

## Police Reform

### Decisions

1. To consider and comment on the proposals set out in the White Paper published on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004
2. To receive a presentation from the Home Office on the review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships
3. To agree the way forward for the Association set out in paragraph 6 of the Report

### Actions

4. Officers to action decisions made by Board.

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## Police Reform - Decisions

### Summary

1. This report sets out the main proposals affecting local government in the White Paper "Building Communities, Beat Crime – A better police service for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" published on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004. It invites the Board to agree the means of responding to the Government's proposals and in particular to comment on the review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships announced in the White Paper, which is due to conclude by the end of January 2005.

### Background

2. The Home Secretary announced the publication of a White Paper on Police Reform on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2004. Attached as appendix 1 to this report is the on-the-day briefing produced by the LGA which seeks to set out the main proposals, particularly as they affect Local government, and the LGA's key messages. A press release was approved by the office holders on the Board and this is also attached as appendix 2.
3. The White Paper is long (170 pages) and copies will be available at the meeting if members wish to take them away. Comments on the issues raised in the White Paper are requested by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005, and a formal response can be considered at the next meeting of the Board on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005.
4. Also announced in the White Paper is a review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002). The relevant extract (Appendix IV) from the White Paper is attached as appendix 3. John Ransford has been invited to sit on the Advisory Group which met on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2004, and he will update the Board on progress. Other groups will look at Governance, Structures and Delivery and there will be 4 regional workshops to engage local practitioners in the review (including one in Wales). It is intended to complete most of the work before the end of the year. Given the timescale, the Home Office have offered to attend today's meeting and consult members on the review.
5. The overall subject was discussed at the first meeting of the Board. In view of its importance, the Board decided to ask the LGA Executive to agree the inclusion in the Business Plan for 2005 of a project on police reform. The Executive agreed this in principle, and made reference to the need to work with the Association of Police Authorities and Police Authorities in Corporate Membership.
6. The work needed to influence effectively police reform seems to fall into two parts. The first is the immediate need to participate in and influence the review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and to reply formally to the White

**Paper. The second is more long term, and will need to demonstrate how Local Authorities will make the welcome improvements in accountability and effectiveness proposed in the White Paper work in practice, and encourage the Government to bring forward the necessary legislation. The Board may want to consider setting up a Task Group which could include Councillors serving on Police Authorities, to carry out this longer term work. The process of seeking nominations to the Group, arranging meetings etc. would mean that the Group would not be in a position to influence to a great extent the response to the White Paper, which would remain the Board's responsibility. The Task Group could however take on the longer term project. If the Board agrees with this approach, then a project plan will be drawn up for agreement by office holders, and the political groups invited to put forward nominations.**

## **Implications for Wales**

**7. The White Paper's proposals apply to Wales, and WLGA colleagues are being involved.**

## **Financial/Resource Implications**

**8. The necessary resources will be provided through the Business Planning Process.**