

*Local Government Association*

## safer communities board

agenda

**Tuesday 12 January 2010**

**2.00pm**

Holiday Inn

Stratford-upon-Avon

CV37 6YR

To: Members of LGA safer communities board

cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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## Safer Communities Board

12 January 2010

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There will be a meeting of the Safer Communities Board at **2.00pm on Tuesday 12 January 2010**, in the **Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6YR**.

Lunch will be provided at 1.00pm.

### Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

<b>Labour:</b>	Aicha Less:	020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:aicha.less@lga.gov.uk">aicha.less@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Conservative:</b>	Angela Page:	020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:angela.page@lga.gov.uk">angela.page@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Evelyn Mark:	020 7664 3204	email: <a href="mailto:evelyn.mark@lga.gov.uk">evelyn.mark@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office:	020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.group@lga.gov.uk">independent.group@lga.gov.uk</a>

### Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

### Location

***A map showing the location of the Holiday Inn is printed on the back cover.***

### Contact

Paul Johnston (Tel: 020 7664 3031; e-mail: [paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk))

**Carers' Allowance:** As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £4.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. Children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## Safer Communities Board

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### Safer Communities Board - Membership 2009/2010

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (8)</b>	
Les Lawrence [ <b>Chairman</b> ]	Birmingham City
Roland Domleo	Cheshire East Council
Tom Fox	Scarborough BC
David Smith	Lichfield DC
Brian Coleman	Barnet LB / London FEPA
Joanna Spicer	Suffolk CC
Ian Gillies	City of York
Ann Stribley	Poole BC
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Gillian Brown	Arun DC
Robert Sleigh	Solihull MBC
<b>Labour (5)</b>	
Sharon Taylor [ <b>Vice Chair</b> ]	Stevenage BC
Mehboob Khan	Kirklees MBC
Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB
Mark Burns-Williamson	Wakefield MDC
Dave Lancaster	Salford City
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Ann Lucas	Coventry City
John Kent	Thurrock Council
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Duwayne Brooks [ <b>Deputy Chair</b> ]	Lewisham LB
Daisy Benson	Reading BC
Anita Lower	Newcastle City
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Paul Porgess	Stockport MBC
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Graham Brown [ <b>Deputy Chair</b> ]	Powys CC

**17 Member Board**



## LGA Safer Communities Board Attendance 2009-2010

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>14/09/09</b>	<b>9/11/09</b>	<b>12/01/10</b>	<b>15/03/10</b>	<b>17/05/10</b>	<b>12/07/10</b>
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
Les Lawrence	Yes	Yes				
Roland Domleo	Yes	Yes				
Tom Fox	Yes	Yes				
David Smith	Yes	Yes				
Brian Coleman	Yes	Yes				
Joanna Spicer	Yes	Yes				
Ian Gillies	Yes	Yes				
Ann Stribley	Yes	Yes				
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Sharon Taylor	Yes	Yes				
Mehboob Khan	Yes	Yes				
Nilgun Canver	Yes	Yes				
Mark Burns-Williamson	Yes	Yes				
Dave Lancaster	Yes	Yes				
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
Duwyane Brooks	Yes	Yes				
Daisy Benson	Yes	Yes				
Anita Lower	Yes	Yes				
<b>Independent</b>						
Graham Brown	Yes	Yes				
<b>Substitutes</b>	None	None				



# Agenda

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## Safer Communities Board

Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon

2.00pm, 12 January 2010

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#### For Discussion

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| 1. | <b>Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy</b>  | <b>3</b>  |
| 2. | <b>Violence against Women and Girls strategy</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
|    | The Board will receive a presentation from D Supt Jon Chapman,<br>Hertfordshire Constabulary |           |
| 3. | <b>Police accountability working group</b>   | <b>15</b> |
| 4. | <b>Local Better Regulation Office</b>  | <b>29</b> |

#### For information

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| 5. | <b>Update on Regulatory Services Issues</b>   | <b>37</b> |
| 6. | <b>Attendance at Outside Bodies' meetings</b> | <b>43</b> |
| 7. | <b>Criminal Justice in Action</b>             | <b>49</b> |

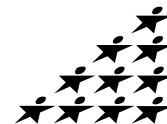
#### For noting

- |    |                                 |           |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 8. | <b>Note of the last meeting</b> | <b>63</b> |
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**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15 March 2010, 11.00am**







12 January 2010

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## **Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy**

### **Summary**

The Policing White Paper commits the Home Office to publishing a Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy early in 2010. The strategy will set out how neighbourhood policing will be sustained and maintained. As local authorities are key partners in tackling crime at a neighbourhood level, the Home Office is keen for LGA endorsement of the strategy. This report provides details of the strategy as it currently stands, and seeks members' views.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to:

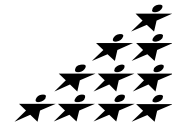
- a. Note the Home Office's intention to publish a Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy in early 2010; and
- b. Consider in principle agreement to LGA endorsement of the Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy, with the Board's Office Holders deciding whether to endorse the final strategy when it is available in February.

### **Action**

LGA officers to reflect the Board's views in any further work related to the Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy.

Contact Officer: Mark Norris  
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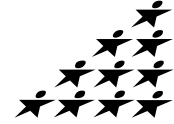
## **Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy**

### **Background**

1. The recently published Policing White Paper recognises partnership working between the police and a range of local agencies as being a key means of tackling local crime and anti-social behaviour problems, and making people feel safer and identifies neighbourhood policing teams as being central to this work.
2. In order to build on the progress made following the national roll out of neighbourhood policing teams in 2008, the White Paper commits the Home Office to publishing a Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy, which it is aiming to do in February 2010. As local authorities are a key local partner for neighbourhood policing teams, and through councillors are the only other body that currently has a presence in every neighbourhood, the Home Office is keen to have LGA endorsement of the strategy. The Home Office would like to see the LGA jointly badging the final strategy, alongside the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities.

