and events that bring people together.

Policing

12. We will strengthen the accountability of elected Police and Crime Commissioners and expand their role. People must have an accountable local leader delivering on their crime and justice priorities, who they can vote out.
13. Recruit 20,000 new police officers and use these additional resources to tackle rural crime.
14. Backing the increased use of stop and search as long as it is fair and proportionate
15. We will back our police by equipping officers with the powers and tools they need to keep themselves and all of us safe, including tasers and body cameras.
16. We will put the Police Covenant into law to ensure they have the support they need.
17. We will back all those who put their lives on the line to keep us safe – police and prison officers and emergency service workers. We will pass the Police Protection Bill and consult on doubling the maximum sentence for assaulting workers in emergency services such as police officers, firefighters and paramedics.

Cyber crime

18. We will embrace new technologies and crack down on online crimes. We will create a new national cyber crime force and empower the police to safely use new technologies like biometrics and artificial intelligence, along with the use of DNA, within a strict legal framework. We will also create a world-class National Crime Laboratory.
19. We will legislate to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online – protecting children from online abuse and harms, protecting the most vulnerable from accessing harmful content, and ensuring there is no safe space for terrorists to hide online – but at the same time defending freedom of expression and in particular recognising and defending the invaluable role of a free press.

Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

20. We will support all victims of domestic abuse and pass the Domestic Abuse Bill. We will increase support for refugees and community support for victims of rape and sexual abuse. We will pilot integrated domestic abuse courts that address criminal and family matters in parallel.
21. We will continue to fight crime against women and girls, including rape, Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage. Our support for the main carer receiving Universal Credit will help give greater independence to individuals, most often women, trapped with coercive partners.

Drugs

22. Tackle drug-related crime and take a new approach to treatment to reduce drug-related deaths and break the cycle of crime linked to addiction.

Criminal Justice System

23. A fair justice system
24. Create a prisoner education service focused on work-based training and schools
25. Improve employment opportunities for ex-offenders, including a job coach in each prison
26. Improve prison security to protect staff, stop drug smuggling and reduce violence
27. We will introduce tougher sentencing for the worst offenders and end automatic halfway release from prison for serious crimes. For child murderers, there will be life imprisonment without parole.
28. We will use our new freedoms after Brexit to prevent more foreign national offenders entering our country. We will cut the number of foreign nationals in our prisons, and increase penalties to stop them returning.
29. We will expand electronic tagging for criminals serving time outside jail, including the use of sobriety tags for those whose offending is fuelled by alcohol.
30. We will toughen community sentences, for example by tightening curfews and making those convicted do more hours of community payback to clean up our parks and streets.
31. We will add 10,000 more prison places, with £2.75 billion already committed to refurbishing and creating modern prisons.
32. We will maintain the ban on prisoners voting from jail.
33. We will conduct a root-and-branch review of the parole system to improve accountability and public safety, giving victims the right to attend hearings for the first time, and we will establish a Royal Commission on the criminal justice process.
34. We will pass and implement a Victims' Law that guarantees victims' rights and the level of support they can expect.

Licensing and regulation

35. Action to tackle gambling addiction as part of a national strategy to tackle addiction
36. Also, given how the online world is moving, the Gambling Act is increasingly becoming an analogue law in a digital age. We will review it, with a particular focus on tackling issues around loot boxes and credit card misuse. The review will include looking at:
 - prize and stake limits;
 - the misuse of credit card payments;
 - putting the voluntary levy on a statutory footing and;
 - new ways of raising revenue for problem gambling support
 - The number of NHS gambling clinics will be increased from 2 to 14 in order to provide support for problem gamblers and ensure they get the help they need.
 - The progress made by local community-based treatment services and how they are funded and commissioned will be reviewed

37. We will work with fans and clubs towards introducing safe standing in football stadiums.
38. Good regulation is essential to successful businesses: we will strive to achieve the right regulatory balance between supporting excellent business practice and protecting workers, consumers and the environment. Through our Red Tape Challenge, we will ensure that regulation is sensible and proportionate, and that we always consider the needs of small businesses when devising new rules, using our new freedom after Brexit to ensure that British rules work for British companies.
39. Freeports: We will aim to ensure that our new freeports benefit the people in each of the four nations. We believe that there are many places across the United Kingdom that have the opportunity to be successful innovative hubs for global trade.
40. Alcohol Duty Review: Scotch whisky is a national export that supports 42,000 jobs across the UK. Yet the tax on each bottle of Scotch sold in this country represents almost three quarters of its price. That is why over the past two years we have frozen the duty on spirits, cutting the price of a bottle of Scotch by 30p. Now, we want to do more, which is why we will review alcohol duty to ensure that our tax system is supporting British drink producers.
41. As we end the supremacy of European law, we will be free to craft legislation and regulations that maintain high standards but which work best for the UK. We want a balance of rights, rules and entitlements that benefits all the people and all the parts of our United Kingdom.
42. High standards of animal welfare are one of the hall marks of a civilised society, so we will:
 - introduce tougher sentences for animal cruelty
 - crack down on the illegal smuggling of dogs and puppies.
 - bring in new laws on animal sentience
 - ban keeping primates as pets
 - bring the ivory ban into force and extend it to cover other ivory-bearing species and ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals
 - bring forward cat microchipping, giving cat owners piece of mind and increasing the measures we have available to tackle cat theft.

Building safety

43. Following the Grenfell tragedy there has rightly been a focus on building safety. No report or review can truly capture the heartache, sorrow, anger, and grief that many people feel. We have already committed to implementing and legislating for all the recommendations of the Hackitt Review and the first phase of the Independent Inquiry. We will continue to work with industry, housing associations and individuals to ensure every home is safe and secure. And we will support high-rise residential residents with the removal of unsafe cladding, and continue with our rigorous process of materials testing.

Travellers

44. We will tackle unauthorised traveller camps. We will give the police new powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers who set up unauthorised encampments, in order to protect our communities. We will make intentional trespass

a criminal offence, and we will also give councils greater powers within the planning system.

Building Safety update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report updates the Safer and Stronger Communities Board on the building safety developments since its last meeting.

Recommendation

That members note and comment on the LGA's building safety related work.

Action

Officers to incorporate the Board's views in the LGA's ongoing building safety related work.

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Building Safety update

Background

1. Since the Board's last meeting the LGA has continued to support the work of councils and fire and rescue services to tackle the remediation of a variety of fire safety issues that have become apparent following the fire. Although the general election campaign halted any further policy developments by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Home Office, the LGA has also continued to work closely with civil servants on elements of the reform of building safety.
2. The Queen's Speech in December following the election contained a number of commitments related to building and fire safety.

Remediation

Progress

3. Progress continues to be made in carrying out remediation to the 159 social sector residential blocks with combinations of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding and insulation that have been found not to meet the building regulation standards (an additional block was identified with ACM in October 2019). The statistics published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 13 December 2019 show that, as of 30 November 2019, remediation has finished on 66 of these blocks. Of those which have not yet been remediated, work has started on 79 of these blocks, and a further 14 have plans in place. Funding for the remediation of 144 of these 159 buildings is provided from the Government's social sector ACM cladding removal fund, and it is expected funding will be sought to remediate the new additional social housing block identified as having ACM. Remedial works for the remaining 14 buildings are being funded through existing funds and litigation action.
4. The latest statistics from MHCLG show there are 194 private high-rise residential buildings with ACM cladding, an increase of 10 over October 2019. Remediation work has been completed on 19 of these high-rise, private residential buildings. A further 175 buildings are yet to be remediated; of these, 27 have begun remediation, 74 have a plan in place, and 74 have plans in development. There are 17 private high-rise residential buildings where the cladding status is yet to be confirmed.

Funding

5. Following the Government's decision in May 2019 to provide funding for the owners of private high-rise residential buildings with ACM cladding to remediate them, the MHCLG Secretary of State has warned that where owners had not applied the Government was considering naming and shaming them. He also indicated that the Government was considering what other measures could be taken where building owners did not come forward and apply for funding.

6. Building owners have been able to apply for funding from September 2019. These applications can be: to seek confirmation that the building will be eligible for funding; to seek initial funding to tender for the work to remediate the ACM and then develop a full cost application; and, to submit an application for the full cost of remediating the ACM on the block. As of 30 November 95 private residential buildings were in scope of government funding, and of these applications had been started for 85 buildings, and two approved for funding. Of the buildings not in scope of the fund the developer or freeholder has committed to pay for the remediation of 74 buildings and 23 buildings are covered by a warranty claim. It is unclear what will happen to fund the remediation of two buildings.
7. The deadline for the submission of completed applications for funding was 31 December 2019. There is no information at this stage as to how many of the 85 buildings where an application had started by the end of November had actually been completed by the end of December. Where applications have not been completed MHCLG will want to consider what enforcement action could be taken to ensure the buildings are remediated.

Joint Inspection Team

8. Although consideration has been given to the use of the powers fire and rescue services have under the Fire Safety Order 2005 until changes are made to the Order (which are discussed further under the building and fire safety legislation announced in the Queen's Speech), councils remain best placed to take enforcement action under the 2004 Housing Act. As members will recall the LGA is hosting the Joint Inspection Team to support councils use their enforcement powers under the Housing Act and the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. The team has so far supported four local authorities. This has involved carrying out full site inspections of the buildings to carry out a Housing Health and Safety Rating System assessment, and then providing the council with a report on any fire hazards associated with the building. In four out of five buildings the team has rated the fire hazards as category 1 risks – the highest level of risk. A further inspection is due to be carried out the week before the Board meeting, and the team has been in discussion with MHCLG about more inspections to be conducted over the coming months.

Fire Protection Board

9. The new Fire Protection Board which is chaired by the National Fire Chiefs Council, with Home Office, MHCLG and LGA representation is currently conducting an assurance exercise asking fire and rescue services to provide assurance (within the context of their functions and duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 or other relevant legislation and guidance) that those buildings that have ACM cladding can still be occupied pending remediation. The Board is also considering a programme of work which will increase the pace of inspection across all high-rise residential buildings.

Data collection on external wall systems

10. In July 2019 councils were asked by MHCLG to collect data on the external wall systems on all high-rise residential buildings in England. MHCLG's current estimate is that there are 11,300 residential buildings over 18 metres in height, of which 6,100 are in the private sector and 5,200 are social housing blocks. The importance of this work was highlighted by the fire at the student accommodation block, the Cube, in Bolton (even though this building was just below the 18 metre threshold) during the general election campaign which involved an as yet unidentified form of high pressure laminate cladding. Collecting information on these buildings is a considerable task, and councils have been provided with additional funding to assist in the data collection process. The LGA and London Councils are currently discussing with government officials what else might be done to assist councils in this exercise.

