

Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board – report from Cllr Mehboob Khan (Chair)

1. At the end of August the Board's Vice-Chair Cllr Lawrence represented the Group at a meeting with the Home Office about the level of **Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks** to be used when licensing taxi and private hire vehicle drivers. Also at the meeting were representatives from Transport for London, the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association, and London TravelWatch. Following advice from the CRB earlier in the year that it was not legal for licensing authorities to request enhanced CRB checks from drivers seeking taxi or private hire vehicle licenses as a matter of course, the LG Group and the other bodies present at the meeting have been pressing the Home Office to change the law to allow for enhanced CRB checks of all taxi and private hire vehicle drivers. The meeting discussed the use made of enhanced CRB checks by licensing authorities and what having enhanced CRB checks for all taxi and private hire vehicles would mean for the vetting and barring scheme established by the safeguarding legislation.
2. The Board's Deputy Chair, Cllr Brooks, attended a further meeting of the Home Office's **Police and Crime Commissioners Transition Project** dealing with complaints in July. This project group has agreed that the Independent Police Complaints Commission will only deal with allegations of criminal conduct on the part of police and crime commissioners, with police and crime panels dealing with all other complaints in an informal way. The Home Office has produced draft regulations on the how complaints of criminal behaviour by the police and crime commissioner will be handled which will be consulted on over the autumn.
3. Councillor Kay Hammond, supported by Eamon Lally, attended the Ministerial roundtable meeting on the **retained duty system** on 5th July. The meeting was chaired by the Rt Hon Bob Neill. The meeting considered the findings of the Government's Retained Duty System survey which was published earlier this year. It was generally acknowledged that the meeting was useful. It was agreed that the sector would draw up an action plan, which pulls together the substantial amount of work that is taking place to address the survey's key issues. A further meeting with the Minister on this issue will be scheduled to take place in six months time.
4. David Cartwright, Chairman of the LG Group Fire Commission's **Fire Service College** Working Group responded to the government's statement on the launch of their pre-market engagement exercise on the future of the College. Mr Cartwright highlighted the integral role that the LGA has played in reviewing the modernisation of the college and consulting with the sector to inform the

government's position. He emphasised the need for Ministers to take the sector's views forward and get the tendering process underway.

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