

Report on Office Holder Activities

Summary

1. This report provides a summary of activity undertaken by the Board's office holders since the Board last met on 24 January 2005.

Building Regulations

2. Cllrs Caroline Seymour, Graham Brown and two other Members attended a meeting with Phil Hope, ODPM Minister. He seemed keen to move things forward. Major issues discussed were unfair competition with the private sector, allowing more time to take prosecutions as often more than 6 months lapses between poor building and it being detected. The Minister was keen to attend a conference at the LGA and also to make more use of building regulations in having sustainable and safer buildings.

LACORS

3. Cllr Caroline Seymour attended a meeting held on March 4th. It was agreed that the Board of Directors and the Management committee would be merged into one body. The major issue discussed was the Quinquennial Review of Lacors role. One of the important areas of review is the relationship between the LGA and Lacors where the roles are sometimes a bit blurred. Other areas, which need clarity, are the relationship between the Trade Associations and Lacors, its internal structures and inevitably its resourcing. A report will be discussed by the Improvement Board on May 25th.
4. The Collaboration project with IDeA, EO, 4Ps and LGIB was discussed it is hoped that this will lead to smoother running organisations, less duplication of staff and save money. The rationalisation of accommodation of the above bodies was progressing. This would again allow sharing back office systems and developing ICT, communications and press in a collaborative way, which should further enhance LACORS services and its important and increasing representational and lobbying role on behalf of local authority regulatory services.

Police Reform

5. A joint meeting between the Board's office holders, the Chair of Police Authorities in Corporate Membership of the LGA (Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson, also a Member of the Board) and Member representatives of the Association of Police Authorities is being held on the afternoon of 21 March, following the conclusion of the Board meeting. Issues for discussion will include membership of police authorities, scrutiny arrangements and trigger mechanisms.

Other Meetings

- 5. Office holders have also attended the following meetings/undertaken the following work on behalf of the Board:**
- 19 February 2005 – Cllr Bryony Rudkin spoke on behalf of the LGA at a Home Office TOGETHER academy event for Councillors. This event aimed to provide Cllrs with the information they need to respond effectively to anti-social behaviour in their local communities and was well received;**
 - 21 February 2005 – Office Holders Briefing (apologies from Cllr Graham Brown) with LGA officers;**
 - 1 March 2005 – Cllr Ann Stribley had an interview with VALE FM regarding an LGA press release in response to the Home Office new Licensing Act; and**
 - 14 March 2005 – (Cllr Bryony Rudkin) a meeting has been arranged with the Home Office to discuss a possible workshop for local government input into the National Reducing Re-offending Action Plan.**

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