

Item 3(h)

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Mehboob Khan (Chairman)

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

1. Following the election of police and crime commissioners in mid-November the Home Office organised a national briefing day for PCCs on 3 December. Along with briefings on national policing and security issues and meeting ministers, there was a partner session where a number of organisations were invited to set out their impressions of PCCs' first couple of weeks in office, including the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, the College of Policing and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. The LGA was also invited to speak as part of this session and I spoke both about the role of police and crime panels and the benefits of councils and PCCs working together. It was clear from PCCs' comments on the contributions made that they very much see their initial focus as being to deal with issues at a local level and to raise their profile with residents. I was able to meet some of the thirty nine PCCs in attendance at a drinks reception afterwards.
2. On the same day as the Home Office event, the LGA also hosted a meeting for PCCs' chief executives which was their first chance to meet collectively in their new roles after the election. I welcomed them to the LGA, and expressed the LGA's willingness to work with them to facilitate good working relationships between PCCs and councils.

Annual Safer Communities Conference

3. At the end of November over one hundred delegates attended the annual LGA Safer Communities Conference which was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Board, Cllr Joanna Spicer. As Board's Chair, I gave one of the key note speeches. The other key note speech was provided by Vera Baird, the new PCC for Northumbria, who talked about her experiences of her first week in office, the issues she faced and how she would be looking to work with local authorities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The need for local government and PCCs to work together was echoed by other speakers during the course of the day.
4. Delegates also heard about integrated victims' services, and work to reduce re-offending, tackling gang and youth violence, the community trigger pilots for dealing with anti-social behaviour, and working with troubled families. There was also a particular emphasis on linking up the new structures in health services with policing and community safety, as well as the need for local authorities and PCCs to jointly commission services.
5. At this event, the LGA and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA) launched a joint national agreement to improve and maintain standards of face-to-face fundraising through voluntary agreements between councils and the PFRA. 'Making the Pledge' has been drawn up as a response to a survey conducted by the LGA that showed that three quarters of councils were concerned about the impact that the aggressive behaviour of some fundraisers could have on their residents and high streets. The launch was widely picked up by the media and Safer Communities board members and PFRA partners appeared in the Independent, Today programme, First magazine, DriveTime and over a dozen local and regional papers and radio

Item 3(h)

stations. The document has also been welcomed by Government and referenced in discussion before the Public Accounts Select Committee and parliamentary debate.

European Forum for Urban Safety

6. On 14 December, I represented the Safer and Stronger Communities Board at the European Forum for Urban Safety's 'Security, Democracy and Cities: the Future of Prevention' conference at the Stade de France in Paris. Speaking alongside colleagues from Norway, South Africa, Portugal and Italy in a session entitled "The Police as Agent of Prevention: Local Police and Governance", I described the recent changes in police governance in the UK culminating in the recent Police and Crime Commissioner elections, and the importance of a strong relationship with local government.

The future of local regulation

7. At the time of writing, we are planning a workshop in early January to engage our members about what local regulation should look like in the future. This will be hosted by Councillor Paul Bettison and Councillor Nilgun Canver, as LGA Regulatory and Licensing Champions.

Fire

8. The Fire Minister attended the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee on 16 November and answered questions put by Members on his vision for the fire service, his future spending plans and the government's position on sprinklers. The questioning was robust and has led to ministerial discussions on sprinklers and building regulation reform.

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