

## **Other business update - Decisions and Actions Required**

### **Decisions**

1. *For discussion, and to note the updated information on current issues.*

### **Actions Required**

2. *As noted within the update.*

### **Action by:**

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## Other business update – issues for decision and/or guidance

### Neighbourhood Policing – the Flanagan Review

1. *The Board discussed the Flanagan Review of Policing at the July meeting, and the key points raised by members at the meeting were incorporated into the LGA's submission on neighbourhood policing, one of the four areas targeted by the review. The Review's interim report was published in September and it reflected a number of the issues raised by the LGA:*

- **Mainstreaming neighbourhood policing.** *The report is fully supportive of mainstreaming neighbourhood policing but recognises this requires a considerable culture change in police forces. It therefore proposes a review of training so that the skills necessary for neighbourhood policing are included in future programmes, and that Chief Constables place a proper emphasis on neighbourhood policing in future recruitment campaigns.*
- **The embedding of neighbourhood policing in neighbourhood management approaches.** *Sir Ronnie Flanagan takes the view that neighbourhood policing will never be successful unless it works alongside the work carried out by other partners in the locality. He recommends therefore that the Home Office and CLG work with partners, including the LGA, on producing an action plan to integrate neighbourhood policing with neighbourhood management. As neighbourhood management is being piloted in specific areas, the action plan is looking at suggesting neighbourhood policing links into whatever local arrangements local authorities have in place for delivering services at more local levels and working with local agencies.*
- **Greater certainty about central funding and flexibility of local funding.** *The impact the uncertainty over funding has, especially for PCSOs, is addressed in the report. A particular concern is the increased likelihood of PCSOs being abstracted from their neighbourhoods and the communities they serve unless this is addressed. The report concludes there should be continued funding for PCSOs from the Home Office in 2008/09. A further proposal is for the piloting of pooled budgets between local community safety partners in a way complementary to LAA's but at a more local level.*
- **Continuity in neighbourhood police teams.** *The interim report acknowledges the problems created by the turnover of staff from one post to another. Recommendations 21 and 22 put forward the suggestion that BCU commanders and others appointed to integral roles in roles in neighbourhood policing should remain in post for at least two years, and there should be greater recognition of officers and staff who serve on neighbourhood policing teams for any length of time.*

2. *The Home Office is currently considering the neighbourhood policing recommendations. We are engaging with the Home Office on this, including the recommendation that the Home*

Office, in conjunction with the CLG and the LGA, as well as a number of other organisations, puts together an **action plan** by the end of 2007 integrating neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management.

**3. It would be useful to have the Board's reactions to the recommendations in the interim report on neighbourhood policing and views on what the action plan should, and should not contain.** *Given that formal neighbourhood management programmes have only been piloted in a limited number of authorities, one point the Board may wish to make is that whatever the Home Office proposes, it needs to provide local flexibility, instead of being prescriptive. That would mean neighbourhood policing is integrated with whatever neighbourhood multi-agency arrangements a local authority has in place, rather than rolling out a new programme nationwide.*

*4. Sir Ronnie Flanagan's final report is due to be presented in the New Year. This will then be followed early next year by a Home Office green paper setting out the government's strategic vision for delivering improvements in police performance. The aim of the paper is to give coherence and structure to the reforms already underway and those in the future. Once the policing green paper has been published next year a report will be brought to the Board to consider whether and how the LGA responds to it.*

## **CDRP reform**

*5. The Home Office's **CDRP Reform Programme** has been the main focus of the Board's Safer Communities intervention this year. The aim has been to ensure that the emerging regulations and guidance are non-prescriptive and provide as much flexibility as possible to respond to local priorities.*

*6. The update the Board received in July outlined the work on the production of a set of National Minimum Standards and explained that the Home Office would be producing guidance on how these standards could be implemented to make an effective CDRP. The **guidance** ('Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working') was published by the Home Office in September. It includes examples of best practice and sets out six Hallmarks, which the Home Office sees as the key elements of effective partnerships. Those partnerships already reducing crime and disorder in their communities will already be implementing most, if not all, of the Hallmarks. The guidance does though provide a useful diagnostic tool for reviewing the working and effectiveness of Crime and Disorder Reduction and Community Safety partnerships.*