Reform

Building Safety Bill

11. The Queen's Speech on 19 December included a number of commitments related to improving building and fire safety. The Building Safety Bill will strengthen the building safety regulatory system by implementing the recommendations from the Hackitt review and in some areas going further. Key measures of the new enhanced safety framework include:
- 11.1. Providing clearer accountability and stronger duties for those responsible for the safety of high-rise buildings throughout the building's design, construction and occupation, with clear competence requirements to maintain high standards.
 - 11.2. Giving residents a stronger voice in the system, ensuring their concerns are never ignored and they fully understand how they can contribute to maintaining safety in their buildings.
 - 11.3. Strengthening enforcement and sanctions to deter non-compliance with the new regime, hold the right people to account when mistakes are made and ensure they are not repeated.
 - 11.4. Developing a new stronger and clearer framework to provide national oversight of construction products, to ensure all products meet high performance standards. Developing a new system to oversee the whole built environment, with local enforcement agencies and national regulators working together to ensure that the safety of all buildings is improved.
12. Our response welcomed the commitment to bring forward new building safety standards, something the LGA has consistently called for. However, we emphasised the need to avoid creating a two-tier building safety system. In our view a close partnership between the new

building regulator, councils and the fire service will be essential in ensuring we can build safe communities, towns and cities. At the core of this new partnership must be tougher enforcement powers for councils and the fire service, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Government to deliver them.

13. We also noted that the repair bill for existing buildings is likely to run into the billions of pounds and leaseholders and council taxpayers will not be able to meet the costs. In addition we highlighted the significant shortage of the skills required to deliver effective fire safety regulation and the need to fund training as an essential early step in reform. Government needs to work closely with local authorities to address these challenges.

14. As the Board is aware, shaping the changes required to respond to the Grenfell Tower has been a key priority for the team since June 2017, and the LGA will continue to play a prominent role in this work going forward.

Fire Safety Bill

15. Linked to the Building Safety Bill, the Queen's Speech also included a commitment to introduce a specific Fire Safety Bill which will: clarify that the scope of the Fire Safety Order includes the external walls of the building, including cladding, and fire doors for domestic premises of multiple occupancy; strengthen relevant enforcement powers to hold building owners and managers to account, and provide for a transitional period for building owners and managers and Fire and Rescue Services to put in place the infrastructure for these changes.
16. The LGA's response to the announcement noted that the Grenfell Tower fire had highlighted gaps in the extent to which the Fire Safety Order could be applied, and welcomed the fact the Bill will confirm that it applies to cladding and fire doors to flats. Given the scale of the data collection exercise facing councils to identify the external wall system on every high-rise residential building, we stated that the Bill is an opportunity to place a clear duty on building owners and managers to tell councils and fire and rescue services (FRSs) what materials have been used in these buildings, and also argued that the cost of replacing any combustible cladding should not fall on leaseholders or council taxpayers, and nor should the cost of replacing fire doors in social housing fall on tenants. Reforms must reflect the fact that FRSs do not currently have the capacity to inspect the thousands of high-rise residential buildings.
17. We also called on Government to look at the case for introducing sprinklers at a lower height threshold in newly built premises and in premises where vulnerable people sleep, as well as consideration of additional Government funding for the retro-fitting of sprinklers in high risk buildings.

Joint Regulators Group

18. As members will recall from previous meetings, MHCLG has been progressing development of policy and legislative options for implementation of changes to the new regulatory framework through the Joint Regulators Group. This work has continued during the general election campaign though at a less intensive pace than usual, but we expect to pick up discussions with MHCLG again shortly, and have already been talking to MHCLG and Home Office officials about the changes to the Fire Safety Order to be made through the Fire Safety Bill.

Implications for Wales

19. 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 announced that it will be making the changes recommended in the report to the regulatory system in Wales, and the LGA has been keeping in contact to ensure the WLGA is kept informed of the latest developments in England.

Financial Implications

20. Although the LGA has set up the Joint Inspection Team, the cost of doing so is being met by MHCLG. Other work arising from this report will continue to be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes an additional fixed term post in the safer communities team to support the LGA's building safety work.

Next steps

21. Officers to continue to support the sector's work to keep residents safe and reform the buildings safety system, as directed by members.

Update Paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That members of the Board note and comment on the update.

Action

Officers to action any matters arising from the discussion as appropriate.

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Serious Violence Conference

1. In November 2019, Cllr Simon Blackburn chaired the Local Government Associations' conference on taking a public health approach to serious violent crime. The conference focused on sharing best practice and case studies of how local government is working in partnership to tackle serious violent crime. A number of our speakers reflected on the importance of investing in an early intervention and preventative approach, particularly highlighting the importance of strong partnerships with health and education services.

County lines session, National Adult and Children Services Conference 2019

2. At this year's National Adult and Children Services Conference, the LGA held a sub-plenary session on tackling county lines and serious violent crime. Our excellent speakers, Dez Holmes (Director, Research in Practice) and Jenny Coles (Vice President, ADCS and Director of Children's Services, Hertfordshire County Council) highlighted several case studies which focused on identifying the risk factors which put children, young people and vulnerable adults most at risk of exploitation. The panel called for greater investment in youth services and diversionary schemes which help to prevent children and young people being groomed or exploited into serious violent crime.

Tackling knife crime conference 2020

3. On 6 February 2020, the Local Government Association is holding a conference on tackling knife crime. The conference will focus on local government case studies which share best practice on how to strengthen multi-agency partnership arrangements and tackle serious violent crime locally. The event is free to all councils as part of our improvement offer. Further information is [available here](#).

County lines masterclass 2020

4. The LGA is holding a County Lines Political Leadership Masterclass for Members Leads for Children Services, Safeguarding and Community Safety. County lines is an emerging national issue, which involves the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults by violent gang members in order to move and sell drugs across the country. The Masterclass is being held on 31st March 2020, London. For further information or to register for a place, please email Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk

Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion leadership essentials courses – new dates released

5. We now have new dates available for our Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion [leadership essentials courses](#) for councillors over the coming months; scheduled for Leeds on 4-5 Feb (Prevent and counter-extremism); London 28 Feb (Prevent); Coventry 10-11 Mar (cohesion and integration); and Blackpool 25-26 Mar (Prevent and counter-extremism).
6. The programmes will include a range of inputs, practical exercises and discussion sessions on various themes, including national policy context and the role of local government in

delivery; current challenges and threats; case studies on effective approaches and opportunities to share and discuss practice with colleagues; and effective leadership and community engagement.

7. We have places available on all courses, which are open to all elected members and are free to attend (including accommodation for residential courses). For further details and to book a place, please contact Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk

National FGM Centre

8. Cllr Anita Lower chaired a meeting of the National FGM Advisory Group in December. The meeting brought together LGA members and experts from a variety of sectors to support the Centre as it works to develop a sustainable business plan for the next financial year. The Group will meet again in late January.

Modern slavery

9. Officers continue to engage with a range of different stakeholders interested in how they can work with councils to disrupt modern slavery in their areas, including the Office of the Director of Labour Market Enforcement and the Responsible Car Wash Scheme. The Home Office's Modern Slavery Unit has also sought LGA support for a bid for Treasury funding to pilot two schemes on collaborative working to tackle labour exploitation in nail bars and hand car washes.
10. Officers also attended a British Red Cross event seeking council input into a research report they are developing on reception centres for suspected victims of modern slavery. This is expected to be published in Spring 2020.

Mutual aid protocol – South Yorkshire flooding

11. In November, the LGA was asked to provide support to Doncaster Council, which was seeking 20,000 sandbags to help deal with the serious flooding affecting a number of local communities.
12. Earlier this year, the LGA agreed a protocol with MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division, agreeing that in exceptional emergency response circumstances, when local mutual aid processes had been exhausted, the LGA will use its wider networks to try to source support for a council that has identified gaps in its capability.
13. The Doncaster flooding was the first time the protocol has been activated, and helped ensure that Doncaster was able to source the resources it needed. Officers are now reviewing the use of the protocol to help strengthen its future use.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum – councillor training event

14. In early December, the LGA co-hosted a version of our emergency planning and resilience councillor masterclass with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum. More than fifty delegates at the event heard from Baroness Scott, former leader of Wiltshire Council,

about the novichok attack in Salisbury, and from Cllr Lashbrook about a local flooding incident in Hampshire.

15. Running a shorter version of the event within a specific LRF area appeared to be successful, with very positive feedback from delegates, and is a format we may look to replicate with other LRFs in 2020-21.

Taxi licensing fees

16. Following a judicial review of Wakefield council by the local taxi and private hire association, the Court of Appeal has ruled that councils can recover the costs of monitoring and enforcing driver conduct as part of the fees they charge for taxi driver licences. This ruling is particularly significant as lack of clarity in the legislation has meant that many councils have not been recovering these enforcement costs and instead have subsidised them through other funds. The LGA intervened in the case given the wider sector impact and we are pleased that a clear legal basis has now been established. A copy of the judgement is available [online](#). Officers are developing an advice note for councils on the implications of this ruling.

Water safety

17. In November Cllr James Dawson attended the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) annual water safety conference. Examples of work being done by local water safety partnerships were shared as well as an update on the review commissioned by the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency (MCA) into responsibilities for beach safety. The publication of the review has been delayed but is expected early in 2020. The MCA and RoSPA will be presenting at the next SSCB meeting in March and members are invited to visit tower lifeboat station afterwards. Please contact [Rebecca Johnson](#) for more details about the visit.

Gambling

18. Cllr Eric Allen and Cllr Kate Haigh attended two gambling related events. Gamble Aware's annual conference focused on keeping children and young people safe from gambling harms whilst Bacta's conference explored the contribution of arcades to the seaside economy.

LGA Business Plan for 2019 – 2022

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The LGA business plan sets out how the Local Government Association (LGA) will continue to support and be an advocate for councils in the next three years. Through our #CouncilsCan campaign we will make the case for a new settlement for English local government that gives councils and councillors the powers, freedoms, funding and certainty to transform lives and local economies, respond to climate change and lead the sustainable development agenda.

The LGA Business Plan for 2019-22 is attached as **Appendix A**

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the new Business Plan and reflect on how the SSCB work programmes link to it.

Action

Member Services Officer to take forward comments for future board work.

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LGA business plan 2019-2022

We are the national voice of local government, working with councils to **support, promote and improve**

Introduction

Every day councils make a difference, delivering essential services that improve the lives of millions. By building new homes, creating jobs and school places, providing dignified care for vulnerable people and boosting economic growth, councils support our nation to succeed.

Residents trust their councillors to make the right decisions for them and their families, now and in the future. As democratically elected leaders, councillors play a central role in meeting the challenges we face – whether by providing quality care, giving children and young people the best start in life, combatting climate change and its impacts or helping local businesses to flourish. Councils provide clear and effective leadership to their places and communities that is successful, transparent and accountable.

This business plan sets out how the Local Government Association (LGA) will continue to support and be an advocate for councils in the next three years. Through our #CouncilsCan campaign we will make the case for a new settlement for English local government that gives councils and councillors the powers, freedoms, funding and certainty to transform lives and local economies, respond to climate change and lead the sustainable development agenda.

