

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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| <b>Title:</b>         | LGA Executive                                 |
| <b>Date and time:</b> | Thursday 9 February 2012, 2.30pm              |
| <b>Venue:</b>         | The Westminster Suite, Local Government House |

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### Attendance

An Attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

| <b>Item</b> | <b>Decisions and actions</b> | <b>Action by</b> |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|

Members thanked Cllr Chris White, who will be standing down as chair of the Culture, Tourism and Sport Board on [date] for all his work.

### 1 Safer and Stronger Communities

Cllr Mehboob Khan, Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board introduced this item, which covered the Board's broad remit.

Crime and fear of crime are consistently a top concern of local residents and it was noted that some forms of acquisitive crime had increased. The Board was working with Government on measures to prevent metal theft and on ways to increase community resilience. Members are also working with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and Fire and Rescue Authorities on sector-led improvement.

Cllr Khan set out the work of the Board in preparing for the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and the change from police authorities to Police and Crime Panels. The Board had developed a membership offer for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to join the LGA, set out in a draft prospectus that was tabled.

Members asked about the preparations councils had been making for the Policing and Crime Panels. Helen Murray, Head of Programmes for Community Safety, answered that there was a lot of local variation but that most councils were prepared for their introduction. Members observed that this was a key reputational issue for local government and it was important that the Panels reflected the political representation of an area as well as the different local government tiers. Members felt it was important that the Panels were able to scrutinise effectively the

work of the PCC. Cllr Khan said that the Panels could have up to 20 members, with an expectation that this would include all the councils in the area covered by the PCC.

Some members raised concerns about the removal of ring fenced funding for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and emphasised their importance in preventative policing. Cllr Khan said that since the end of ring fencing there had been a drop in PCSO figures and the Board was working on this issue.

***Decision***

*Members endorsed the LGA's membership offer for Police and Crime Commissioners.*

**Action**

Officers to proceed in line with members' comments.

**2 Regional Report – London Councils – Mayor Jules Pipe**

Mayor Jules Pipe outlined the main priorities for London Councils - crime and community safety, housing and welfare reform and resources and fair funding. London Councils were keen to work more closely with LGA to help secure national action on issues such as metal theft and CCTV.

***Decision***

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

Officers to ensure continued close and joint working with regional representatives on issues of shared priority.

**Heads of Programmes**

**3 Local Government Finance**

Stephen Jones, Director of Finance and Resources, introduced this item to the Executive saying that the 2012/13 finance settlement numbers had now been approved by Parliament. It was noted that the LGA had gained several notable successes for local government, including having funding for the 2011-12 council tax freeze consolidated into the figures for the finance settlement. Some of the LGA's proposals on the relocalisation of business rates had also been adopted.

Members agreed that the welfare system was in need of reform and that local government was the right part of the public sector to lead on this.

However, members raised concerns about the current timescale for welfare reform and the potential risks that this posed to communities and to local government. Members were particularly concerned about the complexity of the system, the level of preparedness of councils, the change in delivery methods and the indication from software providers that they would not be able to deliver the new system within the timeframe set.

Stephen said that the Government had provided a default option on welfare reform that was along similar lines to the current system. He also said that officers would pursue further information on the development of software solutions.

Some members raised the issue of large scale infrastructure projects in small council areas and the potential negative effects that these projects could have on the wider local economy and therefore business rates.

### ***Decision***

*Members agreed:*

1. *To share their evidence on the impact of the welfare reforms with the LGA.*

### **Action**

Officers to pursue further information on the software for delivering the new system.

**Stephen  
Jones**

Officers to use Appendix A of the Welfare Reform Report from the Leadership Board to create a briefing for councils.

## **4 Academies Top-Slice and Capital**

Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Children and Young People Board introduced this item telling the Executive that the Department for Education (DfE) is not now proposing to increase top-slice for either 2011-12 or for 2012-13 and that DfE and the LGA were now working together to create an operational formula.

### ***Decision***

*Members noted the report.*

### **Action**

No further action needed.

