### **SAFER COMMUNITIES**

## Policing and partnership

- 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

## Policing and partnership

**Group Progress to 30 June 2009** 

- 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.

## **Cohesion, Communities and Migration**

- 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

### **Fire Services**

- 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

## **Group Progress to 30 June 2009**

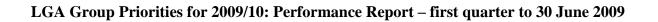
# **Cohesion, Communities and Migration**

- 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

#### **Fire Services**

- 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).

### **Group Progress to 30 June 2009 National emergencies National emergencies** ensure effective and efficient preparation for councils to deal with large scale emergencies The LGA is currently working with the provide strong leadership in assisting councils to respond effectively to emergencies Home Office on reviewing the robustness of Local Resilience Forum plans for influence policy and funding arrangements 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 **Regulatory Services Regulatory Services** Work with LGA to promote positive case improve the reputation of councils amongst ministers, the business community and the public as studies about the use of surveillance by delivering good quality regulatory services to protect people and promote economic vitality councils when delivering regulatory provide advice, guidance and training including to councillors activities. represent local government to central government to help deliver clear legislation and policy, Joint report with the OFT showing that for focusing on public protection 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



APPENDIX A