

## Digest of Meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Councillors' Forum
<b>Date and time:</b>	14 October 2010, 12.30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	The Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square

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### Item

### Action by

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Baroness Eaton welcomed Members to the meeting of the Councillors' Forum and introduced Cllr John Davies, Chair of the Welsh LGA and Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council.

#### **1 Police Accountability**

Cllr John Davies addressed the Forum on the recent publication of the Home Office's 'Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' consultation document.

He informed Members of WLGA's concerns regarding police accountability reform and the effects this would have. Cllr Davies informed members that in Wales, the current system already allows for a strong connectivity between police and the public and that the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) would fragment already established partnerships and have cost implications at a time where councils are already under constraints. He agreed that in principal, greater police accountability and the removal of centrally set targets was welcomed, but felt that structures need to be carefully considered and a range of options explored.

Cllr Mehboob Khan (Chair, Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board) informed members of the position of the LGA and raised issues discussed by the Board. There were concerns about the size of police constituencies and the ability to deliver effectively where these were very large.

The Chair invited members to comment. Some Members were dissatisfied with the planned process for building the Commission structure. They said that the Commissioner role

should be an elected one and agreed that the planned process needs to be seen to be democratic. Members also said that terms should be negotiated at a local level with greater flexibility than proposed in order to allow consideration of the best and most effective model. There were differing views from members and some raised opposition to Commissions being politically-led, stating that representation should come from the public. Other concerns included questions of scrutiny and how this would be achieved.

Cllr Richard Kemp (Vice Chair, LGA) informed members that he would be presenting the views of the LGA at the Home Office Select Committee the following week and would take members points forward.

Baroness Eaton closed the discussion noting that views were not yet unanimous and asked that members take discussion forward within their Groups and feedback as necessary.

***Decision***

Councillors noted the presentation and agreed to feedback.

**Action**

Officers to take forward Members' comments in future lobbying around the Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

LG Group  
Officers

**3 Chairman's Report**

Members noted the report.

**4 Chief Executive's Report**

Members noted the report.

**5 Programme Board Chairs' Reports**

Members received updates from each of the LG Group's Programme Board Chairs.