### **The Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy**

3. The Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy was originally conceived as a neighbourhood policing strategy. The Home Office felt there was a need for a new strategy as while the infrastructure was now in place for neighbourhood policing, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary reviews of neighbourhood policing in 2008 and delivery of the policing pledge in 2009 had identified areas for improvement in aspects of neighbourhood policing. There are also other challenges around increasing expectations of policing teams in a tighter public spending climate.
4. The Home Office has as a result identified three objectives for the strategy: sustain and maintain dedicated neighbourhood policing teams; embedding a whole force approach to neighbourhood working; and developing neighbourhood partnerships. The strategy will set out high level actions in order to achieve these objectives.
5. The Home Office has identified a number of risks to maintaining neighbourhood policing, such as the financial pressures in forces which may result in either dedicated teams getting smaller or being given additional responsibilities. The strategy looks to address these risks in the section on sustaining dedicated neighbourhood policing teams, and will therefore make a clear evidence based case for neighbourhood policing by demonstrating its importance in meeting the confidence target and all levels of policing such as providing community intelligence. The strategy will also define a clear role for



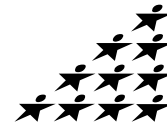
## **Local Government Association**

neighbourhood policing in preventing anti-social behaviour and crime through things like providing a visible deterrence and problem solving.

6. As neighbourhood policing is still seen as an 'add on' by some in the police, and not core work, the strategy looks to embed the concept of working at a neighbourhood level not just in neighbourhood teams but police forces as a whole. To do this the strategy aims to make sure that neighbourhood policing and other aspects of policing are fully joined up. This will mean making better links between neighbourhood policing teams and colleagues dealing with more serious and organised crime, and is intended to produce a whole force approach to neighbourhood working.
7. The third area that the draft strategy aims to address is providing the public with a seamless service by neighbourhood partnerships. The strategy will acknowledge that neighbourhood policing teams are unable to deal with all the issues they face in their areas on their own, and that other partners have the resources and responsibilities to address some of the issues local residents want to see action on. There are already areas where the police and local partners offer a seamless, integrated service to local people, and a range of multi-agency bodies that bring local partners together such as MARACS, Family Intervention Projects and Integrated Offender Management. The strategy will look to identify good practice and encourage its take up more widely, with ward councillors expected to play a key role in neighbourhood partnerships.
8. The strategy will also argue that neighbourhood level partnerships will only work where they have strategic level support. In a time of constrained public finances these strategic partnerships will need to consider joint use of resources and how these can be used to provide a minimum neighbourhood service to all, but with priority areas seeing additional resources.
9. The draft strategy will be presented by the Home Office to ministers in mid-January. A final draft of the strategy will not be available until early February. As the Safer Communities Board and the LGA have so far been supportive of the concept of neighbourhood policing, members' views are sought on the strategy as it currently stands. Members' in principle agreement is also sought to LGA endorsement of the strategy, with the Board's Office Holders deciding whether to endorse the final strategy when it is available in February.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from the report. However the strategy's aim of sustaining neighbourhood policing could have financial consequences for local authorities. Neighbourhood policing teams are dependent on the 16,000 PCSOs who make up a significant proportion of each team. The great majority, but not all, are funded by central government. Following the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report this funding will last until 2012-



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2013, but it is not clear what will happen after that. For example even if the funding is maintained, removing the ring fencing and allowing chief constables to decide their own workforce mix could mean it is more difficult to sustain neighbourhood policing teams. If the funding is removed altogether then police authorities and chief constables will find it very much more difficult to sustain neighbourhood policing teams, at a time when councils will be under very serious budgetary pressures and may not be able to keep on or take on the funding of PCSOs.

### **Implications for Wales**

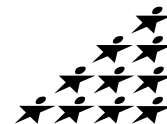
11. The Strategy applies to both England and Wales, and therefore applies to neighbourhood policing in Wales.

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12 January 2010

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## **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

### **Summary**

The previous Home Secretary announced that the government would be developing a strategy to reduce violence against women and girls. The Home Office published the strategy on 25 November 2009. This paper outlines the strategy and in particular those recommendations that will affect local government.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are invited to:

- a. Note the publication of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy;
- b. To offer any comments on the Strategy and its recommendations in light of the presentation from Detective Superintendent Jon Chapman from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

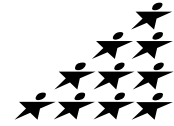
### **Action**

LGA officers to reflect the Board's views in the LGA's work around the implementation of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

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## **Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

### **Background**

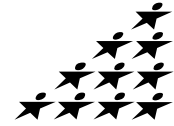
1. Violence against women has a significant impact on society both in the amount of incidents that occur, and the effect that has on women and girls, but also more widely in the costs to society of such violence. Domestic violence for instance accounted for 16% of all violent crime in the 2007/08 British Crime Survey, while it is estimated that the cost of violence against women and girls amounts to £40.1 billion in time off work, court cases and health care.
2. Due to the impact violence against women has, the former Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, announced in November 2008 that the government would implement a national violence against women strategy. Following on from the announcement the Home Office launched a consultation from March to May 2009 to both raise awareness of the issue of violence against women and generate discussion of what could be done to reduce it. The results of the consultation then informed the final strategy.

### **The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

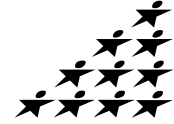
3. The aim of the strategy is a simple one: to reduce violence against women so that they feel safe and confident in both their homes and the communities they live in. In this context the strategy outlines the extent of violence against women and girls, with around half of all women and girls recalling that they have been victims of violence within their lifetime, and its cost to society. It also points out that while there have been a number of initiatives to address specific offences, the strategy is the first time a co-ordinated approach has been taken to tackling violence against women and girls.
4. The strategy itself is effectively divided into three. It looks at preventing violence against women and girls in the first place, then looks at the provision of services to support women and girls who have been victims of violence, and concludes by protecting women victims through an effective criminal justice system. The two key strands for local authorities are the prevent and provision themes.

### **The recommendations relating to local government**

5. The strategy points out that until now government activity has concentrated on supporting women and girls once they have been subjected to violence, rather than preventing such violence occurring in the first place. The strategy argues it is just as important to reduce incidents of violence in the first place and goes on to set out how the government will challenge attitudes to violence, promote healthy relationships and support training in the early identification of abuse.