*7. The Board wanted to ensure that the regulations and guidance are to be "light touch". As was reported in July, the Home Office has agreed there should not be any routine inspection against the guidance. However should there be increasing levels of crime in a partnership area it is likely that the effectiveness of the partnership and the way it works will be included in the Comprehensive Area Assessment and other agreed forms of intervention.*

*8. Now that the guidance has been published a briefing on it, and in particular on how CDRPs in two-tier areas can work effectively, will be produced. This briefing will incorporate issues raised in workshops run jointly with CCN and the District Leaders Sounding Board on the issues of effective partnership working between counties and districts. **Are Members content with this way forward or are there other areas where they feel clarification/follow-up is necessary?***

## The National Indicator Set, APACS and CAA

9. *Three consultation exercises are currently underway (or expected to have been launched by the time the Board meets):*

- *a CLG-led consultation on the **198 national indicators** of relevance to local government and local partnerships from which targets in LAAs are to be drawn;*
- *an Audit Commission consultation on the new **Comprehensive Area Assessment**;*
- *Home Office consultations expected to issue in November on **APACS** – the new performance framework for policing and community safety.*

10. *In addition CLG's consultation on the National Framework for fire and rescue services offers an opportunity to comment on these issues from a fire perspective. There are also 5 indicators that impact directly on local regulatory services covering: satisfaction of businesses; impact on the fair trading environment; food establishments broadly compliant with food hygiene law; achievement of standards for the control system for animal health and level of air quality.*

11. *The Board will be particularly interested in the Home Office APACS consultation – the technical element is likely to run until mid-January and the strategic consultation until late February. There will be an opportunity to consider in more detail therefore at the first Board meeting in 2008. A draft diagram showing the likely APACS indicators including those that are also in the 198 set is shown at the end of this section. Key issues include:*

- *Holding central Government to its commitment that it will not set targets for local delivery outside the national indicator set.*
- *Getting the right tone for Home Office (and MoJ) engagement in LAA negotiations. This should be about identifying which of the national indicators reflect particular local priorities for improvement rather than simply an opportunity to shoehorn in indicators relating to national PSA delivery.*
- *Helping councils get the right engagement with partners at the local level. There is a role for the Board in helping to spread best practice and through constructive relationships with national partner bodies (e.g. the APA, Probation Boards Associations, and FRAs through the FSMC and Fire Forum).*
- *Helping to clarify two-tier issues and the relationship between district CDRPs and county councils, across target-setting, LAA processes and performance reporting.*
- *Influencing decisions on how performance data will be used. In particular, there are challenges about using data to compare performance between CDRPs where different local priorities have been selected. We need to ensure that flexibility to pursue genuine local priorities is not constrained by the mechanics of the performance framework itself.*
- *Developing sector-led proposals for peer review and performance improvement to complement or replace Home Office intervention capabilities. The LGA and IDeA are developing proposals – perhaps in conjunction with the National Police Improvement Agency – for how such a locally-focused improvement framework might operate.*

**It would be helpful to get Members' guidance on the priority areas here on which they would like to focus staff effort in the coming weeks and discussion of APACS at their January meeting.**