Promoting the value of local government and supporting councils in their roles as community leaders remains our central mission. As we move into a critical period for local public services – a three-year spending review, greater devolution of powers to local areas and the opportunity to make the case for a long-term settlement for social care – we will continue to prioritise the things that you tell us are important, working with government and Parliament to ensure that those priorities are reflected in national decision-making. Through our sector-led improvement offer we will continue to support councils continuously to improve and innovate.

This is our promise to you, our members, and we look forward to continuing to work on your behalf.



Councillor James Jamieson
Chairman



Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive

Working for councils

The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities. Our core membership is made up of English councils and Welsh councils through the Welsh LGA.

We are politically-led and cross-party and we work on behalf of councils to give local government a strong, credible voice with national government.

We aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they can deliver local solutions to national problems. We fight local government's corner, supporting councils through challenging times and focusing our efforts where we can have real impact.

We also provide membership services to other organisations through our associate scheme, including fire and rescue authorities, national parks authorities, town councils, police & crime commissioners and elected mayors of combined authorities.

Our vision for local government

Our vision for local government is one of a vibrant local democracy, where powers from Westminster are devolved to local areas, and citizens have a meaningful vote and real reason to participate in civic and community life.

Economic growth offers prosperity to every place, with well-targeted and planned investment in infrastructure, training and housing that leads to jobs and a supply of affordable homes.

Public services focus on preventing problems as well as picking up the pieces, delivering positive outcomes for people of all ages in an environmentally sustainable way. Joined up services are built around people and their needs, enhancing the lives of individuals, families and communities and continuing to make local areas better places to live now and for future generations.

Our purpose and priorities

Our work on behalf of local government falls under two overarching themes

National voice of local government

We campaign to influence the political agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of councils and we promote and defend the reputation of the sector

Supporting councils

We support councils continuously to improve and innovate through our programme of practical peer based support underpinned by strong local leadership, through our support for collective legal actions and through our service delivery partnerships.

Our business – Underpinning our work on behalf of councils is an efficient, cost effective and forward-thinking business; we are politically led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

This three-year rolling business plan sets out our key priorities and commitments and demonstrates how our work will contribute to the delivery of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The national voice of local government

We lobby and campaign to influence the political agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of councils and we promote and defend the reputation of the sector. Over the next 12 months we will focus on the six areas that councils tell us matter most to them:

- Funding for local government**

Fair and sustainable funding enables councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.
- Adult social care, health and wellbeing**

Sustainable funding and better integration with health services enable councils to continue to support people to live safe, healthy, active, independent lives and to promote wellbeing and resilience for all ages.
- Children, education and schools**

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together to deliver inclusive and high quality education, help children and young people to fulfil their potential and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Places to live and work**

Councils lead the way in building the homes that people need, driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth and creating safe and resilient communities that are great places to live.
- Strong local democracy**

A refocus on local democratic leadership and a shift in power to local communities leads to greater diversity of elected representatives, high standards of conduct and strong, flexible local governance.
- Sustainability and climate action**

Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat climate change and its impacts and to deliver zero net carbon by 2030.

17 Goals to Transform Our World

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

1NO
POVERTY



2ZERO
HUNGER



3GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4QUALITY
EDUCATION



5GENDER
EQUALITY



6CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13CLIMATE
ACTION



14LIFE
BELOW WATER



15LIFE
ON LAND



16PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



For more information click on each button above to be taken through to its respective goal.

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Funding for local government

Fair and sustainable funding enables councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.

#CouncilsCan

With the right funding and powers, councils can continue to lead their local areas, improve residents' lives, reduce demand for public services and save money for the taxpayer.

The benefits to the country of investing in local government are clear and understood – we will:

- in advance of the 2020 Spending Review, and through our #CouncilsCan campaign, continue to highlight the pressures on all services and press for funding that reflects current and future demand, particularly in the areas of housing, homelessness, adult social care and children's services
- produce evidence of the impact, value and efficiency of local government services
- continue to take a lead with local and central government on the implementation of further business rates retention and press for full retention of business rates
- work with local and central government on a distribution mechanism for local government funding that supports effective long term planning, is an evidence-based reflection of needs and resources and is simpler and more transparent with appropriate transition mechanisms.

People have a meaningful local voice on a wide range of tax and spending decisions – we will:

- press for freedoms that lead to greater local financial autonomy with a view to achieving local control over and retention of both council tax and business rates
- lobby for improvements to the system of business rates to help tackle business rates avoidance and develop proposals to improve the system, including valuation and the appeals process
- press for legislation to allow councils to raise more funds locally including new local taxes and set fees and changes which fully recover costs.

Councils are able to access a range of sources of finance to encourage investment and create jobs, supported by an appropriate financial framework – we will:

- further develop policy on capital financing and investing and contribute to national reviews in these areas so that they support and enable prudent investment and financial management
- contribute to reviews of the accounting and financial regulatory framework for councils to ensure it is appropriate, not over restrictive and balanced with local freedom and accountability
- work with the United Kingdom Municipal Bonds Agency to develop and promote this new borrowing vehicle for councils and help them achieve a first bond issue.

Fair and affordable pay awards enable councils to recruit and retain good staff – we will:

- convene the employer side of the collective bargaining arrangements to agree equitable and affordable pay awards for more than two million local authority employees
- provide evidence to the school teachers' pay review body and Low Pay Commission in relation to the National Minimum and Living Wages.



Adult social care, health and wellbeing

Sustainable funding and better integration with health services enable councils to continue to support people to live safe, healthy, active, independent lives and to promote wellbeing and resilience for all ages.

The lives we want to lead

We want to build a society where everyone is supported to live a healthy, fulfilled and independent life, staying at home and contributing to family and community life for as long as possible. However escalating funding pressures and increasing demand are threatening services that improve lives and communities.

Our campaign builds on our 2018 green paper and consultation and calls for sustainable long-term funding that gives people the care and support they need now and in the future.

Councils secure sufficient resources to deliver effective, integrated social care services – we will:

- continue to lobby for the short, medium and long-term financial sustainability of adult social care and support that is fit for the future
- through our campaign 'The lives we want to lead', and building on the findings of our green paper consultation, press for real change in the funding of adult social care, arguing that all options, including national taxation, should be considered
- work with government to agree a sustainable, long term funding deal for public health.

Councils lead the debate on the future vision for health and social care – we will:

- develop a clear vision of councils' role in planning and delivering integrated health and care systems and continue to promote health and wellbeing boards as leaders of health and care
- support councils and their partners to develop place-based and person-centred care and support, delivered through community-based multi-disciplinary settings

- continue to press for a long term policy framework for the Better Care Fund (BCF), with lighter touch reporting and greater emphasis on local targets
- continue to lobby for councils and councillors to have a key role in sustainability and transformation partnerships, integrated care systems and wider NHS planning arrangements.

Councils support older people, disabled people and people in vulnerable circumstances – we will:

- support councils to tackle the challenges and exploit the opportunities of a population with increasingly complex needs, including improving dementia and mental health services, carers' support and support for those with autism and/or learning difficulties
- continue to support councils to deliver the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Councils work actively with the NHS to build health and care services around the needs of local populations – we will:

- work to ensure that sustainability and transformation partnerships and integrated care systems drive genuine and sustainable transformation in patient experience and health outcomes
- support councils to manage and develop their local care market, commission services and put in place contingency arrangements to mitigate against provider failure
- influence implementation of the NHS long term plan to reflect local government's priorities.

Councils have a central role in promoting health and wellbeing locally – we will:

- develop a full cost benefit case for investing in prevention, demonstrating how different sectors can contribute, including by encouraging the public to live well and provide self-care
- work with partners to continue to improve public health and promote the role of wider preventative work within local areas' overall health and care systems
- work with the NHS and partners to develop a system-wide approach to public health workforce planning and address urgent staffing issues in children's public health.



Children, education and schools

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together to deliver inclusive and high quality education, help children and young people to fulfil their potential and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Bright Futures: children's social care and mental health services

Helping children and young people to fulfil their potential is the ambition of all councils, but services that support them to do so are under increasing pressure.

Our campaign calls for the services that change children's lives to be properly funded so that all children can have the bright futures they deserve.

Councils lead the way in driving up educational standards – we will:

- set out a clear vision for councils' role in promoting high educational standards, with the resources, powers and flexibilities to give every child access to a place at a good local school
- lobby for a stronger role for councils in investing in schools, ensuring that new schools are fit for purpose, high quality and value for money, and that councils have a lead role in decisions about new free schools
- lobby for a stronger council role in ensuring admissions are fair for all pupils across the school system.

Schools have the funding they need to deliver the best education for all pupils – we will:

- lobby to ensure the national funding formula for schools retains an element of local flexibility to allow councils and schools to reflect local needs and priorities
- highlight the growing pressures on the high needs budget and lobby government to provide councils with sufficient funding and flexibility to meet rising demand
- lobby for flexibility in the use of the apprenticeship levy and work with partners to increase take up of quality apprenticeships in schools.

Councils have the flexibility and resources to deliver services that meet the needs of children and young people – we will:

- continue to paint a positive vision for the future role of local children's services and call for proper funding for the services that change children's lives through our Bright Futures campaign
- highlight the funding gap and press for adequate funding in children's services, including making the case for investment in early intervention
- support councils to take a preventative and place-based approach to children and young people's health, including early years, childhood obesity and support for children's mental health
- work in partnership to improve life chances for disadvantaged households, particularly those with young children, making the case for early intervention and improved integration of services for families.

Councils protect children's wellbeing and keep them safe – we will:

- support councils to protect children and young people from harm and improve outcomes for all children, in particular children in care and care leavers
- work with government and councils to support child refugees and unaccompanied asylum seekers safe, pressing for improved funding to better cover costs, including for those leaving care
- support councils to tackle the challenges of child criminal exploitation and county lines issues.



Places to live and work

Councils lead the way in building the homes that people need, driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth and creating safe and resilient communities that are great places to live.

Councils drive the increase in housing supply the nation needs – we will:

- continue to press for additional powers for councils to increase housing supply, promote affordable homes and make more effective use of surplus public sector land
- support consortia of councils to access significant housing development funds through the creation of new partnership models
- press for powers for councils to ensure the provision of homes integrated with health and care that positively support us to age well
- lobby for a well-resourced and locally responsive planning system, funded by locally set fees with the tools to ensure developers build quality homes that meet local need.

Councils have access to funding to create communities where people want to live – we will:

- continue to press for additional infrastructure funding, including a review of the current rules governing developer contributions
- support councils to work with partners to maximise the value of local and national infrastructure investment, including in road, rail, broadband, culture, heritage and recreation
- work to secure the £5 billion of regeneration investment guaranteed to local economies from EU structural funds to 2020 up until we leave the EU and lobby for alternative UK sources after we leave.

