

Notes of Decisions Taken and Actions Required

Safer Communities Board

13 September 2004

Local Government House

Present

Chair: Cllr Dame Sally Powell (Hammersmith and Fulham LB) (Lab)
Vice Chair: Cllr Anne Stribley (Poole BC) (Con)
Deputy Chairs: Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Ind), Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (LD)
Conservative: Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC), Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC), Cllr Victor Lyon (Barnet LB), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC) and Cllr Andy Sutton (Isle of Wight Council).
Labour: Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MBC), Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton City Council), Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC), Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council) and Ms Val Shawcross (LFEPA).
Lib Dem: Cllr Christina Jebb (Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire CFA), Cllr Audrey Jones (Greater Manchester FCDA) and Cllr Pat O'Connor (Lincolnshire CC).
Substitutes: Cllr Graham Jackson (Nottinghamshire CC) (Lab).

1. Membership of the Safer Communities Board 2004/2005

Decision

That the Board note its membership for 2004/05 and confirm its office holders.

2. Terms of Reference for Safer Communities Board

Decision

That the Board adopt its terms of reference.

3. Policy Priorities

The Board was informed that the LGA Executive had requested that each Board put forward 3 or 4 points reflecting what the Board considered to be its main priority areas. These points would be incorporated into the LGA's manifesto project. The Chairman proposed that the opinion of each Member on this question should be

canvassed by way of an email survey and the feedback presented as a report at the next meeting of the Board, at which point a decision would be made.

Members discussed the set of objectives suggested for adoption by the Board. The Board felt that the objectives were in some areas not explicit enough about the role of the Board, e.g. the wider community safety/preventative role of the fire service. Members noted that the Board's objectives were not intended to be detailed and that the list of work areas was not exhaustive. It was decided that the agreement of the final wording should be dealt by office holders.

Members discussed the need to establish a task group to consider the implications of the Government's proposals for police reform. Although it was not yet certain what would be contained in the white paper, the consensus was that a task group would be required and that the LGA Executive should be informed accordingly. Officers were requested to circulate the Government's response to the feedback it received on the green paper, and to arrange for a meeting with relevant Ministers on this issue.

On the subject of LGA business plan projects more generally, the Board concluded that in the interest of accountability and consistency a Board Member should be appointed to Chair each task group. Informed decisions about which Member would be most suitable for this role on future task groups, would be assessed an audit of skills of each Board member.

In view of the number of fire service issues and ongoing fire related work that were within the remit of the Board, Members agreed that the Board should give further consideration to reporting arrangements at a later meeting.

The Board was presented with a schedule of relationship management work for which its predecessor bodies had been responsible. A number of decisions and comments were made, which have been set out in the decisions and actions for this minute.

The Board discussed the requirement that it allocate a Member with responsibility for social inclusion and equality within all areas of the Board's remit. In view of his background of social inclusion and equalities work at the LGA the Board agreed that this role be taken by Cllr Mehboob Khan.

In discussion on the LGA business plan projects with task groups covered by the Board's remit, Members made a number of decisions that have been set out in the decisions and actions of this minute.

Officers were asked to put together for the Board a calendar of important events (including conference, meetings, green papers, white papers, etc.) to assist Members in planning the Board's work programme. In addition to this, the Board also asked that it received a list of Ministers, Shadow Ministers and civil servants for matters within its remit.

Decisions

The Board:

- (i) agreed to conduct an email survey in order to produce a list of issues that Members considered to be the Board's priorities, which would eventually be incorporated into the LGA's manifesto project;
- (ii) noted that it would receive a report setting out the feedback from the email survey at its next meeting and that from the report it would determine 3 or 4 points summarising the Board's main priority areas for submission to the LGA Executive;
- (iii) agreed that its objectives be amended to reflect concerns raised about the wording being not explicit enough about some work areas;
- (iv) agreed that within its objectives the wording of the 3rd bullet point be amended to read "Civil Contingencies (Emergency Planning);
- (v) agreed that the LGA Executive be asked to agree in principle a police reform project and task group;
- (vi) agreed that the Government's response to feedback from the police reform green paper be circulated to Members and that a meeting be arranged with the relevant Minister;
- (vii) agreed that a skills audit of Board Members be completed;
- (viii) agreed that a report with proposals for streamlining the way in which fire issues were dealt with at the LGA be submitted to the Board at a later date;
- (ix) agreed a number of changes regarding relationship management work (amended list attached);
- (x) agreed that officers discuss pollution control with colleagues working with the Environment Board in order to establish which Board could more effectively deal with the issue;
- (xi) agreed that a similar discussion between officers be held in relation to road safety, which was not currently included within the remit of the Board, but which Members were minded could appropriately be part of the Board's work;
- (xii) agreed that Cllr Mehboob Khan be appointed as the Board's lead Member on social inclusion and equalities;
- (xiii) agreed the following in relation to LGA business plan projects with task groups;
 - Emergency Planning Task Group – Cllr Graham Brown to be the lead member on behalf of the Board. The LGA response to the new draft bill to be circulated to the Board.
 - Ahead of the Game (Prostitution) Task Group – Cllr Ann Lucas to be the lead member on behalf of the Board.
 - Domestic Violence Task Group – to be led by the Board. It was agreed that an appropriate letter be sent to nominated task group members on

behalf of the Chair of the Board informing them of the Board's decision on this issue.

- Fire Modernisation Task Group – Membership to be updated to reflect the change to Chairmanship of the Employers Organisation.
- (xiv) agreed that future reports set out the decisions required at the beginning and explain all acronyms;
- (xv) agreed that officers prepare a calendar of important events (including white paper publications) and a list of Ministers, Shadow Ministers and civil servants for the information of all Board Members; and
- (xvi) agreed that a paper be brought to the next meeting identifying the Board's specialist advisors and their areas of expertise.

Actions

That:

- (i) an email survey be conducted in order to produce a list of issues
CG
that Members considered to be the Board's priorities;
- (ii) a report setting out the feedback from the email survey be submitted
CG
to the next meeting of the Board;
- (iii) the suggested objectives be amended to reflect concerns raised about KF
the wording being not explicit enough about some work areas, and in particular the wording of the 3rd bullet point to be amended to read "Civil Contingencies (Emergency Planning);
- (iv) the LGA Executive be asked to agree in principle a police reform
KF
project and task group;
- (v) the Government's response to feedback from the police reform
CG/KF
green paper be circulated to Members and a meeting be arranged with the relevant Minister;
- (vi) a skills audit of Board Members be undertaken; CG
- (vii) a report with proposals for streamlining the way in which fire issues
DR
were dealt with at the LGA be submitted to the Board at a later meeting;
- (viii) with regard to relationship management work; KF
- Pollution Control – officers to discuss this with colleagues

working with the Environment Board in order to establish which Board could more effectively deal with the issue.

- A similar discussion was requested in relation to road safety, which was not currently included within the remit of the Board, but which Members were minded could appropriately be part of the Board's work.

(ix) in relation to LGA business plan projects with task groups;

- Emergency Planning Task Group – Cllr Graham Brown TO'F
to be the lead member on behalf of the Board. The LGA response to the new draft bill to be circulated to the Board.
- Ahead of the Game (Prostitution) Task Group – Cllr Ann Lucas to be the lead member on behalf of the Board.
- Domestic Violence Task Group – to be led by the Board. KM/CG
That an appropriate letter be sent to nominated task group members

on behalf of the Chair of the Board informing them of the Board's decision on this issue.

(x) in future, reports set out the decisions required at the beginning and explain all acronyms;

(xi) officers produce a calendar of important events (including ALL consultations and white paper publications) and a list of Ministers, Shadow Ministers and civil servants for the information of all Board Members; and

(xii) a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board identifying the Board's specialist advisors and their areas of expertise. KF/TO'F

4. Relationship Management Priorities

The Board noted that the LGA Executive was in the process of reviewing all LGA appointments to outside bodies. However, the Board felt that it was unable to conduct an informed debate about the merit of each appointment without feedback from the existing LGA representative and further details about each body (e.g. how often it meets, when and who drives the work).

Members also felt that some of the information about appointments was not accurate and that political group offices should be asked to review the list.

Decisions

The Board:

- (i) agreed that current LGA appointments to outside bodies within the remit of the Safer Communities Board be requested to provide feedback on the work of the body to which they have been appointed; and

- (ii) agreed that political group offices be requested to review the current list of appointments to outside bodies for accuracy.