**Proposed APACS indicators 2008/09 - Shaded cells highlight links to national indicator set for local government**

PROMOTING SAFETY	TACKLING CRIME	SERIOUS CRIME & PROTECTION	CONFIDENCE & SATISFACTION	ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT
Perception of anti-social behaviour (NI 17)	Serious acquisitive crime rate (NI 16)	Counter-terrorism (contest) (NI 35 and 36)	Understanding local concerns (agencies) (NI 27)	Leadership
Perception of drunk / rowdy behaviour (NI 41)	Assault with injury rate (NI 20)	Domestic extremism	Dealing with local concerns (agencies) (NI 21)	Police efficiency
Perception of drug use / drug dealing (NI 42)	Domestic violence enforcement	Serious violent crime rate (NI 15)	Understanding local concerns (police)	Productive use of time
Neighbourhood management	Domestic violence victimisation (NI 32)	Domestic violence – murder (NI 34)	Dealing with local concerns (police)	Officer sickness rate
Arson and deliberate fire (NI 33)	Detection rate (tier 2)	Gun crime rate (NI 29)	Satisfaction with service delivery (police)	Police staff sickness rate
Road traffic casualties (NI 47 and 48)	Detection rate (hate crime)	Serious knife crime rate (NI 28)	Comparative satisfaction with delivery (police)	Financial management (PURE)
	Bringing offences to justice (tier 2)	Serious violent offences brought to justice	Satisfaction with service delivery (racist incidents)	Police collaboration
	Priority offender re-offending rate (NI 30)	Support to victims of serious sexual offences (NI 26)	Satisfaction with service delivery (ASB) (NI 24)	Business processes
	Adult re-offending rate (NI 18)	Serious sex offences brought to justice	Comparative satisfaction with delivery (ASB) (NI 25)	Minority ethnic police officer recruitment
	Youth re-offending rate (NI 19)	Sex offender re-offending rate (NI 31)	Satisfaction with service delivery (CJS)	Female officer representation
	Drug-related offending rate (NI 38)	Asset recovery	Confidence in effectiveness of the CJS	
	First-time youth offending (NI 111)	Strategic roads policing	Confidence in fairness of the CJS	
	Race equality in criminal justice	Serious and organised crime		
	Effectiveness and efficiency (CJS)			

## Other business update – for information

### CSR07

12. *The outcome of the three year Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 was announced on Tuesday 9 October. The LGA's view is that this looks to be a **particularly tough settlement** for local government. The 1% increase announced so far falls short of the minimum increase called for by the LGA in order to maintain business as usual, and is well below the 4.2% increase required to deliver the new burdens will have to manage over the next 3 years.*

13. *On council tax, the government has stated that it expects the settlement to enable councils to keep increases well below 5%. We think this is unrealistic, and are expecting to see council tax increases pushing the 5% capping limit.*

14. *In future grants for crime reduction, drugs strategy and anti-social behaviour, the safer stronger communities fund, cohesion and extremism will be delivered via Area Based Grant (ABG). The ABG will be implemented from April 2008 and will replace existing grant programmes currently used to support delivery of outcomes in local areas. It will 'pool' grants previously paid to councils as specific, often 'ring-fenced' grants into a single grant to support outcomes that councils must deliver alone or in partnership with others.*

15. *Published alongside the CSR settlement, the key PSAs relating to crime reduction and community safety are<sup>1</sup>:*

- *PSA 23: Make Communities Safer;*
- *PSA 25: Alcohol and Drugs;*
- *PSA 24: Criminal Justice;*
- *PSA 21: Cohesive, Empowered Communities;*
- *PSA 16: Social Exclusion;*
- *PSA 14: Young People;*
- *PSA 17: Poverty and Wellbeing; and,*
- *PSA 26: Counter Terrorism.*

### Legislative Programme/Queen's Speech

16. *The Local Government and Public Improvement in Health Bill has now completed its passage through the Houses of Parliament. Of interest to the SCB, in the closing sessions of the Bill's consideration by the Lords, the Government agreed to amendments to the Bill and to the 2006 Police and Justice Act to align the two approaches to **Community Call for Action** around the proposals previously set out in the Local Government etc Bill (though the process is likely to be rebranded as the Councillors' Call for Action). This is a good result. The LGA will work closely with Government departments and other partners (including the APA) to develop guidance for its implementation and roll-out.*

17. *Looking to the Queen's speech, the main focus for the Safer Communities Board - in partnership with the CYP Board - is the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill. The LGA continues to engage in the Parliamentary process for the Bill and to push the following key messages:*

