

24 January 2005

Safer Communities Board Work Programme 2005

Decisions

1. That the work programme set out in Appendix A (attached) of this report be agreed.

Actions Required

2. The work programme is progressed according to the agreed timetable.

Action by: Secretariat

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Safer Communities Board Work Programme 2005

Background

1. At its two previous meetings on 13 September and 22 November, the Board has considered reports on its overall objectives and work programme. As a result it has agreed a long term vision, key objectives for 2005 and the totality of its work including specific projects and continuing relationship management activity. This report provides a consolidated summary of these decisions and sets out the overall work programme which the Board is asked to approve for the coming year. It also identifies potential new areas of work on which the Board may wish to embark during the year, subject to the availability of resources

Vision

2. On 22 November the Safer Communities Board agreed the long term vision towards which it would work and on which its 2005 objectives and work programme would be based. This vision identified the following outcomes:

That local government plays a key role, in equal partnership with central government, in reducing harm to the community through licensing and regulatory activities and by the prevention, and mitigation of the consequences of,

- **Crime**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Misuse of drugs**
- **Fire and other emergencies**

That key decisions on priorities in relation to these activities are made by local communities through their elected representatives, who will be fully accountable to the communities they serve

That funding for these activities is adequate and flexible and supports, rather than controls, locally agreed priorities.

Key objectives

3. On 22 November the Board also agreed its key work objectives for 2005:

Objective 1: Police Reform and review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Working to develop the central role of local government in working positively to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs by responding to the White Paper 'Building Communities, Beating Crime' and participating in the review of Crime and

Disorder Reduction Partnerships. This will concentrate on seeking to strengthen local authority and community input into policing activity, to ensure that priorities are set locally and that local authorities are recognised as having the potential to take the lead in reducing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Objective 2: (in collaboration with LACORS) Raising the profile and developing a coherent approach to regulatory services

Working to bring about a coherent approach to regulatory services across government departments and wider recognition of the key role played by local authority regulatory services in building safer communities

Objective 3: Developing local government's role in preventing re-offending

Developing policies over the range of local government services designed to reduce re-offending and support ex-offenders in the community. The first stage of the project has been completed and the report and recommendations will be launched in February. The second stage will concentrate on developing a lobbying strategy.

Objective 4: (in collaboration with the Children and Young People Board) Working positively to reduce youth offending

Identifying and developing the key areas of sustainable support and intervention by local government that will reduce the level of crime, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of drugs by young people. This is a major project which, linked with Objectives 1 and 3 will seek to develop a comprehensive policy aimed at developing local government's capacity to take the lead in bringing about a sustainable reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour through positive prevention activities.

The year ahead

4. For work planning purposes, 2005 can be divided into 3 phases. On the assumption of a 5 May general election, these are:
 - January – May: the pre-election period. For most practical purposes, this phase will end when the election is called and purdah begins, possibly around 24 March. Key opportunities include the pre-election debate, legislative programme and Budget.
 - May – August: the immediate post-election period. Key opportunities include our approach to new ministers, the Queen's Speech and a possible mini-budget, and our Annual Conference.
 - September – December: the Autumn. Key opportunities include the Autumn Party conferences.

Current work

5. **Attachment A** lists the current projects and priority areas of work overseen by the Safer Communities Board, with a summary of their main outputs during the year and an assessment of their relevance to the Board's key objectives for 2005. The Board is asked to endorse this programme. The Board will wish to ensure that resources are focused on the achievement of the key objectives, although other projects may be important and need to proceed provided resources permit.

Future work

6. In addition to this programme, the Board may wish to identify further areas of work that, subject to the availability of resources could be started during 2005. At its meeting on 13 September members indicated that they would like further consideration to be given to developing work on road safety. Officers have since been undertaking scoping work for this, and it is proposed to present a report to a future meeting of the Board.

Partnership working

7. It is proposed that community safety activities be developed in collaboration with the Improvement and Development Agency, to ensure that support needs for local government are identified and action taken to meet them as an integral part of projects.
8. Work on licensing and registration is carried out in close collaboration with the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). Those areas where LACORS is leading have not been separately identified in the work programme. Members will recall that these include animal health and welfare, civil registration, food safety, health and safety at work and trading standards.

Implications for Wales

9. All major areas of work are applicable to both England and Wales. Care will be taken to ensure that the Welsh perspective is fully addressed in each area.