6. Changing attitudes to violence against women will require national action and the strategy sets out a number of proposals for doing so. These include a national communications strategy around changing attitudes to violence against women, and raising awareness of existing support services; the development of best practice on addressing issues arising in the workplace from women staff who have experienced violence; looking into the feasibility of rolling out programmes like the 'Ugly Mugs' Scheme and improve early identification of repeat offenders; and, researching and developing a film on forced marriages.
7. There are also a range of proposals which directly impact on local authorities. These include:
  - Ensuring that schools treat all forms of violence against women as a safeguarding issue, and all staff know how to deal with girls they identify as being affected;
  - Incorporating information on what schools can do to prevent and tackle violence against women and girls in existing and planned guidance so it is considered through out school policies and roles;
  - The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit developing guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by domestic violence;
  - Increasing investment in Family Intervention Projects; and,
  - Publishing a review of Women's Safety in January 2010, which will include new measures to increase women's safety in public spaces, such as:
    - Development of accreditation criteria and systems for bus stations similar to the Secure Rail Stations Scheme;
    - Establishing a dedicated stalking/harassment helpline; and,
    - A named single point of contact in each police Basic Command Unit (BCU) for all matters relating to stalking and harassment.
8. While the government's ideal remains to prevent violence against women and girls in the first place, there needs to be assistance in place to help those women who do experience violence. The consultation around the strategy included focus groups with several hundred victims of violence and consistently called for a service that listens to them, treats them with dignity and respect, and is accessible and available when needed. The victims often felt that the statutory services they had approached had not given them the support they needed. As a result the government is looking to raise the quality of services in every area, many of which are the responsibility of local partners.
9. The intention of the strategy is to ensure tackling violence against women and girls becomes part of the core business of all statutory agencies, including local authorities. The strategy looks to achieve this by:
  - Developing a new online directory and a new online resource centre of violence against women services and materials;
  - Identify a locality willing to pilot a Total Place-style approach to violence against women;



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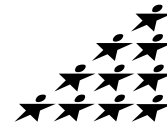
- Continuing to invest in specialist VAWG services such as Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, Independent Sexual Violence Advisers, help lines, and Sexual Assault Referral Centres;
- Ensuring violence against women is included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process to establish current and future needs of the population;
- Publishing a recommended framework for local commissioners to bring together areas such as health, crime and children's services;
- Exploring the development of a wide ranging violence against women indicator in the national indicator set;
- Improving the way violence against women is included in existing audit and inspection arrangements and in the Comprehensive Area Assessment process;
- Encouraging every local authority to have a co-ordinated violence against women and girls strategy with a director-level champion working across partnership structures in the area (e.g. including LSPs, Children's Trust and CDRPs) to encourage areas to make arrangements that best suit local circumstances to drive this forward;
- Working with a wide range of professional bodies and others to explore how violence against women could be included in initial training for all frontline staff or in continuing professional development; and,
- Launching an awards scheme to celebrate the achievements of local areas delivering excellence in tackling violence against women and to recognise best practice.

### **Local partnerships' views of the strategy**

10. Detective Superintendent Jon Chapman from Hertfordshire Constabulary has been invited to address the Board and talk about the opportunities and challenges presented by the strategy from a practitioner perspective, including what will make a real difference in tackling violence against women and girls. It would then be helpful to have members' views on the proposals in the strategy and what the LGA Group could be doing to assist councils on this agenda.
11. As the strategy's proposals effect the work not only of this Board, but also the Children and Young People's Board and the Community Wellbeing Board this report will be shared with the other two Boards and their views also sought on the proposals in the strategy.

### **Financial Implications**

12. Any costs associated with work on this area will be met from existing LGA Group budgets and resources.



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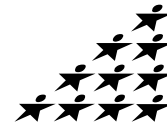
## **Implications for Wales**

13. The strategy applies to England only as Wales already has a Domestic Abuse Strategy. However the Welsh Assembly Government will be considering ways to address the issues covered by the strategy.

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12 January 2010

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## **Police Accountability Working Group**

### **Summary**

In July 2009 the Safer Communities Board received a paper on police accountability, and looked at the motions which were tabled at the 2009 LGA General Assembly on improving police accountability. As a result of its discussions the Board agreed to set up a members' working group to look further at this area. This report sets out the results of the working group's work and the proposals it has made in a number of areas.

### **Recommendations**

Board members are invited to:

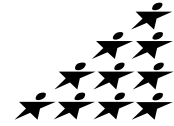
- a. Endorse the LGA's submission to the Home Office about competencies for police authority members as the basis for discussions with the Home Office and APA over the proposal in the Policing White Paper to establish competencies for all police authority members.
- b. Agree the working group's recommendation that existing models of good practice for strengthening the links between local authorities and police authorities are identified and made available to councils and police authorities.
- c. Endorse the working group's proposals for strengthening police accountability.

### **Action**

LGA officers to reflect the Board's view in the LGA's work on strengthening police authorities and improving police accountability.

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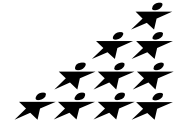
## **Police Accountability Working Group**

### **Background**

1. At its meeting in July 2009 the Safer Communities Board received a paper on police accountability, and looked at the motions which were tabled at the 2009 LGA General Assembly on improving police accountability. As a result of its discussions the Board agreed to set up a members' working group to look further at this area.
2. The working group was specifically tasked with examining how the relationships between police authorities and local authorities could be improved, and looking at different models and structures of local police accountability in order to inform any discussions with the main political parties about improving police accountability. Three meetings of the working group were held to discuss these issues. This report sets out the conclusions reached by the working group.

### **Improving relationships between local authorities and police authorities**

3. The first issue the working group looked at was how the relationship between councils and police authorities could be strengthened, and two key areas were considered: ensuring that councillor members of police authorities can provide effective and credible challenge to the police; and, improving the links between councils and police authorities.
4. The working group was of the view that many police authorities had exceptionally skilled councillor members who were able to provide strong and effective scrutiny of the police, and who ensure the police were accountable to the communities they serve. However it was accepted that this position was not universal. The working group went on therefore to look at proposals for improving the skills and ability of councillors to hold the police to account.
5. Noting the existing competency framework for independent members of police authorities the working group agreed this should be adapted and made applicable to councillors. In particular the working group felt that strategic management and engagement skills needed to be part of the competency framework for councillors. The working group also thought the framework could be strengthened through the addition of a personal development and review process. Members, however, rejected the need for a protocol on appointments between councils and police authorities and also rejected the idea that only leaders or portfolio holders should be nominated on to police authorities as this was felt to be too restrictive.