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<sup>1</sup> Full details of these and all other PSAs can be found at  
[http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr\\_csr/psa/pbr\\_csr07\\_psaindex.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr/psa/pbr_csr07_psaindex.cfm)

- We are pleased that the Bill reflects LGA's longstanding call for a greater emphasis on community-based interventions for young offenders, and is pleased to see contained in the Bill, in the Youth Rehabilitation Order, a sentencing option that may better reflect the needs of children in contact with the youth justice system, while also striking the balance between punishment/protection and reform/rehabilitation;
- However, the LGA feels that Government policy could be more radical around the shift towards prevention/earlier intervention, including putting in place a policy and legislative framework that establishes greater partnership between the youth justice system and Children's Trust partners;
- The LGA is appreciative that the Bill now allows local authorities to improve the lives of its constituents by temporarily closing premises that have facilitated persistent and disruptive antisocial behaviour.
- The LGA is pleased that the Bill partly reflects the LGA's policy of rehabilitation rather than conviction for prostitution offences. The proposed changes in the Bill will increase the chances of vulnerable women and children being able to exit prostitution. However, the LGA would like the Government to go further and abolish criminal convictions for prostitution offences as a conviction may prevent or impede future employment.

18. We had also been expecting a Bill to reform the **Coroners'** service but it was not included in the Queen's Speech. We understand that a Bill will be brought before Parliament when time allows. In the meantime, the Government will be consulting on a revised Charter for Bereaved people. The LGA has also responded recently to a Department for Health consultation paper on improving the process of **death certification** in order to put in place effective scrutiny applicable to all deaths, whether followed by burial or cremation, and to improve public health surveillance of causes of death

## Cohesion

19. CLG has issued an initial response to the Darra Singh-led Commission on Integration and Cohesion. This highlights five priority areas for Government, which can help shape LGA/IDeA engagement on these issues in the coming months. They are:

- Central funding - £50M over three years - to support local authorities on cohesion issues. The success of this additional investment will be measured against a new and extended emphasis on cohesion in CLG's Public Service Agreement.
- more focused support from the centre for local areas now charged with building cohesion as part of their core business. With the new Local Area Agreements, local authorities will be properly empowered to set their own agendas on cohesion, and to decide where their own priorities lie. Central Government can help by development of best practice guidance based on the COIC's 'typology' of different areas; production of a template (with the IDeA) for a welcome pack for new arrivals; and teams to support areas experiencing particular challenges.
- the third priority is to set a greater emphasis on "bridging" activities that bring people from different backgrounds together. Guidance on the role of schools in promoting cohesion has already been published. CLG will also publish guidance on translation and begin consultation on a new-interfaith strategy.
- developing a better understanding of our goals on cohesion across other policy areas, by making cohesion a part of everything Government does, rather than a priority in isolation. Work here will include development of a 'one stop shop' website, a mainstreaming toolkit and cohesion focussed guidance for 'funders'.

- a renewed commitment to citizenship and civic pride. The Goldsmith Citizenship review will take some of the ideas in the COIC report around Citizenship Ceremonies and consider them in the wider context. Looking ahead, I also expect the Youth Citizenship Commission identified in the recent Governance of Britain paper to consider the idea of citizenship ceremonies for young people.

## **Emergency Planning – floods and avian flu**

20. Councils have been in action again in November in responding to the severe risks of flooding in Eastern England and, most recently, an outbreak of avian flu in Suffolk. LGA and LACORS have been supporting councils through attendance at the DEFRA-led 'bird tables', COBR update meetings and by engagement with central Government on funding issues.

21. An initial response to the Pitt Review of the summer flooding has been submitted. This highlights the need for greater clarity around roles and responsibilities at the local level; the need to streamline funding mechanisms for disaster response and recovery, and to advance funding for flood defences; and the need to think through issues of sustainability and adaptability in future planning and development decisions. An initial report from the Review Team is expected in mid-December prompting a period of consultation (during which SCB views will be sought). One area where councils may need to improve their game, based on public perception surveying, is around "warning and informing" the public.

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