## 5 Making the case for adult social care reform

Cllr David Rogers OBE set out the main elements of reform - ensuring fairer funding arrangements for individuals meeting the cost of their care and support needs; a simpler legal framework for social care and support to make the system easier to understand and navigate; making the right links with health and public health to improve services for individual; and efficiency for the taxpayer and adequate resource for the system, with recognition that funding and reform go hand in hand.

In the run up to the White paper expected in the Spring, the Community Wellbeing Board had agreed five main activities under the LGA's campaign for a reformed and properly funded adult social care system. These activities were:

- creating a 'spotter's guide' to the White Paper;
- understanding the current financial situation as well as the projected future costs;
- emphasising that the cost of reform is cost worth paying;
- highlight the economic case for reform;
- raising awareness amongst the public.

Members highlighted that this was a significant issue across all local authorities and raised the importance of integrated working with the NHS on these issues. Members welcomed the proposals and the strategy for reform.

### ***Decision***

#### ***Members:***

1. *confirmed the proposals for the LGA's campaign work on adult social care reform and funding.*
2. *agreed the importance of this issue for councils.*

### **Action**

Officers to proceed in line with members' comments.

## 6. Note of the LGA Leadership Board

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Leadership Board meeting held on 8 February 2012.

## 7. Note of last LGA Executive

Members **agreed** the note of the last LGA Executive meeting held on 12 January 2012.

## Appendix A

### Attendance list

| <b>Position/ Role</b> | <b>Councillor</b>           | <b>Authority</b>        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chairman              | Sir Merrick Cockell         | RB Kensington & Chelsea |
| Vice-chairman         | David Sparks OBE            | Dudley MBC              |
| Vice-chairman         | Marianne Overton            | Lincolnshire CC         |
| Vice-chairman         | Gary Porter                 | South Holland DC        |
| Deputy-chairman       | Andrew Lewer                | Derbyshire CC           |
| Deputy-chairman       | Robert Gordon DL            | Hertfordshire CC        |
| Deputy-chairman       | Sharon Taylor               | Stevenage BC            |
| Deputy-chairman       | Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE | Watford BC              |

| <b>Position/ Role</b> | <b>Councillor</b>       | <b>Authority</b>         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Members               | Paul Bettison           | Bracknell Forest Council |
|                       | Ian Greenwood           | Bradford MDC             |
|                       | Dave Wilcox OBE         | Derbyshire CC            |
|                       | Angus Campbell          | Dorset CC                |
|                       | David Rogers OBE        | East Sussex CC           |
|                       | Peter Martin            | Essex CC                 |
|                       | Stephen Castle          | Essex CC                 |
|                       | Mayor Jules Pipe        | Hackney LB               |
|                       | Roger Phillips          | Herefordshire CC         |
|                       | Chris White             | Hertfordshire CC         |
|                       | David Simmonds          | Hillingdon LB            |
|                       | Mehboob Khan            | Kirklees Council         |
|                       | Robert Light            | Kirklees Council         |
|                       | Mayor Sir Steve Bullock | Lewisham LB              |
|                       | Sir Richard Leese CBE   | Manchester City          |
|                       | Peter Fleming           | Sevenoaks DC             |
|                       | Jill Shortland OBE      | Somerset CC              |
|                       | Paul Watson             | Sunderland City          |
|                       | Peter Box CBE           | Wakefield Council        |
|                       | Robert Dutton OBE       | Wrexham County Borough   |

| <b>Position/ Role</b> | <b>Councillor</b> | <b>Authority</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Substitutes           | Paul Watkins      | Dover DC         |
|                       | Richard Williams  | Southampton City |

| <b>Apologies</b> | <b>Councillor</b>    | <b>Authority</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                  | Stephen Houghton CBE | Barnsley MBC     |



Paul Carter  
Steve Reed  
David Parsons CBE  
Lord Peter Smith  
Martin Hill OBE  
Edward Lord OBE JP  
Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Neil Clarke

Kent CC  
Lambeth LB  
Leicestershire CC  
LG Leadership  
Lincolnshire CC  
Local Partnerships  
Portsmouth City  
Rushcliffe BC