

# Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

---

## Safer Communities Board

15 May 2006

at Local Government House

---

### Present

<b>Chair:</b>	<i>Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Suffolk CC) (Labour).</i>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	<i>Cllr Andy Sutton (Isle of Wight UA) (Conservative)</i>
<b>Deputy Chairs:</b>	<i>Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent).</i>
<b>Conservative</b>	<i>Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC), Cllr Robert Light (Kirklees MBC); Clare Whelan (Lambeth LB), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC), Cllr Audrey Lewis (Westminster City Council), Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC)</i>
<b>Labour</b>	<i>Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council), Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC), Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton City Council).</i>
<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<i>Cllr Paul Forgess (Stockport MBC), Cllr Christina Jebb (Staffordshire CC).</i>
<b>Substitutes</b>	<i>Cllr David Lancaster (Salford City Council) (Labour), Cllr Peter Young (Tyne &amp; Wear FA) (Labour)</i>
<b>Apologies</b>	<i>None</i>

*Cllr Bryony Rudkin (Chair) welcomed Members and congratulated them on retaining their seats in the May elections.*

### 1. Feedback from Board Members

*Members reported back on a variety of meetings they had attended on behalf of the LGA.*

*(i) The Chair reported on her meeting with James Purnell on licensing fees and issues around cleaning and sharing of survey data. It was noted that following the Cabinet reshuffle, Shaun Woodward had now taken over from James Purnell.*

*(ii) Leading Members had held a useful meeting with Harriet Harman concerning Coroners on 24 April, and had proposed that the Minister attend the next SCB meeting on 17 July 2006.*

*(iii) Appointments to Outside Bodies – the Chair reminded the meeting that this matter was outstanding. Cllr Rudkin said she was unhappy with the current process which had been discussed briefly by Office Holders. Discussion by all Board Members was now required, with input from the political offices, once the new LGA party proportions were known.*

Action : Secretariat to seek mutually convenient meeting dates [ DH ]

It was noted that Sandy Blair , Health and Safety Commissioner representing local government interests is keen to meet LGA and LACORS officials.

Action: Secretariat to pursue with LACORS [DH]

(v) Cllr Graham Brown had met with Les Eton and the Independent Fees Review Panel to discuss the evidence provided by Local Authorities.

Decision

Members asked for a report to be submitted to the next Board meeting (17 July 2006) conveying;

- How appeals are disseminated to Local Authorities ;
- implications for the reputation of local government ;
- issues around licensing and planning committees .

The report should include case studies

Action

LACORS to produce a report for the next Board meeting on 17 July 2006 covering :

- the process for the dissemination of appeals to Local Authorities;
- the potential impact of the process on the reputation of local government;
- issues around licensing and planning committees;
- case studies covering the listed issues

[ DH / DA ]

## 2. Crime and Disorder Act Review: the next steps

The Board received a presentation from Henry Peterson, (LGA Consultant) (**attached**).

### Decisions

That:

- (i) Members agreed the approach set out in the Agenda paper on the basis of the following principles:
  - keep things simple, creating partnership arrangements that reduce rather than add to current complexities, and which minimise bureaucracy
  - reinforce local political leadership for community safety and policing as key public concerns on which 'hearts and minds' need to be won, as well as efficient services delivered
  - ensure that the local government scrutiny function develops a key role in making the activities of CDRP partners accountable to local communities
  - see that adequate resources are available to support these extended roles
  - achieve arrangements for the 'community call for action' that avoid the risk of abuse over very minor or unrepresentative issues
  - establish the right balance between county, district, and neighbourhood functions in two tier areas
  - integrate and align the new measures with the central/local settlement emerging around LAAs, positioning community safety activity in the mainstream of joined-up public service activity
  - maximise the scope for locally generated solutions, and minimise central prescription on the detail of implementation, with an assumption of 'presumed competence' on the part of local agencies and partner.
  - integrate any inspection of CDRPs within wider arrangements for streamlined and locality based performance management, as proposed in the LGA paper Driving Improvement
  - communicate effectively on the outcome of the review, to build public trust and support for the changes.
- (ii) Members endorsed the arrangements for LGA participation in the Home Office reference group working on detailed implementation plans for new measures following the review of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

### Noted

Members noted Cllr Burns-Williamson's advice that it was still possible to influence the outcome of the Police Amalgamation Order, before it was laid before Parliament in July, by lobbying their local MPs over their concerns.

### Actions

- Henry Peterson to draft note on Community call for Action for circulation to Members;
- Officers to insert CDA Review into the Safer Communities Annual Conference Agenda

[ KW / EM ]

### **3. Priorities and Objectives 2005/2006 - Progress Report**

#### Agreed

*Members noted progress on the Board's priorities as set out in the report and agreed that the current programme of work should continue until any revised priorities were agreed in the Autumn.*

#### Decisions

*That the September Board would take the form of an Away Day (to be arranged);*

#### Actions

- *SCB Secretariat to arrange September Board Away Day [DH / KW / JB]*
- *Away Day discussion to consider how wider Community Safety issues are to be incorporated into the Board's priorities.*

### **4. Reputation of Local Government and the Board's priorities**

*Members were addressed by Edward Welsh, Programme Director, Media and Campaigns, LGA*

*Members welcomed the presentation and noted the impact that the reputation of local government had on the Board's and LGA priorities and agreed that more structured discussion should take place during the September Board Away Day.*

#### Decisions

*That:*

- (i) Edward Welsh be invited to report back to the Board after 12 months, to update Members on the LGA's efforts to improve the reputation of local government;*
- (ii) That Members be provide with details of the LGA CommsNet*

#### Actions

- *LGA Media and Campaigns Programme Director to update Board in May 2007*
- *LGA Media and Campaigns to provide Members with details of the CommsNet.*

**[ EW / DH]**

### **5. Update on live issues (oral)**

*There were no further issues discussed.*

## **6. Notes of Previous Meeting**

*That the notes of the previous meeting (13 March 2006 ) be accepted with the following amendment:*

*Information promised to Members on the Prison Reform Trust – Smart Justice, ( item **3. Preventing Re-offending**) would now be provided in expanded format in the next edition of the Safer Communities Bulletin.*

### Action

- *SCB Secretariat to include material on Smart Justice – Prison Reform Trust in next SC Bulletin*

