

## Key Objectives for 2005 - Member Feedback

### Public Protection

- *Ahead of the Game – the LGA still has an opportunity to influence the Bill;*
- *Licensing, civil registration, health and safety at work, gambling – the LGA still has an opportunity to influence the various Bills on these matters;*
- *Legal issues – (e.g. burial law, etc.) – work has already commenced and is important to local authorities;*
- *Reducing risk from criminal activity – through building regulations and ensuring safety in buildings by design, in particular this applies to hospitals and schools where the incorporation of sprinklers at the design stage minimises the damage caused by fire, thus reducing the disruption to health care and to education;*
- *Link with health by putting forward measures that can make a difference to reducing unnecessary deaths (e.g. reducing the loss of life from heart attacks by increasing the availability of defibrillators within the community, in places such as libraries, supermarkets and other public buildings);*
- *“Safer by Design” – promoting the use of sprinklers, encouraging new buildings to become more self sufficient in heating and ventilation by better guidance and building regulations;*
- *Licensing Act;*
- *Evaluation, co-ordination and provision of adequate funding for emergency planning responsibilities;*
- *“Think fire safety”;*
- *Emergency Planning – there needs to be a risk assessment carried out to assess the chance of a disaster befalling this country either by accident or intent. This will determine how much of a priority it is. It is not a stand alone item as it is part of many other things such as the modernisation of the fire and rescue service.*
- *Food Safety and Healthy Living – A major priority must be to see that Foot and Mouth does not return. We know the risks and how it could happen again, such as imported products of animal origin. If food is produced in a safe and decent manner and people eat safe and healthy food, we will be well on our way. With regard to healthy eating we must work towards everyone having access to healthy food at an affordable price. Areas of social deprivation suffer from this very much. We must find ways to promote healthy eating and to educate people. Local authorities can play a big part in this. Obesity and child obesity is not just the latest fad agenda item, but it is real and here to stay unless successful action is taken.*

### Police/Community Safety

- *Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, anti-social behaviour, crime reduction;*
- *Aspects of society that undermine the stability of communities (e.g. vandalism and anti-social behaviour);*
- *S17 (community safety/crime reduction) to focus on its stated outcomes in a consistent and practical way that really makes a difference;*
- *Gun and violent crimes;*
- *Co-operation with the police by minorities not used to such co-operation in their countries of origin;*

- *Anti Social Behaviour – Fear of crime is greater than it should be, and some education programme is needed. However this will be hard to achieve with the elderly and the frail. Anti social behaviour affects many people and can affect anyone no matter where they live. I am particularly keen to ensure that the government keeps up the funding for Community Wardens, the Police Community Support Officers and the various pilot initiatives of schemes to reduce anti social behaviour. It is also important to look at ideas that would occupy and interest those people who commit anti social behaviour. Just moving groups of people on is not the answer.*
- *Safer and Stronger Communities Project;*
- *Police Reform;*
- *Alcohol Fuelled Crime;*
- *Domestic Violence.*

## **Fire**

*The Fire Modernisation Task Group (FMTG) has produced a list of Fire policy priorities, based on a previous paper that was approved by the last meeting of the Fire Executive on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2004.*

*It is recommended that fire policy priorities are grouped as follows with the three key priorities highlighted:*

- *Institutional Modernisation*
  - *Assist Regional Management Boards (RMBs)*
  - *Assist Fire Authorities with the implementation of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)*
  - *Develop new NJC Constitution and Employer Negotiations*
  - *Equalities*
- *Partnership Development*
  - **Local Strategic Partnership working – key priority**
  - **Sprinklers in Schools – key priority**
  - *Crime and Disorder Partnerships*
  - *Anti-Social Behaviour partnerships*
- *Resources and Planning*
  - *HR and Implementation of Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS)*
  - *Fire Service College and other fire training*
  - *Member Development in association with the IDeA*
  - *Peer support to Fire Authorities*
  - *Financial and Resource Issues*
    - *Pension*
    - *Transitional Funding*
  - *Development of Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMP)*
  - *Central Local Partnership*
- *Technical Modernisation*
  - **Regional Control Centres FReControl Project – key priority**
  - *Replacement national radio scheme FireLink Project*
  - *New Dimension, civil resilience and contingency implementation*
  - *Development and implementation of the National Fire Procurement Strategy*
  - *e-government/e-fire project*

*Additional fire-related matters that the FMTG will progress include Member input to Practitioners Forum, the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Nomination of Members to Outside Bodies.*