Councils continue to drive higher safety standards across the housing sector – we will:

- lobby for resources and tools to enable councils to shape a good quality private rented sector that meets the needs of their local communities
- work with government and councils to identify high-risk, high-rise residential buildings and lobby for support for councils to make changes and take urgent remedial action
- respond to government consultations, including on the new building safety regulatory framework.

Councils lead the way in ending homelessness through prevention – we will:

- lobby for the funding and tools to enable councils to manage the housing impacts of welfare reform and achieve the ambitions of the Homeless Reduction Act and Rough Sleeping strategy
- make the case for adaptations to welfare reform and for the powers and funding that councils need to meet local needs
- with the LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group and Chief Executives' and Home Office group on asylum dispersal, inform the development, delivery and funding of support for asylum seekers and refugees and share good practice.

Councils lead the way in shaping communities where people feel safe – we will:

- lead the debate on the role of councils in building safer and resilient communities and explore how they can contribute to a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence
- represent councils' interests in the UK's developing modern slavery policies
- support councils to reduce serious violence, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and anti-social behaviour
- contribute to the independent review of Prevent and the new counter-extremism strategy, ensuring that councils are supported to build community cohesion, promote integration, tackle extremism and deliver the Prevent duty.

Councils support strong communities through risk-based business-friendly regulatory services – we will:

- press for powers and resources where councils take on additional legal liabilities such as building regulations post-Grenfell and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) proposed new air quality requirements
- support councils to demonstrate the value of regulatory services and lobby for sustainable funding
- lobby government to bring forward taxi licensing legislation as soon as possible
- press for greater flexibility in the licensing system, including the localisation of licensing fees.

Councils continue to play a leading role in the design and delivery of blue light services that help protect local communities – we will:

- lobby for sustainable funding for fire and rescue authorities and support them to become more inclusive and representative of their communities
- respond to the Phase 1 Report of the Grenfell Inquiry for fire and rescue authorities ensuring that any new burdens and responsibilities are identified and appropriately funded
- strengthen fire and rescue authorities' ability to take forward the fire reform agenda and the findings of the first tranche of inspections from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), exploring any national recommendations
- support police and crime panels and share best practice.

Councils are key partners in delivering the government's national economic strategy – we will:

- support city regions and non-metropolitan areas to deliver effective local economic strategies
- advocate for a voice for councils in the development of a new English land management policy, and for communities to be involved in deciding how their local natural assets are managed
- support local innovation to deliver a better digital infrastructure and continue to press for a regulatory framework that will deliver the best deal for customers
- continue to press for strong local government representation on Local Enterprise Partnerships and improved oversight and scrutiny of them
- support councils to maximise the impact of their cultural, sporting and heritage assets to drive growth in their local visitor economy.

Councils match education, training and skills with business needs – we will:

- continue to press for powers, funding and lead responsibility for councils to integrate and commission back to work, skills, apprenticeships and welfare support under the LGA's Work Local model.
- campaign for people of all ages to be supported to participate in quality skills development and training, including independent careers advice and a passport for lifelong learning.
- promote good employment practice that helps apprentices, interns and people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) into work, including a series of national events for young apprentices.



Strong local democracy

A refocus on local democratic leadership and a shift in power to local communities leads to greater diversity of elected representatives, high standards of conduct and strong, flexible local governance.

Councils as leaders of good conduct in public and political discourse and debate – we will:

- clearly articulate the standards expected for anyone engaging in public and political discourse and debate and what is needed to achieve those standards, underlining that intimidation and abuse of those in public office is unacceptable
- review the member model code of conduct and support our member councils in addressing intimidation and abuse of those in public office
- promote and support councils in developing the diversity of their candidates and elected members
- support councils to explore ways of engaging with their local community and voluntary sector in local service delivery, enhancing places and local decision making.

Elected members and officers are empowered to tackle incidents of public intimidation – we will:

- explore the practicalities and support the adoption of an informal 'duty of care' for councillors
- seek to better understand the scale and impact of the intimidation and abuse our membership is experiencing and promote a new offence for intimidation against a person in public office
- engage with police forces and associated agencies to ensure the impact and seriousness of the public intimidation of local councillors and employees is understood and acted upon.

Brexit and constitutional reform – we will:

- interact with Whitehall on all Brexit negotiations, clearly articulating councils' needs and concerns and taking advantage of the opportunity to entrench local government within our new constitutional settlement
- continue to support councils to prepare and deliver a successful transition for EU Exit, ensuring that there is a robust evidence base setting out the risks and opportunities across the country
- press for quick and decisive responses and for all government communications to councils to be focused, clear, and direct
- ensure that repatriated laws and regulations are not centralised in Whitehall, working on a revised legal framework for those services currently based on EU laws such as air pollution, energy, waste and procurement and redefining regional aid and state-aid rules.

Continued devolution of powers and funding to local areas drive strong and responsive local democracy and greater engagement with communities – we will:

- refresh the case to demonstrate to government how devolution leads to more inclusive and sustainable growth, better public services and improved outcomes for residents
- work with government, business and others to give communities in England and Wales greater responsibility to make decisions on the issues of importance to them.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Sustainability and climate action

Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat the negative impacts of climate change and to deliver zero net carbon by 2030.

Councils have the powers and resources they need to lead the way in combatting the effects of climate change – we will:

- lobby for a joint taskforce with relevant Whitehall departments including Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to consider the most appropriate actions, funding, coordination and collaboration
- press government for the funding and policy changes needed to deliver zero net carbon by 2030
- work with government to address the need for greater energy efficiency in the built environment and how this can be achieved through planning practice and changes to Building Regulations
- work with government, as it implements the Waste and Resources Strategy to identify ways to reduce waste and levels of unrecyclable waste and the investment priorities for waste disposal and processing of recyclates.

Councils lead the way in researching and developing alternative transport options – we will:

- establish the resources and regulatory changes needed to support a move to electric vehicles, including provision of charging points on new housing developments and electrification of council and council-contracted vehicle fleets
- work on the implications of hydrogen fuel cell technology for the mix of local transport and infrastructure provision
- identify the incentives and investment required to support a shift towards public transport and walking and cycling, as part of the solution to reducing carbon emissions.

Councils work with partners and stakeholders to implement short, medium and long term strategies to reduce carbon emissions in their areas – we will:

- develop guidance and share best practice, including identifying the top 10 actions councils can take to address carbon emissions in their areas, recognising that one-size does not fit all
- drawing on international experience, develop an evidence base and framework to understand the main carbon sources and the impact of councils' activity
- identify the opportunities of a shift to a low carbon economy as a basis for immediate and effective action
- ensure that the LGA as the membership body for local authorities is modelling best practice in the way it conducts its own business.

Supporting councils

We support councils continuously to improve and innovate through a programme of practical peer based support underpinned by strong local leadership, through our support for collective legal actions and through our service delivery partnerships.

Our core offer is funded by MHCLG grant and organised around four themes. The fifth is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, whilst our children's improvement programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

This year we will develop a new offer linked to climate change and the challenges and opportunities of moving to a zero carbon economy.

We also receive funding from other government departments for specific sector-led improvement activities, including:

One Public Estate – funded by Cabinet Office and MHCLG

Cultural services and sport – in partnership with Arts Council England and Sport England

Planning Advisory Services – funded by MHCLG

Return to Work programme – funded by the Government Equalities Office

Cyber security – funded by the Cabinet Office.

Challenge and support from peers – we will:

- maintain an overview of councils' performance to drive improvement, manage the risk of significant underperformance and minimise government intervention
- deliver at least 110 peer challenges, including corporate, service specific, financial and place-based
- provide member peer support for 75 per cent of councils under a change of political control, including new e-learning opportunities, mentoring and advice
- support at least 20 councils to improve the way they engage with their communities
- support at least 70 councils and groups of councils each year, especially those with the most severe performance challenges or to resolve issues between political and managerial leadership

- provide free council and public access to transparent performance information through LG Inform and LG Inform VFM, with additional charged access for councils to small area data reports and improvement tools through LG Inform Plus
- support councils to develop scrutiny skills and expertise through the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Strong political and officer leadership – we will:

- support at least 700 councillors through our suite of leadership programmes
- support at least 60 councillors with the potential to progress in their political careers through our Next Generation programme
- support the leadership development of chief executives, managers and rising talent in councils, in partnership with SOLACE
- help at least 15 councils, political groups and national parties to attract new talent into civic life through our Be a Councillor programme
- recruit up to 110 high calibre graduates to the National Graduate Development Programme, working with councils to secure challenging placements
- help councils to address inequalities, gender pay gap, ethnicity gap and roll out Disability Confident
- maintain national negotiating machinery on pay and workforce issues
- provide specialist advice and support for the Local Government Pension Scheme
- deliver comprehensive practical support to help councils provide apprenticeships and maximise their levy investment
- support 50 councils to transform their workforces and modernise the way they are managed
- support councils to promote wellbeing, diversity and inclusion in the workplace through information, guidance and bespoke support and work with them to address issues around gender pay gap, representation and recruitment challenges
- attract qualified staff in hard-to-recruit areas back to local government through the Return to Work programme, focusing on social workers, town planners and IT staff in 2019/20.

Councils as most efficient part of the public sector – we will:

- provide practical support through the Transformation and Innovation Exchange to help councils deliver better value for money, become more efficient and improve outcomes for communities
- in line with the revised national procurement strategy, deliver a support programme to help councils improve their procurement arrangements
- capture and share intelligence about major suppliers to reduce the risk from suppliers getting into financial difficulty
- support at least 25 councils to realise efficiency savings through our productivity and income generation expert programme, saving at least £25 million over four years

- support councils to develop a more commercial approach to their activities through a series of courses, events and sharing good practice
- provide expert financial support to enable at least 40 councils to address specific issues
- provide a matchmaking service for councils wishing to share services and/or management teams and promote good practice through our web-based interactive shared services map
- equip 18 more councils with the skills and confidence to use design and behavioural insights to improve public services and manage future demand
- in collaboration with CIPFA, help councils to be more proactive in dealing with fraud
- support councils to exploit the opportunities of digital tools and solutions to enable local residents and businesses to access council services online
- with councils, sector representative bodies, MHCLG, Cabinet Office and the National Cyber Security Centre, highlight the importance of cyber security and cyber resilience to protect data and systems
- share best practice of councils who are finding new and effective ways of working to secure outcomes for their communities at significantly less cost, particularly through the Innovation Zone
- with Local Partnerships, support councils to make savings by providing commercial advice and support on matters of legal and contractual complexity.