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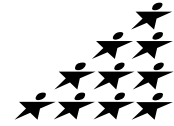
6. At the meeting held in September between the Policing Minister, David Hanson MP, and the LGA about the development of the Policing White Paper, the Home Office indicated they were considering proposals to strengthen police authorities by establishing competencies for police authority chairs and members. The LGA therefore agreed to submit its proposals on competencies, developed from the working group's conclusions. A copy of the submission is attached at **Appendix A**. As a result of this the Policing White Paper contains a commitment by the Home Office to work with the APA, LGA and WLGA to set a broad range of competencies for all police authority members. Members are therefore asked to endorse the LGA's submission as the basis for further discussions with Government on this issue.
7. The working group also considered how the links between councils and police authorities could be strengthened. Members noted that there was a considerable amount of existing good practice in places like the Greater Manchester, North Yorkshire and the West Midlands where the police authority had already established close links with its local authorities. Drawing on some of this practice the working group felt more structured links which could be more widely promoted might include:
  - reports to each council meeting by the police authority chair and the councils' own nominee to the police authority;
  - provision of a broad range of information;
  - regular meetings between the local authority and the chair and chief executive of the police authority; and,
  - the provision of information to, and meetings with, district councils.

Members are asked to agree the working group's recommendation that existing models of good practice are identified and widely disseminated to local authorities and police authorities.

### **Models and structures for improving police accountability**

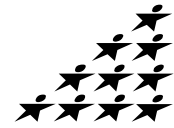
8. The other area of work the working group examined was police accountability. One point made by the Board at its July meeting, which the working group had regard for, was that one model of accountability might not suit all areas, and structures may need to vary from area to area. The working group also decided that it would work within the parameters of the existing police force structure, rather than considering changes to the way forces are organised. Furthermore it decided that due to the unique nature of the Metropolitan Police it would not consider changes to its existing accountability structures.
9. Having looked at a wide range of possible models, including those identified by Sir Ronnie Flanagan in his 2008 Review of Policing, along with those put forward by a range of think tanks such as the Centre for Social Justice, the New Local Government Network and LGiU, the working group held the view that retaining a separate body responsible for holding the police to account was





vitaly important as it would avoid the resource issues police forces had faced prior to the creation of independent police authorities in the mid-1990s. The working group therefore wished to retain police authorities as the means of holding the police to account, albeit with a number of changes to improve accountability.

10. It was felt there should be greater involvement for councils in the appointment and assessment of local senior police officers. Taking account of chief constables' desire for senior police officers to be accountable to them, and the fact that some senior police officer appointments did not necessarily involve interviews, the working group felt the greater involvement in the appointments process need not be a formal one. One means of involving councillors could involve the opportunity for leaders and chief executives to meet the candidates and to pass comments back to the chief constable. The working group also took the view that the recruitment of independently appointed members of police authorities should be opened up more widely. Rather than just rely on people applying to be independent members through open recruitment, the working group felt that the police authority and force could be more proactive in seeking candidates, with neighbourhood policing teams for example encouraging applications and also explaining how the appointments process works.
11. Where a police force covers only unitary or metropolitan councils (such as the four Welsh police forces, and around eight other forces such as Greater Manchester and the West Midlands) the working group felt these changes and those related to improving the skills of councillors appointed to police authorities would be sufficient to improve police accountability.
12. With the nine or so forces that cover just one county (for example Suffolk and Hertfordshire) and no other types of authority, the working group concluded that in addition to the changes already outlined there needed to be district council representation on the police authority. One or two district council representatives would replace one or two county council nominees, with the districts in an area being left to determine who their representatives were. The overall councillor make up of the police authority would need to retain political balance. This model could also be applied to those forces covering a county and one or two unitary authorities like Staffordshire and North Yorkshire. The county council and unitary authorities would need to have their representation reduced to allow for one or two district council representatives.
13. With forces that cover one or more counties and several unitary authorities such as West Mercia, Avon and Somerset and Thames Valley the working group was of the view that district council representation could only be achieved with an increase in the size of the police authorities concerned from 17 to 19 members (19 to 21 in the case of Thames Valley). This would provide one additional councillor member and an extra independent member, retaining the balance between councillors and independently appointed members. The increase in



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councillors would allow one or two district council representatives on to the police authority. Members' endorsement is sought of these proposals as a formal LGA position and to inform lobbying activity going forward.

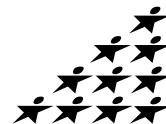
### **Financial Implications**

14. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report.

### **Implications for Wales**

15. Given the unitary structure of local government in Wales and the working group recommendations there would be no changes to police accountability structures in Wales.

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## **Police Accountability Working Group - Submission on police authority members' competencies**

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# Policing White Paper – Competencies for Police Authority Members

9 October 2009

## Introduction

1. The Local Government Association (LGA) represents over 400 local authorities across England and Wales. In its role the LGA aims to put councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective.

## Background

2. In responding to last year's Policing Green Paper the LGA agreed a joint submission on a cross party basis with the Association of Police Authorities (APA). This submission set out an alternative set of proposals to improve the accountability of the police to the communities they serve to those in the Green Paper, which would have seen the reform of police authority membership through the introduction of directly-elected crime and policing representatives.
3. The starting point for the joint submission was an acceptance on the part of both the LGA and APA that police accountability needed to be improved. One important component identified in improving police accountability in the submission was strengthening police authorities. The need to strengthen police force-wide governance arrangements so they are better able to hold chief constables to account, scrutinise police budgets and make real efficiency savings remains. Given that councillors form the majority of police authority membership the skills of councillors are of paramount importance in strengthening police accountability, and councils have a clear role in ensuring councillor advice and expertise in this area is effective and credible. That is not to say that councillor members do not have the skills needed. In many cases they do, and are exceptionally good at scrutinising the police, but there are inevitable variations in the levels of skills possessed.
4. To address this issue the LGA has been looking at the skills and competencies needed by councillors nominated on to police authorities, particularly for Chairs and Vice-Chairs, to ensure that they are as effective as possible from the time they become a police authority member. The LGA's Safer Communities Board which has responsibility for policing and community safety issues within the Association established a working party to look at the skills and competencies of councillor members of police authorities in July.
5. At the same time emerging policy proposals for the Policing White Paper are looking to set leadership competencies for the chairs of police authorities, to provide a further incentive to improve police authority performance. The proposals may also seek to provide powers to tackle leaders who fail. Though the LGA does not believe police authority chairs can be singled out in this way due to their corporate nature and believes there are better means of improving performance than targeting the chair for sanctions, this paper sets out what the LGA believes can be done to provide a competency framework for all members of police authorities. This will help ensure police authority scrutiny of the police is further strengthened.

