

Group Progress to 30 June 2009	
SAFER COMMUNITIES	
<p>Policing and partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build effective partnerships at national level to help councils tackle crime • provide assistance to councils in improving their performance in key areas of community safety • work with the Government and Opposition parties to ensure their policies recognise the key role councils have to play in tackling crime • support councils in developing and sharing good practice in this area, including re-offending • ensure that new legislation enables councils to provide more efficient and effective services 	<p>Policing and partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA and IDeA have agreed a new approach from the Home Office to driving up performance with the IDeA receiving £150,000 to provide peer member reviews to community safety partnerships. • Conference on tackling crime in a recession held on 23 April, and currently marketing the Safer Communities Conference in October 2009 • Survey of community safety managers and the issues they are facing is being conducted and the results will be published at the conference October 2009. • Update to the 2008-11 Home Office Crime Strategy notes “Councils are crucial to effective crime reduction activity”, and notes the leading role played by councils in reducing anti-social behaviour. • IDeA exemplar programme on integrating neighbourhood policing with local authority services launched on 15 May, and promoted at LGA conference on 11 June. • Amendments tabled to the Coroners and Justice Bill, with cross party support for the LGA’s amendments in the Policing and Crime Bill in the Commons. • Letter plus request for early meeting with the new Policing Minister David Hanson about the content of the forthcoming Policing White Paper. • The LGA has started on work to raise awareness among councillors in England of the new scrutiny powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006.

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<p>Cohesion, Communities and Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with the Beacon councils for Cohesive and Resilient Communities • provide support for councillors on preventing violent extremism • establish information sharing arrangements that provide councils with the data they need • monitor and where necessary lobby on the effects of borders and immigration control on local labour markets • report on the interaction between recession, local labour markets, service provision, community cohesion and migration • engage with the Office for National Statistics and other data providers to improve the quality of statistics <p>Fire Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare for the next spending review • establish long term funding and governance for national functions • support FRAs with the national Equality and Diversity strategy • lead on the development of a sector-led improvement programme for FRAs 	<p>Cohesion, Communities and Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is continuing - Beacon winners will be involved at LGA Prevent Conference on 10 November. • LGA & IDeA have disseminated more information to elected members, and have delivered 3 regional workshops (more sessions planned) to drive an increase in Councillor engagement and knowledge in Prevent. • In April, a LGA, ACPO and Home Office joint information sharing protocol was published to help ensure councils, police and security services are coherently linked. • The inter-ministerial group continues to explore ways to improve national and local statistics • LGA is inputting to the ONS regional seminars on census developments <p>Fire Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire adviser working with Finance team on the fire submission. • A model is being developed with the LGA’s lead adviser on the long term funding and governance for national functions. • A community of practice on equality and diversity has been established, and a workshop for fire authority members was held in April with network of champions • An induction pack for new FRA members encourages further sign-up of the Equality and Diversity Charter • The sector-led improvement programme for FRAs on Operational Assessment has started (London).

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<p>National emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure effective and efficient preparation for councils to deal with large scale emergencies • provide strong leadership in assisting councils to respond effectively to emergencies • influence policy and funding arrangements <p>Regulatory Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve the reputation of councils amongst ministers, the business community and the public as delivering good quality regulatory services to protect people and promote economic vitality • provide advice, guidance and training including to councillors • represent local government to central government to help deliver clear legislation and policy, focusing on public protection 	<p>National emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGA is currently working with the Home Office on reviewing the robustness of Local Resilience Forum plans for excess deaths management resulting from pandemics • The LGA played a leading role in the national response to the road grit shortages in the cold weather earlier in the year and is now a key partner for government in responding to swine flu. • New LGA strategy in draft, seeking comments from Advisers • Swine flu event planned for 24 July <p>Regulatory Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with LGA to promote positive case studies about the use of surveillance by councils when delivering regulatory activities. • Joint report with the OFT showing that for every £1 councils spend on trading standards fair trading activity, local people benefit by £6 • Report issued on the work done by trading standards with NHS hospitals to improve patient weighing systems. • Promote the participation of councils in Home Office test purchasing of alcohol by children campaign. • New handbook for councillors on trading standards issued. • Briefing issued for councillors and heads of regulatory services on the impact of the Services Directive • Ongoing meetings with BIS, Defra, Home Office etc on regulatory activities

