

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Safer Communities Board

13 November 2006

at Local Government House

Present

In the Chair:	Cllr Andy Sutton (Isle of Wight UA) (Conservative);
Deputy Chairs:	Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent).
Conservative	Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC); Cllr Audrey Lewis (Westminster City Council), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield); Clare Whelan (Lambeth LB).
Labour	Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC), Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC); Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton City Council); Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council).
Liberal Democrats	Cllr Christina Jebb (Staffordshire CC); Cllr Audrey Jones (Gtr Manchester FCDA); Cllr Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC).
Apologies	Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC); Cllr Hazel Harding CBE (Lancashire CC) (Labour); Cllr Robert Light (Kirklees MBC).
Substitute	Cllr Sandra Crook (Wycombe) (Conservative); Cllr David Lancaster (Salford City Council (Labour)

Members welcomed David Williams, the LGA's new Programme Director, Safer Communities and wished Cllr Andy Sutton (in the Chair) a speedy recovery following imminent surgery.

1. Comprehensive Spending Review CSR and Safer Communities

Corin Thompson (Senior Policy Consultant) introduced the paper and spoke to the LGA's overall approach to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Emma Varley (Policy Consultant) took members through the Safer Communities specific aspects of the paper.

Decisions

The Board had a full discussion on CSR 07 and Safer Communities and agreed the headline messages for the safer communities section of the draft Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) CSR submission, as set out in the report, subject to members comments which included:

- the need to address sustainability of funding for Police Community Support Officers beyond 2007/2008;

- the need for clarity in the use of intelligence and information sharing;
- that consideration be given to the funding of witness protection which is due to disappear in March 2007.
- that the LGA should argue robustly for the financing of new burdens;
- that a solid evidence base be developed, exemplifying work that the LGA has done e.g. in relation to the reduction of reoffending, giving good fiscal arguments;
- that examples should be given where local government has produced efficiency savings; e.g. shared services.

The Board also agreed to receive a report to the Board's next meeting from the Fire Services Management Committee on lobbying for funding of the Fire Service.

Action

Officers to action as set out above, including circulation to members of a report from the Fire Services Management Committee on funding of the Fire Service.

DWi/CC

2. Community Cohesion and Safer Communities: Local Government White Paper

Decisions

The Board agreed that a report on this issue should be brought back for a substantive discussion at the Board's next meeting in January.

Action

Officers to submit a report at the January meeting on the approach to Community Cohesion and Safer Communities in the context of the LGA work programme on cross-cutting themes.

DWi

3. Anti-Social Behaviour and Respect – presentation by the Respect Task Force

Russell Reefer (Policy Consultant) introduced the report, advising members that this was a good opportunity to establish core messages and to engage effectively with the respect agenda.

The Board then received a presentation from the Home Office Respect Task Force, Sarah Kincaid (Head of Policy) and Neil O'Connor (Programme Manager), who outlined progress since the launch of the Respect Action Plan in January 2006 and their expected way ahead one year on. Ms Kincaid emphasised that local government is critical to delivering the respect agenda and that the Task Force is keen to work closely with the LGA on this issue.

Following the presentation Ms Kincaid and Mr O'Connor responded to a number of questions and comments posed by members.

Decisions

The Board agreed

- a revised LGA position, taking into consideration members' comments, on Respect and ASB and to develop a robust and mutually supportive relationship with the Home Office Respect Task Force;
- that officers should develop a joint work plan where appropriate, with the Respect Task Force in the development of Local Authority Respect Areas.

Councillor Andy Sutton, on behalf of the Board, thanked Sarah Kincaid and Neil O'Connor and assured them that the LGA was looking forward to collaborative working with the Respect Team.

Action

Officers to progress as set out above.
DWi/RRe

4. Safer Communities – Board Away Day

The Board received a report outlining proposals for a Board Away Day in February 2007. Members discussed the possibility of holding a future joint 3 day Safer Communities and Fire Conference. The joint conference could be followed up by an Away Day to address feedback from the Conference. Alternatively, consideration should be given to an Away Day discussion in the summer/early autumn to set the work programme for the next year.

Decisions

The Board agreed that further consideration should be given to this issue and that officers should draw up a revised approach for consideration by the Board's Group Leaders.

Action

Officers to draw up a revised proposal to put to Group Leaders.
DWi/LH

5. Notes of Decisions of Previous Meeting

The Board agreed the note of the last meeting and noted that:

- **confirmation of Board appointments to the Urban Commission rests with the political groups;**
- **the question of a 'lead Board' for licensing has been discussed by Group Leaders and remitted to December's LGA Executive for a decision. When a decision has been taken officers will arrange a discussion to see how the two boards can best work together in a lead/supporting role.**

6. Any Other Business

There were no issues raised under this item.