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# submission

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## **A competency framework for all police authority members**

6. Rather than starting afresh and creating a separate competency framework that could apply to councillors, the LGA's working group started with the existing competency framework created by the APA for the independent members of police authorities. This framework is part of the joint APA and Home Office guidance provided to police authorities on the selection and appointment of independent members. The most recent version was produced in April 2008. The framework sets out the skills, abilities and personal qualities expected of police authority members. It is consciously intended to assist all those involved in the appointment of police authority members.
7. Sections 3 and 4 of the framework set out the key requirements of being a police authority member, as well as the personal skills and qualities needed. These competencies provide the foundation for the key attributes police authority members need. As such they can apply equally to councillor as well as independent members appointed to police authorities. The LGA believes that the existing competency framework can therefore be extended to councillor members as well as independent members. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a revised version of the framework, including the three points set out below.
8. The LGA would however add to the existing competencies three particular points. First would be a requirement on chairs and vice-chairs of police authorities to demonstrate an ability to raise awareness of the police authority and its role with the public, and to strengthen its relation with its chief constable. The relationship with the Chief Constable should of course be based on a professional understanding and respect about the roles. One issue that has arisen out of discussions about police accountability has been the lack of public awareness of police authorities and what they do. The APA is looking to address this but it would assist in this process if there was a requirement for chairs and vice-chairs to raise awareness of their authority with the public they serve. An additional means of doing this would be to give local communities a role in nominating some of the independent members of police authorities. This could be achieved by allowing interest groups in an area such as within an area such as chambers of commerce, businesses associations, the voluntary sector, trade unions, tenants and residents associations or from the ranks of local neighbourhood watch members or community crime fighters.
9. Second by their nature councillors have a direct contact with local residents and are regularly involved in communicating and consulting with the communities they serve. The LGA is therefore of the view that in addition to the existing competencies in the framework, there should be a requirement on councillor members to represent their communities and their interests. So in addition to the requirement to attend police authority meetings there would also be a requirement for police authority members to attend public meetings on community safety as well. Part of this competency should include their role in being a link between their home local authority and the police authority. This would mean that councillor members on police authorities received appropriate support and briefings from the council that nominated them, while the councillor member of the police authority would have to formally report back on the work of the police authority to their nominating council.
10. Third to help improve police authority performance, members' skills and abilities should be regularly reviewed so appropriate training and development needs can be identified. The LGA is of the view that the competency framework should include a personal development review process. A number of police authorities already have such review

processes in place for their independent and councillor members. These reviews should become common place, being conducted by the chair of the police authority in conjunction with the chief executive of the police authority. Such reviews should also include feedback to the council which nominated the councillor concerned. Given the political sensitivities this feedback should be to the leader of the political group on the council to which the councillor belongs. Furthermore police authorities and their members need to be open to using processes like peer reviews as a means of improving their performance.

11. The LGA believes that by extending the existing competency framework (with the three additions mentioned above) other more process based means of increasing the skills of police authority members, such as the appointments panels suggested by the recent Blunkett Commission, would not be necessary.
12. Given the work already done in this area and the expertise within the LGA Group and APA on improving performance, the LGA believes that the White Paper does not need to take a prescriptive approach to competencies. Instead it should include a commitment on the part of the Home Office to work in association with the LGA and APA to ensure that the competency framework applies to all police authority members. The work around integrating neighbourhood policing with neighbourhood management set out in the Policing Green Paper provides a successful existing model for doing this, with the IDeA and NPIA taking forward an exemplar programme to identify and disseminate good practice. Such an approach would be beneficial as it would provide local flexibility, which would allow for a tailored response to HMIC and Audit Commission inspection findings. This would allow police authorities to identify particular skills gaps with their local authorities and seek to ensure nominations helped provide the skills needed. This should result in a more deliberative nominations process with councils having to actively encourage a large pool of qualified applicants to ensure they could cover the range of skills police authorities are looking for.

**APA: Competency framework for members of Police Authorities in England and Wales – April 2008 (as amended in light of LGA recommendations)**

**3 Key requirements**

Given the diverse range and complexity of police authorities' functions, newly-appointed members are not expected to have all the requisite skills from the outset. But there are four essential requirements:

**A commitment to policing and to the delivery of a fair and non-discriminatory police service to all members of local communities**

This involves the ability to engage with a wide range of people by seeking out and listening to their views. Members have to demonstrate integrity and be committed to upholding human rights, promoting equality of opportunity and preventing discrimination or harassment.

**Availability**

Members must be prepared to devote at least seven to ten hours on average each week to police authority work. A recent survey of police authority members who did not have additional responsibilities indicated they spent a minimum of seven hours and up to 21 hours per week on police authority business. The average time spent was ten hours. For those with additional responsibilities, such as the chair, the commitment would be much greater.

Members will be expected to attend all meetings of the police authority and to participate effectively as a member of any committee, panel or other fora to which they are appointed, as well as undertaking preparatory work

and attending appropriate training courses and seminars. Councillor members will also be expected to regularly attend meetings with the public to seek their views on policing issues, so that their concerns can inform the police authority's work. Police authority members are entitled to reasonable time off work to carry out their duties.

**A balanced approach**

To promote good policing, authority members need to establish and maintain constructive partnerships with their police force and other organisations, without compromising their core responsibility of providing effective, independent oversight and scrutiny.

**Nolan Principles**

All members must be willing to abide by the Nolan Principles of standards of conduct in public life.

**4 Competencies and personal skills and qualities**

This section sets out the competencies and personal skills and qualities which are particularly relevant to the work undertaken by police authority members.

