

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Safer Communities Board

11 September 2006

at Local Government House

Present

- Chair:** Cllr Hazel Harding CBE (Lancashire CC) (Labour).
- Deputy Chairs:** Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent).
- Conservative** Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC); Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC), Cllr Audrey Lewis (Westminster City Council), Cllr Robert Light (Kirklees MBC); 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 Audrey Jones (Gtr Manchester FCDA);
- Apologies** Cllr Christina Jebb (Staffordshire CC) (Liberal Democrat); Cllr Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC) (Liberal Democrat); Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC) (Conservative); Cllr Andy Sutton (Isle of Wight UA) (Conservative) .

1. Membership of Board and Terms of Reference

The Chair of the Board welcomed members to the meeting. The membership, office holders and terms of reference of the Board for 2006/7 were noted.

2. Dates of Meetings in 2006/7

Members noted the following dates for Board meetings in 2006/7

- 13 November 2006
- 15 January 2007
- 12 March 2007
- 14 May 2007
- 16 July 2007

Members also discussed the possibility of holding one or more of the Board meetings outside London. It was recognised that factors needing to be taken into account were location, transport links, and in particular, the need to maintain the present arrangement whereby meetings of the Fire Services Management Committee are held on the same day. A view was expressed that Board away days may provide a better opportunity to meet outside London, than Board meetings.

Actions

Officers prepare a report on options for the next meeting.

JB

3. Relationship management and appointments to outside bodies

Members considered appointments to a range of outside bodies, together with appointments to the LGA Urban Commission; a social inclusion and equalities representative; and the designation of Board members as Board champions for policy areas where significant high profile activity was anticipated. They also considered appointments made by office holders since the last meeting of the Board in July.

Members were opposed to the proposal, set out in relation to appointments to the DCMS Alcohol and Entertainments Licensing Group, that licensing issues should be in the remit of the Culture, Tourism and Sports Board, once the matter of licensing fees had been resolved. Members saw the continued involvement of the Board in licensing issues as an integral part of the regulatory agenda. Whilst understanding the role of licensing in tourism and regeneration initiatives, they thought it inappropriate that regulatory aspects should not be in the lead. Officers indicated that it was essential that the Association is able to maintain a consistent message on licensing policy and that there would need to be further discussions on the respective roles of the Boards. A meeting between the office holders of the Boards will be arranged.

On outside bodies, members expressed concern at the lack of member involvement in resilience groupings.

Decisions : That

- (1) A meeting between office holders of the Safer Communities and Culture, Tourism and Sports Boards be arranged to discuss further the responsibility within the LGA for licensing issues, including fees.
- (2) the appointments made by office holders since the last meeting be endorsed;
- (3) the member, adviser and officer appointments set out in tables 1-3 of the report be endorsed;
- (4) Cllr Graham Brown and Cllr Caroline Seymour will continue on the on the HSC/Local Government Liaison Panel and Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC) and Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council) be appointed to vacancies on the Panel;
- (5) the appointment of a member of the Board to the Urban Commission be referred to the political groups for decision;
- (6) Cllr Malkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton MBC) be appointed as the Board's social inclusion and equalities representative;
- (7) the following members of the Board be designated Board champions for the policy areas indicated:

- Cllr Graham Brown – Emergency Planning
- Cllr Caroline Seymour - Coroners
- Cllr Malkinder Jaspal – Social Inclusion
- Cllr Audrey Lewis – Licensing
- Cllr Ann Lucas – Prostitution and Domestic Violence

(8) the chair and office holders be authorised to agree a further appointments or changes to appointments to outside bodies.

Actions

(1) A meeting between office holders of the Safer Communities and Culture, Tourism and Sports Boards be arranged to discuss licensing matters **[LACORS]**

(2) The appointments to outside bodies be confirmed to the members, advisers and officers and the body concerned and arrangements for reporting back put in place. **[LH/DH]**

(3) Political Group offices be asked to agree the Board's appointee to the Urban Commission **JB**

4. The LGA Independent Commission into the LGA's Roles and Relationships

The Board was given a presentation by John O'Brien on the work of the Commission, chaired by Lord Best, President of the Association, including its key areas of interest; and an outline on how it was likely to go about its work, including engagement with LGA Boards.

Members indicated the need for the Commission to examine the present relationships between the LGA and other corporate members of the Association – police authorities (including the APA), fire authorities and passenger transport authorities. The need to engage with all types of principal authorities was also emphasised.

Decisions

That the formation of the Commission be noted.

5. Priorities and Objectives 2006/2007

Members considered a report on the following proposed priorities for the Board for 2006/7;

- Working together to build safer communities
- A campaign to promote the installation of fire suppression systems in schools, to include the establishment of a member task group;
- Transforming regulatory services (to be led by LACORS)

Members endorsed a proposal from officers that work on community cohesion should be added as a Board priority, and that a report was needed on how this might be taken forward in context of work being done elsewhere in the Association. It was noted that the DCLG had announced the establishment of its Commission on Social Cohesion and that the LGA needed to

play an active role in this area. (The LGA is represented on the Commission by Cllr Margaret Eaton, Deputy Chair of the Association).

It was also noted that the final report of the member task group on prostitution had been circulated. Its chair, Cllr Ann Lucas, was concerned that the momentum behind this policy work should not be lost. It was agreed that the policy initiatives identified by the task group needed to be marshalled in response to any emerging legislation.

On the campaign to promote fire suppression systems, there was general agreement amongst members that whilst the focus on schools and buildings housing vulnerable people was right, the climate was now more favourable to widening the campaign to cover all public bodies.

Decisions: That

- (1) Community cohesion be added as a priority of the Board, and that a scoping report be made to the next meeting;
- (2) Officers be asked to consider the opportunities for widening the focus of the campaign on fire suppression systems

Actions:

- (1) Officers to report on the social cohesion priority **[JB]**
- (2) Officers to report on the possible widening of the fire suppression systems **[CC]**

6. Reducing re-offending - coalition publication

Members considered proposed LGA work on reducing re-offending, set out in a draft publication by a coalition of organisations, including the LGA. The publication was intended to publicise and gain support for a range of recommendations following on from the LGA publication *Going Straight*. Members also had a presentation on the aims of the document by Rob Allen, Director of the International Centre for Prison Studies, Kings College, London.

There was a general welcome for the publication by members, who made a number of specific comments, including the need to take account of sub – regional arrangements for re-offending reduction; and a fuller account of implications for Wales.

Decisions: That

- (1) the publication of the draft be agreed, together with appropriate lobbying and representational work with coalition partners;
- (2) the name of the coalition be changed to the Coalition on Social and Criminal Justice.

Actions:

Officers continue to liaise with coalition partners on the production of the document and subsequent lobbying activities. **[EM]**

7. Kate Mulley

Members were informed that Kate Mulley, who had been responsible for the Association's work on domestic violence would shortly be leaving to take up a post in the voluntary sector. Members wished to place on record their thanks for her valuable work in this area and wished her every success in her new appointment.

8. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the last meeting held on 17 July 2006 were accepted.