Strong communities with excellent public services – we will:

- through practical bespoke support, help councils deal with the housing, planning and homelessness challenges through the Housing Advisers programme and other sector-wide projects
- support councils to strengthen their licensing and regulatory functions, including issues arising from the Hackitt review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety
- offer a mixture of generic and bespoke support for combined authorities, elected mayors and those areas in the process of developing their devolution arrangements
- support councils on the local growth agenda, including the development of Local Industrial Strategies
- support councils to counter extremism and contribute to a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence
- strengthen fire and rescue authorities' ability to take forward the fire reform agenda by strengthening their strategic leadership
- with MHCLG, ensure the national Troubled Families Programme is effectively implementing service transformation across Early Help Services
- support councils to prepare and deliver a successful transition for EU exit
- support councils to embed strengthened approaches to civil resilience and mutual aid through working with MHCLG team to develop training, guidance and other materials for councils.

Improving health and care service – we will:

- co-produce with ADASS the sector led improvement programme for care and health
- support social care and health integration and the transforming care programme for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
- support councils to use technology to improve joint working between councils and health partners to enable people to live independently
- help councils develop innovative, efficient and sustainable approaches in care and health services
- work with partners to support councils to develop and improve local services and offer a programme of leadership development
- develop and deliver a support offer to help councils and their partners embed the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach
- support councils and their partners to identify and manage sustainability and delivery risks
- work with partners to develop a new suicide prevention sector-led improvement offer
- work with partners and DfE to deliver a sector-led approach to improving children's services.

Improving children's services – we will:

- provide nationally accredited and quality assured courses for practitioners and associates engaging in peer review, challenge or diagnostic activity
- run Leadership Essentials courses for members with lead responsibility for children's services
- publish a series of 'must know' packs for councils, including on corporate parenting
- develop and/or broker a flexible offer of diagnostic or peer review tools either bespoke to individual authorities, as part of a regional offer or commissioned by the DfE for authorities in intervention
- offer mentoring support for councilors with lead responsibility for children's services.

Combatting climate change – we will:

- consult with councils to determine the support they need to inform a new offer
- incorporate climate change issues into core leadership programmes for councillors and officers
- develop a package of communications support including how to engage with local activist groups
- support long term action-planning and setting strategic objectives, for example through the deployment of 'climate experts'.

Collective legal actions

Leading collective action – we will:

- support groups of councils to mount collective legal actions or fight actions against them where we believe that they have a strong case, commissioning expert legal advice and sources of funding where appropriate
- prepare New Burdens submissions on behalf of the sector where new legislation or regulations result in additional duties or costs to councils.

Our service delivery partnerships

Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the LGA and HM Treasury, formed in 2009 to help the public sector deliver local services and infrastructure. It offers support to local authorities in the following areas:

- developing and reviewing strategic business cases and business plans
- service transformation and change
- modelling and legal frameworks for alternative service delivery models
- options appraisal and assurance of chosen approaches or options
- forming effective partnerships (inter-agency brokerage)
- sourcing and commissioning, contract negotiation and management
- economic development and planning
- delivering infrastructure.

GeoPlace

GeoPlace is a joint venture between the LGA and Ordnance Survey, formed in 2010 in response to a government call to bring together existing creators and suppliers of addressing data to one central place and to build a single, definitive address database. It works in close collaboration with local authorities to:

- cleanse and validate the address and streets data produced by councils
- create and maintain national registers of address and streets data (called gazeteers)
- provide support and training to councils ensure that they are able to produce high quality, and timely data in the most cost effective way.

Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

PSAA is an independent company limited by guarantee incorporated by the LGA in August 2014. The Secretary of State for MHCLG has specified PSAA as an appointing person under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. PSAA appoints an auditor to relevant local government bodies that opt into its national scheme and sets a scale of fees for the work which auditors undertake.

Local Government Mutual Limited and Local Government Mutual Management Services Limited

The Mutual is a shared ownership company between the LGA and a number of local authorities. Membership is only open to councils in membership of the LGA. The Mutual provides:

- indemnity to local authorities in England and Wales as a cost-effective alternative to the traditional insurance market, including cover for all classes of business
- risk management services to its member local authorities.

LGMMSL is a joint venture between the LGA and Regis Mutual Management that provides services to the Local Government Mutual.

United Kingdom Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA)

The LGA, along with a number of councils, is a major shareholder in the UKMBA. We support and provide client side services to the Agency as the newly appointed service provider works with councils to aggregate borrowing requirements and issue bonds.



Our business

We are committed to providing the best and most cost effective services to councils and councillors across England and Wales. We are politically led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

The national membership body for local government – we will:

- maintain membership levels amongst local authorities in England and Wales by continuing to offer membership benefits that meet the sector's changing needs and expectations
- launch a new online membership booklet, setting out the benefits of membership directly with councils and councillors
- offer a range of flexible options for councils to participate actively in our work including through video conferencing and streaming of events and meetings
- seek to attract organisations with an interest in local government into our associate scheme.

A politically-led organisation – we will:

- reflect the overall ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the motion passed by the 2019 General Assembly, in the way that we work and ensure that our own organisation reflects best practice
- review our member governance arrangements to ensure that they continue to reflect and respond to current priorities and the expectations of our membership
- offer political support to individual councillors and council administrations through our political group offices
- ensure that combined authorities, authorities with devolution deals and elected mayors are appropriately represented on our governance arrangements.

Using communications to persuade and influence and support councils – we will:

- deliver first class communications that are highly valued and respected by local government and our stakeholders, to influence the issues that matter to councils, their residents and their communities

- through our communications improvement work, support councils and help to raise the standard of public sector communications.

Financially sustainable – we will:

- continue to develop existing and new income generation opportunities in order to diversify our sources of funding and ensure the long term financial sustainability of the organisation
- complete the refurbishment of Layden House (now the Stills) in Farringdon to increase its capital value and maximise our income from commercial letting of the Stills and 18 Smith Square
- invest responsibly and seek to ensure that our contractors, joint ventures and pension funds have in place investment policies that further our objectives
- continue to progress the transfer of pensions from Camden to Merseyside scheme.

Efficient business management – we will:

- continue to streamline our company structures to deliver a solid and tax-efficient base from which to run our business, including incorporation of the Association
- through our partnership arrangement with Brent Council, continue to develop our ICT to support improved efficiency and flexibility
- ensure that the suite of policies and procedures that underpin our business are comprehensive, clearly understood, updated regularly and reflect best practice.

Supportive people management – we will:

- continue to roll out the leadership development programme for our current and aspiring managers as part of our wider commitment to develop our employees and ensure that data from the 2019 evaluation is used to enhance the programme for 2020
- implement the comprehensive new employee health and wellbeing strategy
- prepare and deliver the 2020 staff survey
- embed equality, diversity and inclusion into our core values, our policies and our practices.

Committed to a sustainable future – we will

- review our policies and practices to ensure that they reflect the ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to combatting the adverse effects of climate change
- encourage sustainable travel practices through our expenses policy, our flexible working practices and our continued participation in national sustainable travel initiatives including the Cycle to Work scheme
- minimise the environmental impact of our two central London buildings and the way that we use and manage those buildings, including ensuring that our facilities management and catering contractors have environmentally sustainable policies and practices.

Minimising the impacts of climate change

The LGA is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its activities, reducing pollution and CO2 emissions and contributing to a healthy future for all. These are some of the ways that we deliver on that commitment.

Flexible working

Our flexible working policy allows staff to work from home up to two days per week, subject to the needs of the business. This means less journeys to work and a better work-life balance for our staff and their families. It has also enabled us to reduce by a third the amount of office space that we occupy.

Our ICT is designed to support flexible working, enabling staff to log into their LGA accounts from home on the days when they are not in the office or from trains when they are on the move.

Travel

Our expenses policy encourages staff to use public transport wherever practicable to help reduce the impact of the LGA's business travel arrangements on the environment. The Members' Scheme of Allowance stresses that wherever possible, councillors are expected to travel by public transport when on LGA business.

Meetings

All meeting rooms at 18 Smith Square have access to telephone and/or video conferencing facilities. This enables members and staff to join meeting remotely, reducing the need for lengthy journeys to Westminster.

18 Smith Square

Secure cycle facilities and showers are provided in the basement of 18 Smith Square for those who prefer to cycle or run to work.

All lights in the building are energy efficient LEDs, with motion sensors that ensure they are switched off when not needed. Windows on the south and west of the building which are not part of the conservation area are double glazed to reduce energy loss. Recycling bins are provided on every floor.

Procurement

The LGA has a robust procurement policy and process, which underpins the importance of all our contractors being able to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and combatting climate change. Our procurement documentation states

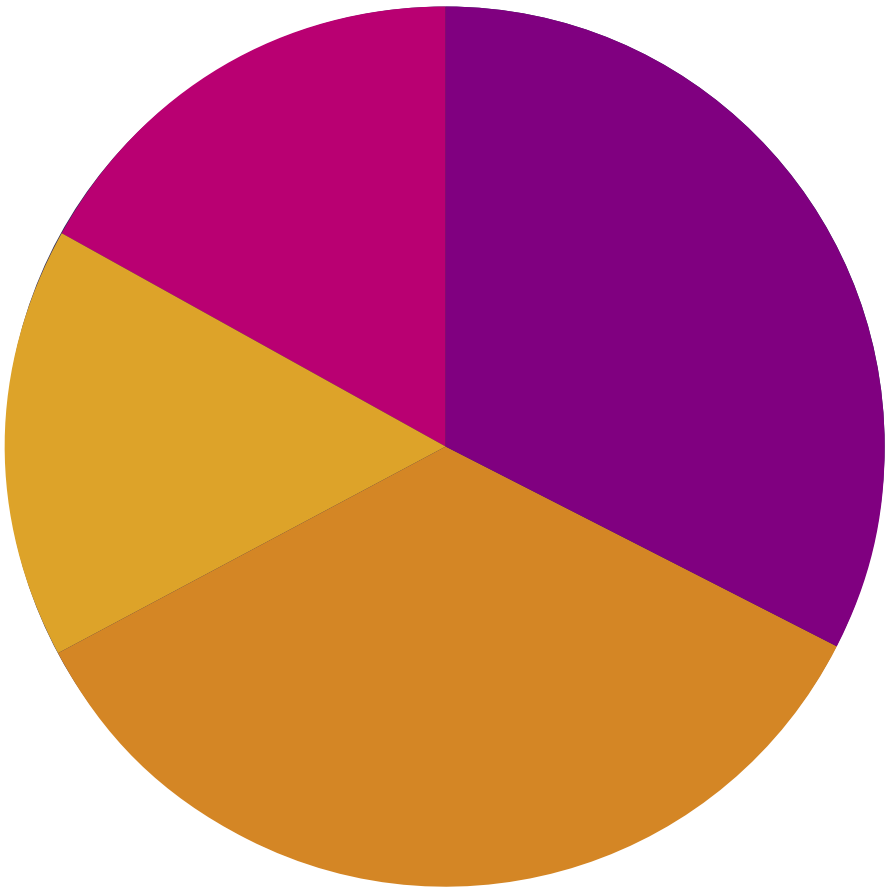
“In adhering to our commitments, the contractor should have systems in place to account for and minimise environmental impacts in all areas of contract delivery”.