There is no expectation that all police authority members will have all of these qualities, but authorities will wish to assure themselves that, between the totality of their membership, all these qualities are available to them. All police authority members can make a valuable contribution to the work of the authority from the start, drawing on their



background and expertise gained in their working life, their involvement in the community, voluntary work or other experiences, although members will not be expected to be fully effective immediately. But they must be willing to extend their knowledge and skills in order to play a full part in the wide range of duties for which police authorities are responsible.

## **Competencies**

### **Strategic thinking**

Breadth of vision – the ability to rise above detail, and to see problems and issues from a wider, forward-looking perspective.

### **Good judgement**

To take a balanced, open-minded and objective approach, for example, in evaluating policing priorities, assessing candidates for top level appointments or considering complaints against officers, and to develop an understanding of the environment and context in which the authority and force must operate.

### **Openness to change**

The ability to challenge accepted views constructively without becoming confrontational, and to recognise and respond positively to the need for change, identifying ways in which the organisation in question could be developed, including demonstrating a willingness to use processes like peer reviews to improve the performance of their authority.

### **The ability to scrutinise and challenge**

To be able to rigorously scrutinise and challenge constructively, and exercise effective oversight of all aspects of force performance, using appropriate data, evidence and resources.

### **Analytical ability**

The ability to interpret and question complex written material, including financial and statistical information and other data such as performance measures, and identify the salient points.

### **Ability to communicate effectively**

To be able to explain policing issues clearly, often in public meetings, with the media present, and to engage in constructive dialogue with local communities, the police (including representatives of their staff associations) and other key partners and agencies. To also demonstrate an ability to raise public awareness of the work of the police authority.

### **Community engagement**

To be able to represent the views of the community to the police authority, including views from groups or sections of society with which the authority does not always hear. To also provide a link between the local authority which nominated them and the police authority, regularly informing their council on the police authority's work. In addition to understand the importance of community views in shaping local policing style and be prepared to represent their views in an impartial way, and participate in policy-making aimed at engaging local communities.

### **Effective time management**

To be able to identify priorities and make the most productive use of own and others' time.

### **Personal skills and qualities**

#### **Team working**

The ability to play an effective role in committees and other partnerships through listening,

persuading and showing respect for the views of others.

**Self confidence**

The skill to challenge accepted views constructively without becoming confrontational.

**Personal development, enthusiasm and drive**

To be pro-active in seeking out learning and developmental opportunities to enhance knowledge and understanding, for example on financial matters and statutory requirements, including through the use of personal development reviews. To be open to using such reviews to strengthen personal performance and range of skills.

**Respect for others**

The capacity to treat all people fairly and with respect; value

diversity and respond sensitively to difference.

**Integrity**

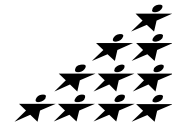
The necessity to embrace high standards of conduct and ethics and be committed to upholding human rights and equality of opportunity for all.

**Leadership**

The confidence to lead by example, establish clear goals and objectives and build support and commitment within the authority and force, as well as the wider community and partner agencies.

**Decisive**

To show resilience, even in challenging circumstances, remaining calm and confident and able to make difficult decisions.



## **Strategic considerations for future engagement and actions with the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)**

### **Summary**

The Safer Communities Board, who have an important policy role and oversight of local authority regulatory services asked for an update from LACORS to better understand the relationship that LACORS and the wider LGA Group have with the LBRO, key strategic and operational issues we may have with them and to consider how we take these forward and importantly our future engagement with them.

### **Recommendation**

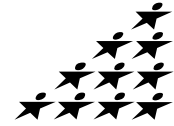
The Board is asked to consider the report and the current and future role of LBRO and how this may impact on council regulatory services, LACORS and the wider LGA Group and the strategic options in section 3 of the report to secure the best interests of councils and their regulatory services through the work of LACORS and the wider LGA Group.

### **Action**

LACORS' Executive Director and senior management team, continue to progress the implementation of the agreed strategic proposal/s and report back at a suitable time on progress.

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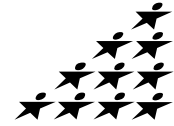




## **Strategic considerations for future engagement and actions with the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)**

### **Background**

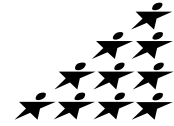
1. A confidential report on this matter has been considered and agreed by the LACORS board at its meeting on 11th September 2009. This report outlined a range of strategic options for future engagement and actions in relation to the Government's LBRO, as we move towards a general election next year and the LBRO's sunset clause contained under section 17 (2) of the Regulation Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. The report provided a strong steer to ensure that LACORS has a clear focus on how best to secure the interests of council's regulatory services, LACORS itself and the wider LGA Group.
2. The LBRO were set up in 2007, to implement a number of the key recommendations from the Hampton Review to deliver better regulation principles and reduce the administrative burdens to businesses from Inspection and enforcement. This was a precursor to LBRO becoming a statutory body with statutory powers under the Regulation Enforcement and Sanctions Act (RES Act). They have been given some very specific responsibilities for local regulatory services that include:
  - Supporting service improvement in local authority regulatory services
  - Directly delivering consistency, principally through the primary authority mechanism
  - Acting to improve the local authority regulatory services system
3. The Primary Authority scheme is a LBRO flagship priority that aims to deliver consistency of enforcement with the ultimate intention that it replaces LACORS' Home Authority Principle scheme (HAP) and the HSE's/Local authorities Lead Authority partnership scheme (LAPS), which are both voluntary. LBRO have set aside £2.7m over three years for a scheme which it is expected will be significantly smaller in terms of number of businesses (and therefore councils) signed up than the current LACORS scheme and considerably more expensive in total set up and running costs to administer. Many councils we have spoken to are clear they want to keep HAP and LAPS and wish LACORS to continue to develop and support both schemes.
4. LACORS on behalf of, and with the support from the LGA Group, lobbied strongly when the RES Bill was going through both Houses against some of the specific powers proposed for the LBRO. These included the requirement for consent from the Primary Authority before an enforcing authority could take a prosecution against a business for a regulatory offence and the powers of the LBRO to direct a council to become a Primary Authority, if there was not



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agreement between the council and the business seeking a Primary authority relationship. However, we did gain a major concession that allows councils to charge businesses for PAS partnership services.

