

## **The Policing White Paper**

### **Summary**

At its last meeting, the Board considered the broad themes likely to be included in the Policing White Paper, which is due to be published in early November. Since then more information has become available on the likely contents of the paper, and the proposals that relate to local authorities. This report seeks members' views on these proposals.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are invited to:

- a. Note the likely proposals in the Policing White Paper which will affect local authorities.
- b. Provide comments on these proposals, which are set out in paragraphs 5 and 7, to inform any LGA response to the White Paper.

### **Action**

LGA officers to action to reflect the Board's views in the LGA's response to the Policing White Paper.

Contact Officer: Mark Norris  
Phone No: 020 7664 3241  
Email: [mark.norris@lga.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@lga.gov.uk)

## **Policing White Paper**

### **Background**

1. The Board received a report on the Policing White Paper at its meeting in September. At this stage the Home Office had only just commenced the process of drafting the White Paper and the LGA had not been informed about any of the detail. Following on from the Board meeting the Board's Vice-Chair Cllr Taylor, along with Cllr Sir Jeremy Beecham and Cllr Richard Kemp, met the Rt. Hon. David Hanson MP, the Minister for Policing and therefore responsible for the White Paper. The Minister outlined the general themes for the White Paper and some of the developing policies.
2. Since the LGA's meeting with the Minister, the Home Office has continued to develop the policies for the White Paper with the intention of publishing it in early November. This paper therefore provides the Board with an update on the likely content of the White Paper and seeks members' views on these proposals in order to inform the LGA's response to the White Paper.

### **The three themes of the White Paper**

3. We understand the White Paper will be structured around three themes: responsible and accountable policing; effective partnerships and streamlined delivery; and, connecting policing from the national to the local level. The first two themes will contain a number of proposals which will affect local authorities with the third theme relating more to the police and protective services.

### **The responsible and accountable policing theme**

4. This section aims to build on the main aim of last year's Policing Green Paper of providing a better connection between the police and the public. David Hanson confirmed that proposals to reform of police authority membership by introducing directly-elected crime and policing representatives will not be re-opened. While changes to the structures of police accountability will not be included in the White paper, the working group the Board appointed in July will continue its work in this area in order to help the LGA influence the main political parties' commitments in this area. The last meeting of the working group will take place after this Board meeting, with a report being brought to the January meeting.
5. There are a number of other proposals relating to police accountability in the White Paper on which it would be helpful to have members' views. These are:

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- **Setting leadership competencies for police authority chairs.** The White Paper looks to raise the visibility of police authorities. One measure is setting of leadership competencies for police authority chairs. The Board's working group on police accountability has already looked at the issue of competencies for police authority members and this work informed a submission to the Home Office on the issue in early October. We are pressing for further discussions with the Home Office on this issue.
- **Making police authorities more diverse.** The appointment of independent members has assisted in making police authorities' membership more diverse, but the Home Office appears to be concerned at the diversity of councillors on police authorities. at the White Paper will look at ways of developing policies to make police authorities more diverse.
- **Providing the public with better information on policing.** There are likely to be proposals around the better provision of information to the public. The requirement for police authorities to produce policing summaries will be scrapped, allowing for greater flexibility in communications with the public.
- **Strengthening the policing pledge through community contracts.** The Home Office is keen that the public are given explicit statements of what they can expect to receive from the police and partners. Community contracts will therefore be piloted. These will set out at a neighbourhood level what the police, the council and other partners will do to tackle crime in that area.
- **Closer integration of neighbourhood policing and council services.** There will be a renewed emphasis on integrating neighbourhood policing with other local services, with a number of priority areas expected to implement the learning from the exemplar programme the IDeA and National Police Improvement Agency have been running.

## The effective partnerships and streamlined delivery theme

6. A considerable number of the proposals in this theme are aimed at improving the delivery of protective services – police activity to tackle serious and organised crime and counter terrorism work. There will be a considerable amount in the White Paper around improving collaboration between police forces.
7. One way though of streamlining delivery would be to simplifying the partnership landscape. It seems the White Paper will have a particular focus on the relations between CDRPs/CSPs and Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs). Rather than set out any specific proposals LGA officers understand that there will be a separate consultation on how the local partnership landscape can be simplified. Questions it would be helpful for members to address are:
  - What objectives CDRPs and LCJBs share?
  - How they could work together to achieve them?

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- Are there any other ways they can work more closely, such as on procurement and commissioning services?
  - What could be done to improve partnership working in two-tier areas?
8. In addition to assisting local collaboration by making partnership arrangements simpler, the Home Office will also be looking to encourage partnerships to do more with less, so improving efficiency will also be a theme within this section of the White Paper. Innovative projects like Southwest One which brings together Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Avon & Somerset Police and IBM to make over £370 million in savings over ten years through merging back office functions like payroll, HR, IT support and facilities management is also likely to be encouraged.

## **LGA's response to the White Paper**

9. Given the number of proposals which will impact on local authorities, the LGA will be formally responding to the Policing White Paper when it is published. Ahead of the publication it would be helpful to have members' views in order to inform the LGA response.

## **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Implications for Wales**

11. The White Paper will apply to Wales and officers will liaise with the WLGA on their response to it.

Contact Officer: Mark Norris  
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