

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2018/19: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and approval.

### **Summary**

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

Members are asked to note the Board's membership and agree its Terms of Reference and nominations to Outside Bodies for the 2018/19 year.

### **Recommendations**

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

- i. agrees note its Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**);
- ii. formally notes the membership for 2018/19 (**Appendix B**);
- iii. agrees the Board's nominations to outside bodies (**Appendix C**);
- iv. notes the dates of the future meetings (**Appendix D**); and
- v. review and appoints member champions (**Appendix E**).

### **Action**

As directed by Members.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Benn Cain
<b>Position:</b>	Member Services Officer
<b>Phone no:</b>	020 7072 7420
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:Benn.cain@local.gov.uk">Benn.cain@local.gov.uk</a>

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2018/19: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies**

### **Background**

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

### **2018/19 Terms of reference and membership**

3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's Terms of Reference, Membership and future meetings dates are set out at **Appendix A, B** and **D** respectively for agreement and noting.

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

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
5. The Lead Members for 2018/19 are:
  - 5.1 Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair
  - 5.2 Cllr Morris Bright, Vice-Chairman
  - 5.3 Cllr Anita Lower, Deputy Chair
  - 5.4 Cllr Hannah Dalton, Deputy Chair

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

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

government's reputation on community safety issues in the media, directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.

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

### **Communications and Events**

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. Upcoming events:
  - 11.1 31 January 2019 – Joint APCC/LGA event - VAWG Service Transformation Fund
  - 11.2 February 2019 – Annual Licensing Conference
  - 11.3 12-13 March 2019 – Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition
12. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, regular e-bulletins with a personal introduction from the Chair of the Board, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

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

13. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities.
14. A list of the organisations to which the Board is asked to appoint member representatives is attached at **Appendix C**. The Board are asked to nominate the appointments for this meeting cycle, which as far as possible are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA. As an LGA representative, Members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.
15. The Board has previously made appointments to the Criminal Justice Council, which was established to keep the criminal justice system under review, and to advise the government on the form and manner of implementation of criminal justice reforms as well as to make proposals for reform. However the Council has not meet for at least eighteen months and currently appears to be inactive. It is suggested that the Board therefore makes no appointment to the Council, but if it is reactivated, and the LGA invited to participate, views will be sought from the Board on a nomination to serve on it.

16. Over the last year the Board has been represented on the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) Advisory Board on Female Offenders by Cllr Kate Haigh. Following publication of the Female Offender Strategy in the summer the MoJ is committed to ensuring there is a more open and transparent process for appointing stakeholders to the Advisory Board. There is now an open process of submitting expressions of interest to be part of the Board. This involves submitting a curriculum vitae and a 500 word expression of interest from the applicant on why they are interested in serving on the Advisory Board. The MoJ have indicated they would welcome an application for a place on the Board from the LGA.
17. To maximise the value of attending regular or ad-hoc outside engagements, Members appointed to represent the LGA on outside bodies are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

### **Member Champions**

18. For 2017/18, the Board appointed the following member champions:

- 18.1 Abuse, exploitation and modern slavery – Cllr Alan Rhodes
- 18.2 Anti-social behaviour – Cllr Anita Lower
- 18.3 Bereavement services – Cllr Nick Worth
- 18.4 Civil resilience – Cllr Clive Woodbridge
- 18.5 Community cohesion and integration – Cllrs Janet Daby and Jo Beavis
- 18.6 Licensing – Cllrs Kate Haigh and Chris Pillai
- 18.7 Domestic abuse – Cllrs Katrina Wood and Cllr Jim Beall
- 18.8 Prevent and counter-extremism – Cllrs Simon Blackburn and Colin Spence
- 18.9 Regulatory services – Cllr Anita Lower
- 18.10 Water Safety – Cllr James Dawson

19. The LGA has recently agreed to become a member of the Friends Against Scams campaign. FAS is a campaign run by the National Trading Standards Scams Team, and aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities and businesses to 'take a stand against scams.' To help promote FAS and our involvement in it, we are looking to appoint a 'Scambassador' champion from among the Board.
20. A role description for member champions is set out at **Appendix E**. The Board is requested to review the current areas covered by member champions and consider whether these should continue, or whether different areas need to be addressed.

**Financial Implications**

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