Actions

That:

- (i) officers make contact with LGA appointments to outside bodies to request feedback on the work of the body; and **ALL**
- (ii) political group offices review the list of appointments for accuracy. **CG/KF**

5. Safer Communities Board Relationships with wider Membership

Decisions

The Board:

- (i) agreed that in relation to arranging future Policy Review Group meetings, the following points be considered;
- attendance might be boosted if meetings were held in regions outside of London.
 - The name Policy Review Group should be replaced with a name that better reflects the purpose of the event.
 - Such events should only be arranged when required and not as a matter of course.
 - The calendar of events discussed earlier in the meeting should be used to plan such events.
- (ii) Agreed that at its next meeting it should look at the format and content of the bulletin system used under the previous Executive arrangements with a view to finding a practical way of using these to engage the wider Membership.

Actions

That:

- (i) officers consider the decisions above when planning future events to engage the wider Membership; and
- (ii) officers submit to the Board at its next meeting examples of the bulletin system used under the previous Executive arrangements to facilitate discussion of a more suitable process for engage the wider Membership in this way.

LGA Secretariat

6. Home Office Strategic Plan 2004 – 2008 ‘Confident Communities in a Secure Britain’

Decision

The Board noted the report and that a more detailed report would be submitted to its next meeting.

Action

That officers submit a more detailed report to the next meeting of the Board.

KF

7. **Developing a Coherent Approach to Improving Local Authority Regulatory Services'**

Decision

That the report be agreed, subject to some examples of where money could be saved on "red tape" being incorporated.

Action

That LACORS look into examples of "red tape" for inclusion in the report.

LACORS

8. **DTI Consumer Strategy**

Decision

That the report be agreed as set out.

LACORS

Issue	Brief description	LACORS/IDeA involvement	Lead Government Department	Proposal
Arson reduction Fire Safety Executive	Developing a range of measures to reduce the incidence of arson, working particularly with young people. Linked to work with CDRPs		ODPM	Fire Modernisation Task Group to make recommendations on if and how this issue should be taken forward.
Fire Safety Enforcement (Fire Service Executive)	Support activities connected with the replacement of fire certification in public buildings by system of risk assessment.		ODPM	Fire Modernisation Task Group to make recommendations on if and how this issue should be taken forward.
A coherent approach to improving regulatory services	Work with government in improving the coordination and profile of regulatory services. Linked to the Hampton Review of regulatory inspection and enforcement A paper giving more detail of this work is a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.	LACORS	Treasury/almost all departments	Lead member: Cllr Caroline Seymour

Issue	Brief description	LACORS/IDeA involvement	Lead Government Department	Proposal
LACORS lead. LACORS takes responsibility for these issues, with LGA providing lobbying support.	Animal Health and welfare, civil registration, food safety, health and safety at work, trading standards, entertainments licensing, fireworks legislation, gambling licensing.	LACORS	DEFRA, DCA, DoH, DWP, DTI, DCMS	Lead member: Cllr Caroline Seymour
Licensing issues LGA lead	Licensing of massage and special treatment parlours, taxi licensing, charity collections		DoH, DTI, DFT, Home Office	Officer lead
Pollution control	Air quality, contaminated land, pollution prevention control, statutory nuisance (noise)		DEFRA	Officers to discuss transfer to Environment Board
Legal issues	Coroners courts, magistrates courts rule changes, burial law		DCA, Home Office	Officer lead

Issue	Brief description	LACORS/IDeA involvement	Lead Government Department	Proposal
Building control	Representing local government in relation to key building control issues, and working to ensure that the appropriate level of support for this work is available.		ODPM	Lead member to be appointed
Sanitation issues	Pest control, infectious disease, burial law		DEFRA, DH	Officer lead
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships	Work to improve the performance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. The extent of this work will depend on how the Safer and Stronger Communities Shared Priority project goes forward. Will cover at least Section 17 guidance and mergers with Drug Action Teams.	IDeA	Home Office	Board lead

Issue	Brief description	LACORS/IDeA involvement	Lead Government Department	Proposal
Crime Reduction Strategies	Providing representation for local government on a number of key government bodies set up to develop initiatives designed to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.		Home Office	Board lead