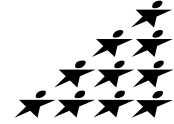
5. It is clear that the LBRO, who are a government quango, has strategically positioned itself in the local government improvement sector and very much in the arena that LACORS operates within. Notwithstanding the joint statement for working together that LBRO and LACORS signed in March 2008, that attempts to clarify our respective roles and where we will work together, LBRO have directed resources very much in the improvement arena that LACORS undertakes on behalf of our sector. The LBRO are clearly focusing on the performance of council's regulatory services, rather than focusing upstream on reducing red tape, unnecessary regulations on businesses and councils, ensuring only essential national priorities are required for councils to deliver and coordinating central government departments on regulatory matters.
6. LACORS' strategic aim with the LBRO has included avoiding wherever possible overlap and duplication and complement not compete, for example on matters such as professional competence and excellence; leadership in council regulatory services, support to new unitary councils, promoting shared services, economic recession and regulatory services and swine flu advice where the LBRO have in some of these cases undertaken and duplicated work we have ourselves been actively involved in on behalf of the sector.
7. Whilst on the one hand we welcome support that adds value to councils, that provides clarity and coordination from government departments and that helps lobby government to win more resources direct to council regulatory services, the LBRO have also given rise to over prescription from guidance and advice which has not been helpful to councils in the sector.
8. It is therefore very important that LACORS and the LGA Group considers a future engagement strategy that ensures the best interests of the sector in terms of support offered to help drive improvement in service quality, effectiveness and value for money. A key role for the LGA Group is to secure the best interests of councils and hence the communities they serve and the LGA Group business plan for 2010/11 focuses our collective priorities on the Economy (supporting councils to lead the country out of recession); Reputation (building the reputation of councils as outstanding service providers, community leaders and employers of choice); Value for Money (supporting councils to greater efficiency and lobbying for the funding they need to deliver the job); Democracy (ensuring local decision-making and local government led improvement is at the centre of debate, particularly in election year); and Customer Service (fit for purpose LGA Group, delivering excellent, value for money services to councils and councillors);



9. The LBRO is of government, reporting into the Better Regulation Executive who sit within the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). It therefore has a difficulty when it comes to robustly challenging central government on matters that are in the best interest of local government and it cannot claim that it represents or when seeking improvements from council regulatory services that they are sector led. However, it is acknowledged that there has been some interesting and in some cases useful research work they have commissioned, although again when looking at the £4.6m pa funding (compared to LACORS £2.08m top slice funding), they should be expected to be able to commission major research work. They have also contributed ongoing funding to bursary places to a LACORS led strategic leadership programme in modern local government and for regional coordination of trading standards services in England, Wales, and Scotland, although these are currently being reviewed.
10. LACORS board of directors concluded that it will be important to raise our own profile, to publicise LACORS/LGA Group successes more and emphasise we are an important part of the local government sector. We also need to highlight better what we provide on behalf of councils up and down the country, particularly as there are likely to be significant financial cuts across the public sector whoever is in government next year, which will have an impact on councils and the LGA Group.
11. The Board also felt public criticism of LBRO should be avoided. However, it is possible that the LBRO will be included if a further quango score card report is planned by the LGA Group and that as a quango we wish to challenge them on issues such as value for money, accountability and decision making and openness. It will be important for LACORS to engage further with government and opposition spokespersons on regulatory and related matters and with senior representatives of the business community. Crucially, LACORS as an integral part of the LGA group, needs to continue to develop our customer service excellence work that provides high quality services and support and the best possible value for money to our councils.

### **LBRO and an engagement strategy**

12. It is clearly important to produce a balanced report and therefore recognise and identify where the LBRO have had success. Some of LBRO's success to date has been when supporting LACORS led initiatives or sponsoring local government events for example with the former, the self assessment/peer challenge programme for regulatory services; the strategic leadership in modern local government programme for regulatory services managers, and for the latter a Beacon award category on cutting red tape. LBRO was also the main sponsor for the LGA Group conference this year, giving them a very high profile and exposure. The LBRO have also had some success with their 'trading places' scheme where regulatory services staff spend a couple of days in a private sector organisation.



13. They are of course well placed at the Better Regulation Executive and hence the sponsoring Business, Innovation and Skills department (BIS), having direct access to Ministers and senior civil servants and have already (as LACORS has) met with John Penrose MP, Opposition Spokesperson for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. As a Government sponsored organisation they have close contact with other Departments with regulatory responsibilities affecting local authorities e.g. the Food Standards Agency, the Health and Safety Executive, Defra, DCMS, etc, and for local government more generally through CLG. It is also worth noting that they have engaged closely with the professional societies Trading Standards Institute (TSI) and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and funded them to carry out a range of work activities.

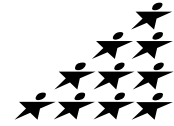
#### **Future engagement and actions strategy in the coming months**

14. The general perception from many is that both the LBRO and LACORS operate in the same territory and therefore it could be argued that there is room for only one organisation in this part of the sector.
15. Whilst we are very confident that in any survey or poll of Heads of Service, practitioners and many councillors with regulatory services and/or licensing responsibilities, given a direct choice between our respective organisations they would undoubtedly choose LACORS. However, this would not be nearly as clear with representatives of the business sector, particularly the CBI, BRC, the big supermarket retailers and probably the Federation of Small Businesses.

#### **An outline way forward – Strategic Options**

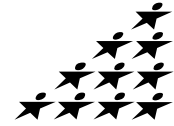
16. LACORS will focus on its commitments, objectives, work plans, programmes and projects in the current and next years business plans to ensure we deliver on these and continue to provide customer service excellence to councils working in the sector. We will also need to ensure we continue our own improvement journey and build on our customer service excellence work to meet the future needs of councils and their regulatory services.
17. LACORS must engage the sector more and revisit our 'leading by listening' work carried out in late 2007. We will look to explore through our own Board members and senior LGA Group councillors our dialogue with senior councillors and work more effectively across the regions.
18. Whilst we will need to ensure we have regard to the work of the LBRO our focus must be on adding value to councils and their regulatory services and we do not divert too many resources into 'watching and monitoring' LBRO, diverting us away from our core business.