Financial/Resource Implications

10. The work will be carried out within existing budgets.

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Appendix A

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Fire Modernisation Project	<p>Ensuring that fire authorities successfully implement fire service modernisation.</p> <p>Continuing to develop policies that will lead to continuous improvement and modernisation of the service, including encouraging the wider use of sprinklers.</p>	<p>15/16 March Fire Conference Work continues on supporting fire authorities in implementing integrated risk management system and integrated personal development system.</p> <p>March 2005 Current phase of project due to end in March 2005.</p>	<p>July Stage 4 pay award</p>		

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Police Reform Project	<p>Participate in the review of crime and disorder reduction partnerships</p> <p>Demonstrate how local authorities will make the improvements in accountability and effectiveness proposed on the white paper 'Building Communities, Beating Crime' and encourage the government to bring forward the necessary legislation.</p>	<p>January: Response to review of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.</p> <p>February Response to police reform white paper</p> <p>March: Develop plans for next phase of the project.</p>			Essential
Ahead of the Game (Prostitution) Project	<p>Development of LGA policy on prostitution</p> <p>Response to government consultation document 'Paying the Price' on the basis of this</p>	<p>February/March: Government may publish results of consultation. Consultation response will be drafted.</p>			

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Going Straight: Reducing re-offending in local communities project	Developing local government capacity to reduce re-offending and closer collaboration with correctional services.	<p>January: Final report and recommendations approved for the first stage of the project for launch in February</p> <p>3 February: ‘Going Straight’ conference.</p>			Essential
A New Deal for Emergency Planning project	<p>Ensure an effective LGA influence in the Civil Contingencies Bill Acceptance by the government of a new baseline figure for emergency planning funding at the current level of service, and of the new for new burdens to be adequately funded.</p> <p>Improve resilience and emergency preparedness across all local authorities</p>	<p>January: Response to consultation on draft regulations</p> <p>February Finalise concordat agreement with the voluntary sector.</p> <p>March: Facilitate development of support programme for local authorities to assist with implementation</p>			

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Domestic Violence project	Provision of consultancy for partnerships	<p>January Production of leaflet on children and domestic violence</p> <p>January: Agree phase 2 of the project with Home Office and SCB.</p> <p>March: Completion of Phase 1 of consultancy programme</p> <p>April: Production of guidance on domestic violence BVPIs.</p>	<p>Report on Phase 1 of consultancy programme</p> <p>June: Conference</p> <p>Phase 2 of consultancy programme</p> <p>Guidance on</p>		Major

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Licensing Act	Represent local authorities in implementation of Licensing Act. Ensure that fees are set at a level that will allow local authorities to cover their costs.	<p>January: Publication of license fee regulations.</p> <p>January Lobby to ensure that licensing fees are set at a level that will cover local government's costs.</p> <p>January/February Possibly new licensing bill giving local government power to close premises that persistently sell alcohol to the under-aged.</p> <p>March Project completed. LACORS continues with support work.</p>			

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Raising the profile of regulatory services. Priority work area	<p>Ensuring a more coherent approach to regulatory services by central government.</p> <p>Raising the profile of regulatory services</p> <p>Participating in the Hampton Review of the administrative costs of regulatory services</p>	<p>24 January: Sir Philip Hampton attends meeting of Safer Communities Board to discuss Hampton Review</p> <p>February: Second stage of Hampton Review, aimed at local authorities, begins.</p>			
Reducing youth crime	<p>Developing policies that will assist local authorities to support the reduction of youth crime through positive prevention action.</p> <p>Project being developed in collaboration with children and young people team</p>			September Proposed annual conference for Safer Communities Board with the theme of reducing youth crime	Essential

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		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Gambling Bill	Lobbying during passage of Bill through parliament to ensure maximum local discretion over the number of casinos and gambling premises and to have the Bill strengthened by the addition of a new licensing objective to prevent public nuisance.	January/March. Gambling Bill parliamentary stages			

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
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Safer and Stronger Communities Shared Priority	This work has been carried out as part of the safer and stronger communities shared priority project. This project has now ended. Lobbying work relating to anti-social behaviour will continue as necessary. The project has worked successfully to represent the LGA during the development of the CPA process. A small amount of work on this will continue in the early months of the year.	January to March. Watching brief for CPA consultation process.			

Name of activity	Objectives	Outputs			Contribution to Safer Communities Board key objectives
		Jan - May	May - August	Sept - Dec	
Introduction of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and mini-Local Area Agreements	Working to ensure that the Fund meets the needs of local government for more flexible funding for work designed to meet local priorities	<p>January/February Regular consultation with members and advisers on progress with the introduction of the fund.</p> <p>April Introduction of Safer and Stronger Communities Fund by the Home Office</p>		Autumn Assessment of progress.	
Building regulation	Representing local government on a continuing basis on the development of government policy for building control	<p>25 January Meeting with Phil Hope, minister with responsibility for building regulation</p> <p>25 February Health and Safety in the construction industry 'summit'.</p>			