Our budget 2019/20

Funding sources and forecast expenditure (Budget) (£'000)

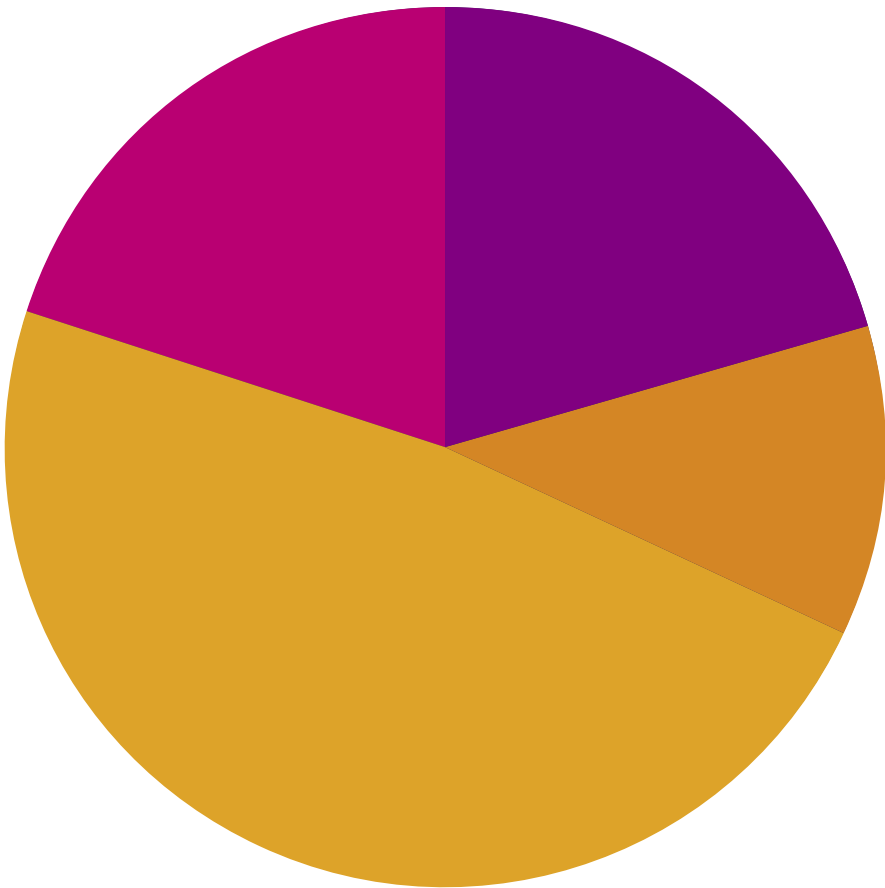
Income LG Group 2019/20

- CLG, £19,200 (32.5%)
- Other grants and contracts, £20,581 (34.8%)
- Other income, £9,409 (15.9%)
- Subscriptions, £9,940 (16.8%)



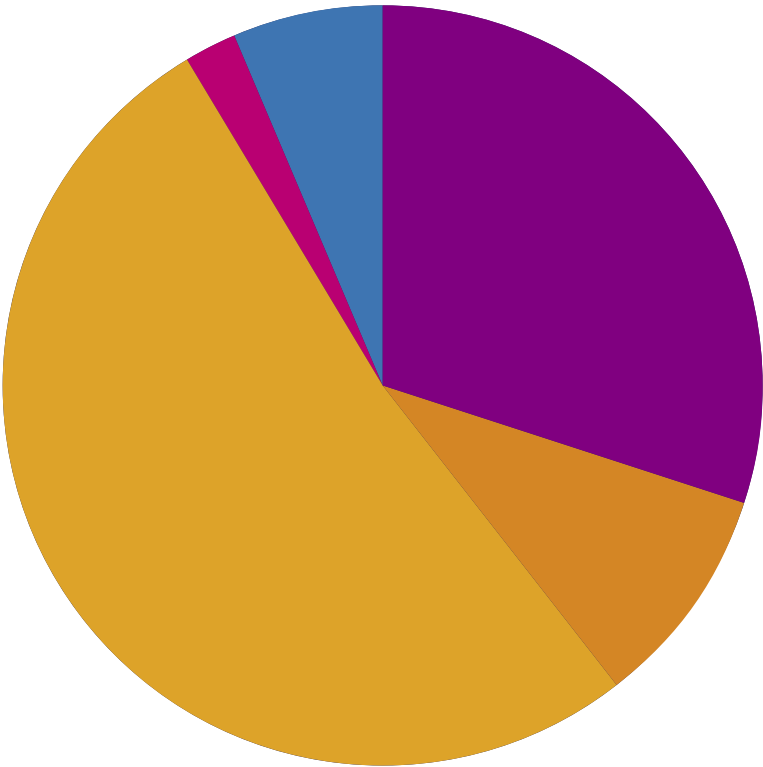
Other income LG Group 2019/20

- Dividends, royalties and interest, £1,935 (20.6%)
- Rental Income and external room hire, £1,077 (11.4%)
- Services, consultancy and other subscriptions, £4,521 (48.0%)
- Conferences, events and sponsors, £1,876 (19.9%)



Grant and contract income LG Group 2019/20

- Adult social care, health and wellbeing, £11,964 (30.1%)
- Children, education and schools £3,828 (9.6%)
- Supporting councils, £20,613 (51.8%)
- Other grants, £873 (2.2%)
- Housing and sustainable communities, £2,503 (6.3%)



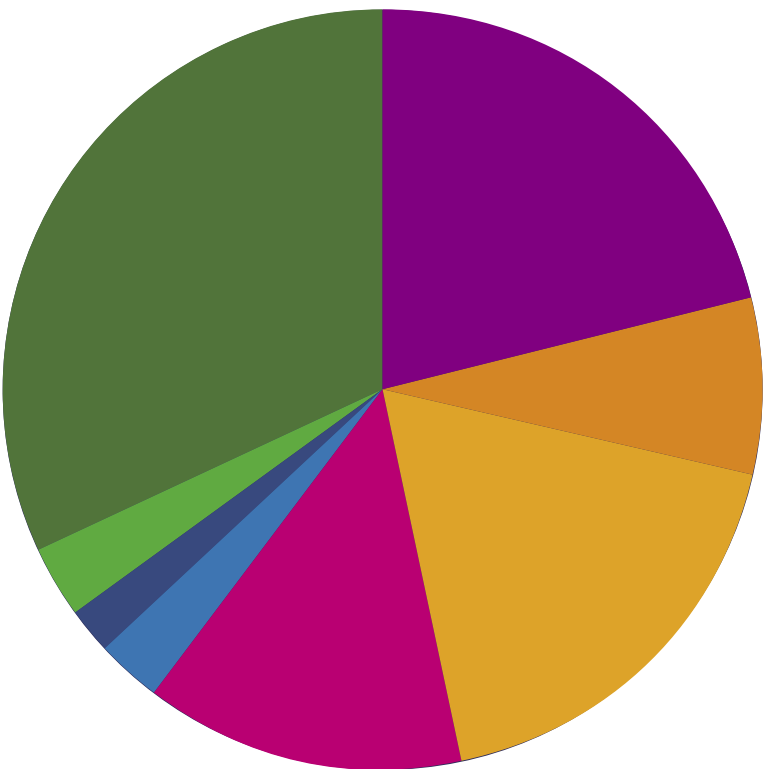
Expenditure LG Group by business plan theme 2019/20

- Funding for local government, £2,328 (3.6%)
- Adult social care, health and wellbeing, £8,912 (13.9%)
- Children, education and schools, £4,673 (7.3%)
- Places to live and work, £13,243 (20.6%)
- Strong local democracy, £6,556 (10.2%)
- Supporting councils, £13,864 (21.6%)
- The way we work, £14,648 (22.8%)



Expenditure LG Group by service group 2019/20

- Business support, £12,308 (19.2%)
- Communications, £4,331 (6.7%)
- Governance and project support, £10,510 (16.4%)
- Finance and policy, £7,977 (12.4%)
- Member service, £1,616 (2.5%)
- Political groups, £1,093 (1.7%)
- Property costs, £1,875 (2.9%)
- Leadership and productivity, £18,405 (28.7%)



Our governance

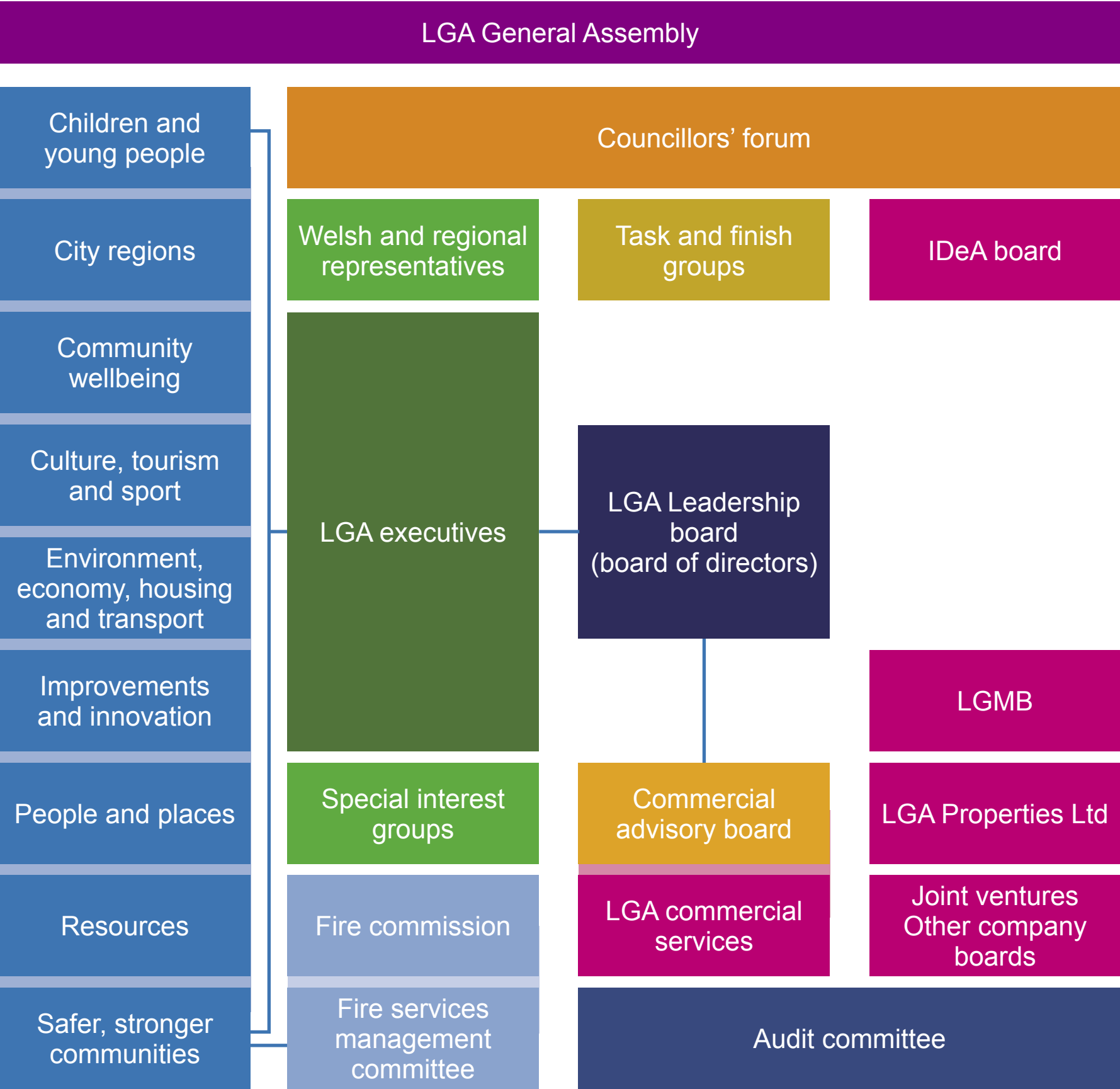
From April 2019, the LGA's responsibilities, assets and liabilities transferred from the previous unincorporated Association to a new company, whose Board of Directors – the Leadership Board – is elected annually by the General Assembly. The General Assembly comprises representatives of every council in full membership of the LGA, or in corporate membership through the Welsh LGA. Further information on the company and the way it operates can be found in our Articles of Association and our Governance Framework.

