

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Safer Communities Board

14 November 2005

at Local Government House

Present

- Chair:** Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Suffolk CC) (Labour).
- Deputy Chairs:** Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent).
- Conservative:** Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC), Cllr Robert Light (Kirklees MBC), Cllr Clare Whelan (Lambeth LB), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC), Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC) and Cllr Audrey Lewis (Westminster City Council).
- Labour:** Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council), Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC), Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC) and Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton City Council).
- Liberal Democrat:** Cllr Audrey Jones (Greater Manchester FRA), Cllr Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC) and Cllr Christina Jebb (Staffordshire CC).
- Substitutes:** Cllr David Dewdney (West Sussex CC) (Conservative), Cllr David Lancaster (Salford City Council) (Labour) and Cllr Peter Young (Tyne and Wear FRA) (Labour).
- Apologies:** Cllr Andy Sutton (Vice-Chair) (Isle of Wight UA) (Conservative).

Action

1. Feedback from Board Members

Members shared feedback on the events that they had attended since the meeting of the Board in September, specifically where the event related to areas within the remit of the Board. Members had attended events covering:

- Integrating offenders back into communities;
- Licensing, specifically during a meeting with the Minister for Culture, Media and Sports, Tessa Jowell MP;
- Fire Services, specifically during a meeting of the Central Local Partnership Fire Sub-group;
- Alcohol related crime;
- Extremism; and
- Youth Green Paper.

The Board noted that the working groups on extremism had concluded their work and that the final report was published on 10 November 2005. It was agreed that the executive summary of that report would be circulated to Board Members and that the work on extremism should be subject of

discussion at a future Board meeting, with representation from the Home Office.

The Board also discussed at length the causes and impact of alcohol related crime and disorder, plus work that was being undertaken by the police and local government to tackle issue. It was agreed that the issue of alcohol related crime would also benefit from discussion as a substantive agenda item on a future Board agenda.

It was also agreed that the Board would be sent copies of the final report from the Young People Task Group, which had recently concluded it work. Further work on the Youth Green Paper would be undertaken through a new project and task group, and that Cllr Roland Domleo be nominated as the Board's representative on the task group.

Decisions

That:

- (i) the executive summary of the final report from the Government's series of working groups on extremism be circulated to Board Members and that the issues dealt with in that report be the subject of discussion at a future Board meeting, with representation from the Home Office;
- (ii) the issue of alcohol related crime be included as an agenda item on a future Board agenda; and
- (iii) the Board be sent copies of the final report from the Young People Task Group and that Cllr Roland Domleo be nominated as the Board's representative on the task group.

Actions

That:

- (i) the executive summary of the final report from the Government's series of working groups on extremism be circulated to Board Members and that arrangements be made for the issues dealt with in that report be the subject of discussion at a future Board meeting, with representation from the Home Office; **JB**
- (ii) arrangements be made for the issue of alcohol related crime be included as an agenda item on a future Board agenda; and **JB/ KF**
- (iii) the Board be sent copies of the final report from the Young People Task Group and the Conservative Group Office be informed of the Board's nomination of Cllr Roland Domleo as a Member of the new task group on the Youth Green Paper. **SP**

2. Police Restructuring

The Board discussed the Home Office review of police force structures and the views emerging from Member level discussion of the issue, including a joint meeting with the Association of Police Authorities and a meeting of Police Authorities in Corporate Membership.

During discussion the Board concluded that the following principles should form the foundations of the new structure, and be used as the basis of the LGA's work on governance models for submission to the Home Office as part of the review:

- **Accountability, including through the democratic process, to ensure that policing and policing targets address the concerns of the community;**
- **Governance structures, particularly to ensure adequate and balanced representation of the community if covered by a larger, more strategic, authority;**
- **Partnership working to ensure community safety and policing is placed in a cross-cutting context ; and**
- **Precepting/Finance that ensures policing is adequately funded and that areas do not lose out under the process of equalisation, but more importantly to ensure that funding levels were determined locally and not set nationally.**

The Board agreed that in the development of model structures, local government needed to be placed at the centre in order that cross-cutting nature of crime could be addressed in a cross-cutting manner.

Decisions

That:

- (i) the Board's views, as set out above, be used to inform, in conjunction with the principles set out in the report, the LGA's future work on police restructuring, in particular the LGA's work on governance models;**
- (ii) the emerging governance models be discussed with Board Office Holders prior to submission to the Home Office;**
- (iii) the work identified by both the joint meeting with the APA and the meeting of Police Authorities in Corporate Membership be approved and taken forward accordingly; and**
- (iv) this work be fully integrated with the LGA's work on responding to the Police Reform White Paper, while taking account of the need to ensure that the work reflects the development of local area agreements.**

Actions

That:

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| (i) work on governance models be undertaken over the coming weeks; | RR/ EV |
| (ii) emerging governance models be discussed with the Board's Office Holders prior to submission to the Home Office; and | RR/ EV |
| (iii) this work be fully integrated with the LGA's work on responding to the Police Reform White Paper, while taking account of the need to ensure that the work reflects the development of local area agreements. | Safer
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Team |

3. Relationship Management Priorities – External Appointments and Advisers

The Board noted the list of outside bodies given in the agenda papers and agreed that the LGA should focus its work on those bodies that addresses the

Board's priorities.

It was agreed that Members, through group offices, should agree which bodies from the list were a matter of priority and to which the LGA should continue to make Member or officer appointments. Once a final list of bodies had been agreed, Board Office Holders would be asked to consider future appointments.

Members noted that the Trading Standards Qualification Council no longer existed, and asked that Member task groups be added to the list of outside body appointments.

Decisions

That:

- (i) Members, through group offices, agree which outside bodies from the list were a matter of priority and to which the LGA should continue to make Member or officer appointments;**
- (ii) the appointments to outside bodies, once agreed, be forwarded to the Board's Office Holders to consider appointments;**
- (iii) the Trading Standards Qualification Council be deleted from the list of outside bodies;**
- (iv) Member task groups be added to the list of outside body appointments; and**
- (v) Office Holders be asked to confirm Board appointments to the Urban Commission Steering Group and the Equalities and Social Inclusion Lead Members Group.**

Actions

That:

- (i) it be arranged for Members to comment on the list of outside bodies, specifically to which bodies the LGA should and should not continue to make appointments; **JB****
- (ii) it then be arranged for the Board's Office Holders to further discuss appointments; **JB****
- (iii) the Trading Standards Qualification Council be deleted from the list of outside bodies; **RR****
- (iv) Member task groups be added to the list of outside body appointments; and **RR**
JB**
- (v) Office Holders be asked to confirm Board appointments to the Urban Commission Steering Group and the Equalities and Social Inclusion Lead Members Group**

4. Live Issues

The Board received updates in relation to:

- Avian Flu and its human form – LGA Alert to be published over the next two weeks;**
- Licensing Act 2003 – over 90% of applications received. The**

LGA had submitted evidence to an ODPM Select Committee, and the report from the Committee was expected by the end of November;

- **Top level group on alcohol;**
- **Single Non-emergency number – pilots starting in the near future.**

Decision

That the updates on live issues be noted.

5. Notes of Previous Meeting

Decision

That the notes from the previous meeting of the Board be agreed.