The Leadership Board is supported by nine policy boards who together are responsible for developing our policies and campaigns, and for overseeing our extensive programme of sector-led improvement services, across every area of local government activity. The Leadership Board and the chairs of the policy boards meet every six weeks as the Executive and are joined by representatives from Wales and the eight English regions and from three of our special interest groups – the County Councils' Network, District Councils' Network and Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities.

The Fire Commission and Fire Services Management Board look after the interests of fire and rescue authorities, whilst the two property boards – LGA (Properties) Ltd and LGMB – are responsible for 18 Smith Square, our Westminster HQ and Layden House, now the Stills, our investment property in Farringdon.

The Commercial Advisory Board is responsible for overseeing the LGA's income-generating activities to make us financially sustainable now and in the future.

Governance arrangements



Our major contracts

Catering – Bartlett Mitchell

Bartlett Mitchell (BM) provide all catering services at 18 Smith Square.

BM have been named Sustainable Caterer of the Year for three years in succession. Their policy is to source ingredients locally, regionally and seasonally from farmers who produce food to high environmental standards, reducing the impact of climate change and helping to protect the landscape and our farming heritage. BM use high-welfare meat, poultry, eggs, cheese, and dairy produce and sustainable seafood.

Overseas produce is sourced from ethical suppliers, including coffee from the Soppexcca co-op in Nicaragua which supports women farmers in the region. BM use the 'Free Wheeling' initiative to reduce the number of deliveries to their kitchens.

Total facilities management – Bouygues

Bouygues environmental policy recognises that the company's activities and services have the potential to impact on the environment. The policy sets out Bouygues' commitment to minimising the environmental impact of its operations in every way it can and is supported by 'live' environmental improvement plans at all levels.

The company is triple certificated to ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 and the environmental management standard ISO 14001 is fully integrated into its everyday activities.

Bouygues' Facilities Management business was the first in the UK to achieve Energy Management Standard ISO50001. They are currently focusing on reducing carbon impact, minimising waste, diverting waste from landfill and reducing energy.

Pensions – Merseyside Pension Fund and Camden Pension Fund

The LGA's main pension provider, Merseyside Pension Fund, has a policy of responsible investment. The policy has three components: exercise of voting rights; engagement with companies on environmental, social and governance issues & collaboration with like-minded investors. The Fund is active in the work of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum whose work covers a range of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility issues, and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change.

Some employees belong to the Camden Pension Fund, who like all pensions funds, are bound by the law relating to Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy. The Fund believes that 'robust' engagement with companies is a better approach than placing restrictions on particular types of investment. It also believes that companies conforming to high ethical and social standards will produce shareholder returns that are at least comparable to those produced by other companies.

Online learning – Learning Nexus

Learning Nexus provides a range of online learning modules for the LGA. The company has formally acknowledged the climate change emergency and pledged to reduce its carbon footprint to zero by the end of 2030. Its first step is to audit its carbon footprint and to identify the areas in which it can make individual changes that have a wider impact. Once that is complete, it will get to work on making those changes.



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Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title: Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Date: Tuesday 12 November 2019

Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and noted apologies received (which can be found at **Appendix A**).

No declarations of interest were made.

4 Independent Review of Prevent

The Chair reordered the agenda as one of the presenters was delayed. Rachel Duke, Adviser, introduced the item.

Rachel explained that Lord Carlile is leading an independent review of Prevent, which is due to report to the Secretary of State in June 2020. A recent call for evidence was launched inviting responses around a number of themes. The paper to the Board explored some of the issues for local authorities in Prevent delivery and sought members' views in order to inform the LGA's submission. Rachel however pointed out that the appointment of Lord Carlile to lead the review was subject to a judicial review.

The following comments were made:

Members asked how the judicial review would impact on the timing of the Review. Rachel explained the timing of the Review had been set out in legislation and if there was a delay either the legislation would have to be changed or the review's timetable would be truncated.

Members agreed that some local areas and their authorities have been critical of the Prevent programme, but noted that it does help build resilience in communities and prevent radicalisation. However, members around the table supported the programme, and commented that it is a powerful tool for local government to have at its disposal. Members agreed the work is both critical and essential.

Members discussed the 40 priority areas and sharing best practices for all of local government. However, members also commented that the Home Office (HO) needs to

provide further support to councils – particularly those authorities who want to engage with the programme but are worried around their reputation. Members also discussed the need to engage with local critical voices of the programme. The Chair supported these points, and stated that some local authorities are meeting resistance in their communities and therefore are not able to deliver the programme effectively, and so further government support and funding is needed for this. The Chair also stated that further devolution in how Prevent is run is needed, given the variation in risk local areas face and how this is not a 'one-size-fits-all' issue.

Discussion also highlighted the concerns the Government has over how funding for this work is spent, with no robust evidence over the allocation of funding or methodology of ring-fencing this funding.

WRAP training, alongside education and preventative methods in schools was also discussed, as the programme provides an essential mechanism in identifying individuals likely to be radicalised. Vice Chairman, Cllr Katrina Wood highlighted the good work her own authority Wycombe had undertaken.

Members also discussed how Prevent peers require further support, including partnership working, and noted that this work does not seem to be on the Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) agendas.

Decision

1. The Board considered the issues raised in the paper.
2. The final submission to the Review to be signed off by the Board's Lead Members.

2 Domestic Abuse

Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner, introduced item two. Nicole's presentation focused on:

- The synergies between community safety and resilience, and her role.
- Her appointment had taken place six weeks before the meeting, and she had been appointed with the remit of improving the response to domestic abuse (DA) in England and Wales. Nicole commented that her role gives public leadership to the role and provides practical ways of moving forward in terms of services and a coordinated response at a national level.
- Nicole discussed the Domestic Abuse Bill, which has now ceased due to the proroguing of Parliament and the upcoming General Election. Nicole stated that her role & office will continue regardless, however, the Bill would have given her role additional powers which would have been helpful – for example, the ability to lay reports in Parliament. In addition to this, Nicole stated that whilst she could not give any definite assurances, she believed it likely that the Bill would come back in the new session of Parliament, given the cross-party support and discussions she has had with leading parliamentarians.
- This role is brand new, and is similar to the Victims Commissioner, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, and the Children's Commissioner. Her office is currently developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the other Commissioners, to highlight the Commissioner's function, as well as handle issues where there is an overlap with the other Commissioners' remits.

- Nicole stated that she has started to undertake the mapping of service provision, which is an essential part of her role. This mapping aims to highlight good practice, where practice is, and where practice ought to be, and would be drawing on previous mapping exercises. The Commissioner has started to meet with analysts and exploring how best to undertake this large task. This mapping will also need to identify what good service provision within local areas looks like (including examples of coordinated community response), as well as identifying key early intervention practices to reduce and eventually minimise crisis points.
- The Commissioner said she would also be looking at Domestic Homicide Reviews to understand what could be learned from them and how the recommendations are being implemented at a local level.
- The Commissioner said one of her priorities would be specialist DA courts, as well as producing a refreshed manual at the start of 2020 that looks at what works to tackle and prosecute DA within courts.
- Some parts of the Commissioner's role relate specifically to children and Black, Asian and Mixed Ethnicities (BAME) communities.

Following the Commissioner's presentation, members raised the following points:

- Members discussed the proposed statutory duty to provide accommodation to victims noting that this would require engagement with a range of statutory services and there may need to be a duty to cooperate placed on them. They also noted proposals from some to extend the duty to provide wider domestic abuse services as well.
- Members highlighted the need for early intervention and prevention, and stated there was an opportunity to do this through the revised curriculum in schools and PSHE to educate young people around healthy relationships.
- Members discussed how lack of funding to local government is the key in every issue the sector is facing; members noted that the £15 million made available to local areas to bid for was not a substitute for the need for funding the new responsibilities councils would have.
 - In response to these, the Commissioner stated that one of the few upsides of the stalling of the Bill process is more time to consider what the statutory duty on providing accommodation would entail, and how it would be funded; the Commissioner stated that costing this properly is key if the duty was to be broadened, and noted that her view was it was odd to support some services with a duty and not others. It would therefore be helpful to have views on what is realistic and what the constraints faced by local government are.
- Members discussed PCCs work on DA, as well as Local Partnership Boards and how these differ in practice. It was discussed how sharing best practice on DA are essential so all local areas are at the same level to tackle this issue. Members also questioned what work the Commissioner's office will be doing on perpetrator intervention; where the Commissioner's recommendations will be going; and how will engagement with local authorities be mapped?
 - In response to this, the Commissioner: agreed that sharing best practice amongst all government bodies – including all the way up to central Government – should be practiced; regarding perpetrator intervention, the Commissioner admitted that this work varies across local areas, and is not extensive across the country – normally perpetrators just enter into the criminal justice system, but there had been some mapping of perpetrator

programmes; there needed to be more of a strategy to perpetrator interventions including taking a more punitive approach, and a better understanding of what works; mapping is still in the very early stages of completion, and advice on how to complete it would be useful as the staff in councils who responded often did not have an overview of all the services provided; and an Annual Report will be presented to Parliament and the Home Secretary (with the latter having limited powers to change the report, given the independent jurisdiction the Commissioner has in her role).

- Two issues raised by members included media reporting on DA cases, and the significant impact this has on victims, as well as the essential links between DA services and Housing Associations.
 - o In response to this, the Commissioner stated that Housing Associations providing support to victims, as well as signposting & actively working with DA support services is an excellent example of multi-agency working. The Commissioner also stated that she will be working with the Victims Commissioner, focusing on media reporting.
- Members brought up other issues that link with DA – including female genital mutilation (FGM), breast flattening, forced marriage, honour based violence, and abuse in the workplace. Will the Commissioner's office support organisations working towards tackling this abuse? Members also requested further clarification on support organisations that would maintain single sex provisions for victims.
 - o In response to this, the Commissioner admitted that there had been some debate over the remit of her role. The Commissioner stated that many areas have a Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy in place, and so there have been discussions over to incorporate VAWG issues or not. However, the Home Secretary and Minister very were clear on the role being focused on DA, however the Commissioner acknowledged the obvious overlaps with other issues. The Commissioner is in contact with the Victims Commissioner, agreeing on where their respective focuses will be.
 - o In relation to single sex provision of refuge services, the Commissioner commented that there had been lots of debate about whether Bill should be gendered. The Commissioner noted there were a variety of victims of domestic abuse, and that services should not be commissioned on a gender neutral basis. There should be some women only spaces, but also support for men – though there tended not to take up refuge space so men might want a range of other services.
- Other issues put the Commissioner included the lack of youth service provisions, which will be an excellent place for young people to learn about DA at an early intervention point, and to challenge views about the acceptability of violence n relationships.
- Members also mentioned the work of the multi-agency safeguarding hubs.

The Commissioner thanked members for their time, and expressed her hopes to create an active partnership with all councils, and the Board, in order to influence delivery at a local level. In terms of driving engagement she would be interested in local government's views as a statutory duty was not the only way to do that, and other means might work better. The Commissioner concluded that local government were on the frontline to tackle DA and despite funding cuts, were providing brilliant services.

The Chair concluded the discussion by mentioning three lobbying asks:

1. Sex and relationship education, starting in primary schools, so children and young people know what healthy relationships look like.
2. Limit and regulate the availability of violent pornography, as this significantly impacts young people; the Chair stated that a generation of young men, having watched this, have now grown up thinking this behaviour is normal.
3. A need for nationwide access to accredited perpetrator programmes for local areas, so they know what programmes they can refer perpetrators to that actually work.

Decisions

1. Members noted the paper; and
2. Provided further feedback to the Commissioner.

3 Holocaust Memorial Day Trust

Item three was introduced by Claudia Hyde, Local Government Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) Officer.

Claudia stated that Holocaust Memorial Day takes place each year on 27 January, building on the objective that prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by everyone, and to offer a day of remembrance to commemorate the six million Jews and others killed in atrocities after World War Two. According to HMD, 64 per cent of people in a recent survey did not know how many Jews were killed during the Holocaust, and there is a rising belief the Holocaust is a conspiracy theory. The day was first marked in UK in 2001. HMD 2020 will have particular significance as it marks both the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and is the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) – a charity set up by Government to promote HMD and support other organisations to mark it – was attending the Board's meeting to provide an update on their work and explore how they can assist councils planning 2020 events. Claudia stated the Trust encourages people to learn the lessons of the past to build a safer future free from genocide and discrimination.

Claudia notified members that the 2020 theme will be 'Stand Together' – standing against discrimination, which can lead to genocide. In 2019 the HMD had 10,500 activities in which 200 councils and 800 libraries took part. There was a range of activities to cater to different audiences. The HMDT believe the work ties in with broader local government work over challenging prejudice views – according to in-house surveys, people who take part in HMD activities were more likely to feel sympathetic to people from different backgrounds as a result of attending a HMD event.

Claudia concluded it is crucial in the currently context to promote cohesion against rising hate crime figures. HMDT wants to engage with councils in order to bring people together; the Trust has a range of resources for councils and good examples of activities undertaken on their website.

In the discussions that followed, members raised the following points:

Members agreed that it is very important that we commemorate the HMD, but questioned what could be done over communities becoming more cynical, buying into conspiracy theories, and spreading disinformation via social media? How are council leaders and schools going to properly inform and education people regarding these atrocities; members agreed that it is vital to target young people. In response to this, Claudia stated that there is an array of information and tools on the HMDT website tailored towards schools and young people.

Members questioned if the Trust meets any resistance to their messages, and how this is addressed? Claudia responded:

- That most communities HMDT work with are very receptive to their work. However, in some communities where there is a lack of Jewish representation people questioned HMD's relevance to them. The Trust always responds to this by stating these messages are universal.
- Another challenge isn't around denial, but trivialisation; for example, questions are raised over why other atrocities are not commemorated. The Trust's response is marking HMD does not come at the expense of commemorating anything else, and these events need to be remembered and people educated about them.

Members questioned how councils could be encouraged to help mark HMD, and asked if there was any funding available to mark it. Claudia responded that unfortunately, the HMDT does not undertake grant funding, but can help with content such as music and education. The HMD have numerous ideas of impactful ways of marking the day without money – these include large posters and life stories displayed in public buildings. Members also noted the important role they could play in helping others, like inter-faith groups mark HMD.

Members agreed that the Board would highlight the importance to councils of being involved in marking HMD, and members would promote this within their own councils. Members also asked what the LGA would do to commemorate HMD.

Decisions

1. Board members noted the input from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.
2. Details of the resources available from the HMDT to be circulated to councils and councils encouraged to mark HMD.
3. The LGA to consider how it could mark HMD.

5 Building Safety

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced item five. This report updated members on the building safety developments since its last meeting. Mark's update included details of the findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, headlines of which included:

- Cladding played a key role in how the fire spread
- The identification of issues in the response by London Fire Brigade (LBF).
- The recommendations to fire and rescue services, local authorities, national government, LBF, the ambulance service and the Metropolitan Police Service to improve their response to large scale incidents like the fire at Grenfell Tower. These recommendations will be looked at in more detail in the coming weeks by the LGA.

- The report backed up calls for the remediation of buildings with ACM cladding to be undertaken quicker.
- The accessibility of building plans to FRS and other recommendations which are also being considered as part of government's response to the Hackitt Review's recommendations.
- The ability to change from a 'stay put' to a 'simultaneous evacuation' strategy. There were practical implications of being able to fight a fire while also evacuating residents that needed to be explored further, including the role of fire doors in ensuring the continued safety of stairwells and the impact that toxic smoke might have on the ability of people to self-evacuate.
- The need for personalised emergency evacuation plans for disabled and vulnerable residents, which would require a number of practical issues to be addressed to be able to be put in place.
- Lord Porter, former LGA Chairman, had responded to the publication of the report in the debate on it in the House of Lords. He had referenced the views of survivors and the families of victims who seemed satisfied with the conclusions of the report, but had noted that the Inquiry had been conducted in the wrong order as the crucial point was to ensure buildings were not built with combustible cladding.

Mark gave a further update on the other work being undertaken:

- Remediation work on social housing blocks with ACM cladding is progressing well; the Joint Inspection Team would shortly be undertaking their fourth inspection.
- There were emerging issues around advice to surveyors based on MHCLG's advice notes and the impact this was having on mortgage valuations, making it more difficult to re-mortgage or sell properties in blocks with ACM cladding.
- An update on the three recent fires in buildings which were less than 18 metres in height in Barking, Sutton and Crewe. These were timber framed constructions which burnt down quickly.
- Implementation of the Hackitt recommendations. To inform this work the LGA have commissioned work to look at the costs of implementing the new building safety requirements and the wider implications of this for councils' Housing Revenue Accounts.
- The work around buildings using Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their construction methods. Following on from the work the LGA, DfE and SCOSS had taken to highlight issues with RAAC roofs to councils and education establishments it had become clear this type of construction has been used more broadly than anticipated.

In the discussions that followed, member raised the following points:

Members commented on the LFB's performance, and noted that as the biggest fire authority in country, it raised concerns that they had struggled to handle the volume of calls. This was an important issue as an area identified for improvement after the Lakeland House fire had been call handling. Members noted that it is vital these lessons need to be learned going forward, and questioned if the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee will be looking into this? Mark confirmed that they will. However, in response to this, the Chair started that LBF Firefighters on the ground should be commended for their bravery.

Member raised the role of councillors, including the information at their disposal when applications came to planning committees for approval. Members went on to discuss the role of councillors when complaints have been made over building safety; what powers to

challenge and change do they have, and how can councillors act when faced with these questions? In response to this, Mark stated that some of this will be picked up under the Hackitt implementation work and agreed that scrutiny remains an important function. Mark mentioned the LGA's Leadership Essentials courses, which empowers councillors to broaden their knowledge of the technical issues, and that a new course on building safety was available.

Cllr Eric Allen, who represents the London Borough of Sutton, updated members on the recent fire in his area. 23 flats were engulfed within fire within 15 minutes, however, there were luckily no fatalities as someone was able to raise the alarm. Cllr Allen went on to explain why the fire had spread so quickly, and the need for fire alarm systems. Mark stated that the LGA was in conversation with the NFCC around these sorts of issues to inform its response to the government's consultation on further technical changes to Approved Document B.

Members requested that the LGA engage with Fire Prevention Association, as they have been lobbying government regarding timber framed buildings for years. Members also commented that it is not just about building safety, but methods of construction – some of these buildings will not be insurable once people realise the issue. Mark confirmed he will make contact with the Fire Prevention Association.

Members questioned what information residents are receiving over the stay put strategy? The Government and Sir Martin Moore-Bick are clear that compartmentalisation and the stay put strategy are fundamental aspects of fire safety policy going forward, and that the issue is that this is not what residents are hearing.

Decision

1. Members noted and commented on the LGA's building safety related work.

6 Update Paper

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced item six. Mark stated that the report outlined issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Members then made the following comments:

Cllr Jo Beavis updated members that an emergency meeting for the National FGM Centre Advisory Board will take place on 6 December 2019, to discuss the ongoing funding issues (due to cease as of April 2020). Member requested a briefing be circulated, and commented that whilst there have been some critics of the Centre not reaching a self-sustainable status, some public safety issues – such as FGM – are not easily fundable and do not appeal to grant-funding applications.

Members also discussed modern slavery, the LGA's ongoing work on this issue, as well as the increasing awareness of this crime within the media. Cllr Alan Rhodes, Member Champion for Tackling Abuse, Exploitation and Modern Slavery, also updated members on his recent meeting with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (following the last Board meeting in September), and commented that this was a positive meeting, where next steps and actively working with the Commissioner's office was discussed.

Decisions

1. Members of the Board noted and commented on the paper.
2. A briefing of the National FGM Centre's position be circulated to the Board.

7 Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Members agreed to the note of the last Safer & Stronger Communities Board, which took place on 2 September 2019.

Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Bridget Smith	South Cambridgeshire District Council
	Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Eric Allen	London Borough of Sutton
	Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
	Cllr Andrew Joy	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Dave Stewart	Isle of Wight 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 Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Apologies	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council

LGA location map

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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

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

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For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at 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