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19. LACORS will through its work with the LGA Group, continue to demonstrate our role and contribution to the Group priorities, ensuring we remain an important, valued and integral part of the Group that focuses on sector led improvement and effective lobby, influence and representation of the sector. We will aim for a more visible presence at LGA Group events including conferences and other relevant high profile events which will be further enhanced as the LGA Group 'Getting Closer' strategy and associated work streams including the communications review and branding exercise fall into place.
  
20. That said, there are a number of specific things LACORS can do that will strengthen our position, identify where LBRO are not delivering and ensure that we more formally record any of their 'failures'. LACORS should make this clearer to the LBRO and where necessary other key stakeholders and start to 'ratchet up' through managerial and political structures, where lack of LBRO delivery has or is likely to have a direct and negative impact on councils. These include:-
  - At regular joint programme and project meeting reviews, failure to carry out agreed activities are formally recorded and risk assessed (as they are now) and that these failures are then taken up in writing with the relevant senior manager. Where the failure or lack of acceptable progress continues, this will be raised at the regular LBRO Chief Executive and LACORS Executive Director meetings and confirmed in writing and requesting a written response from LBRO.
  - LACORS review the LBRO priorities and specific objectives and work programmes and identify and record them and again raise these at the appropriate level.
  - Having a more formal Chairman to Chairman meeting with a clear, focused agenda where some of the higher level matters can be raised, discussed and either agreed or where agreement is not reached formally put on the record.
  - Identifying activities where LBRO have not properly engaged the LGA Group in areas which are more clearly better positioned as sector led improvement propositions, either through lack of early consultation or finished publications/proposals/recommendations.
  - However, we need to take care and ensure that LACORS and the LGA Group are beyond reproach on these matters and where it is necessary and appropriate that we engage, consult and discuss relevant LACORS/LGA Group led projects and activities with LBRO. Thus avoiding any undermining and criticism of LACORS or the LGA Group by LBRO or government.



## **Local Government Association**

- A clearer lobbying and influencing role, particularly through LACORS Chairman and senior members and key senior LGA Group councillors, with Government Ministers and opposition spokespersons. We must also enter into more robust and productive dialogue with senior representatives of business e.g. BRC, CBI and the Federation of Small Businesses, to put our case to them but also to listen to their concerns and criticisms and where appropriate respond effectively to them.
21. A major challenge (and this applies to both organisations) has to be around how we make sure our actions and those of the sector are based on robust evidence and intelligence gathering and that there is a greater focus on delivery outcomes that are properly analysed, considered and evaluated. Our business plan this year attempts to be more outcome focused but there is still more work to be done in this respect.
  22. The LBRO have a sunset clause for the organisation as soon as practicable after October 2011 and it will be important that we prepare in readiness for evidence we will want to give to Parliament reflecting the views and consensus of the sector on LBRO's usefulness, performance and value for money and for them to in effect justify why they should exist in future.
  23. This report outlines the challenges, risks and some practical and pragmatic proposals that LACORS can do that aims ensure LACORS on behalf of the LGA Group continues to drive improvement, add value and give value to council regulatory public protection services across the UK. However, this is not easy and we have to work within the system with both political and organisational sensitivity. Our overriding aim is to make sure council regulatory and related services are supported with high quality, efficient and effective sector led service delivery.

### **Financial Implications**

24. This report primarily refers to England and Wales but also has an impact on the services we provide for councils in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

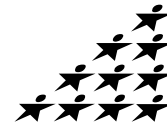
### **Implications for Wales**

25. There are no direct financial implications and any specific activities that emerge from the report recommendations will be contained within our existing resources. However, LACORS business plan for 2010/11 is based on a 20% financial scenario reduction in preparation for a reduced RSG top slice bid by the LGA Group central bodies from 2011/12 to the CLG.

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## **Regulatory Services Update from LACORS**

### **Summary**

This report contains some key information about regulatory services issues that are relevant to the Safer Communities Board.

### **Recommendations**

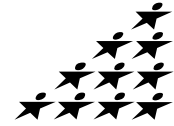
That the Board note the activities outlined.

### **Action**

For information only.

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## **Update on Regulatory Services Issues**

### **Background**

1. LACORS has been asked to provide the Board with an update of key regulatory services issues at each Board meeting. These items are for note only but LACORS staff will be happy to answer any questions.

### **Summary of Key Activities**

#### **Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs)**

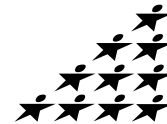
2. On 4 December LACORS Board of Directors agreed that LACORS will start work to support council taxi and PHV licensing until March 2011, as part of LACORS' support to council regulatory services. During the last 6 months the views of council licensing practitioners, councillors, Government, trade associations and other affected parties were sought. A consensus of opinion emerged on what LACORS might do to add value to council taxi licensing departments. LACORS will now develop a work plan for the coming year to support councils. To help LACORS further refine those priorities with councils, a conference is taking place on 9/2/09.

#### **Services Directive**

3. The Services Directive had to be implemented by all councils by 28 December 2009. It provides for on line applications for all licensing, registrations, permissions and authorisations for anyone providing a "service". A Community of Practice on the IDEA website is in place and provides a tool for councils to share experiences and generate best practice. LACORS has produced guidance to help councils ensure the fees set at a local level meet the requirements of the Directive.

#### **RIPA - Consultation on the Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice**

4. Following the recent consultations, we are expecting new RIPA Orders in January. LACORS has been working with the Home Office on the drafting and we expect them to reflect much of the LGA/LACORS response which means that councils stay within the RIPA framework. The following new requirements will be:
  - Authorising officers need to be a higher 'rank' (Director, Head of Service or Service Manager)
  - One member of the corporate leadership team will be responsible for ensuring that all authorising officers are of an appropriate standard in light of the inspection reports prepared by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner.



## ***Local Government Association***

- Councillors should review the authority's use of the Act and set the policy at least once a year.
- Councillors should also consider internal reports on use of the Act at least quarterly.
- Councillors should not be involved in making decisions on specific authorisations.

### **Civil sanctions**

5. BIS is undertaking a piece of work to implement civil sanctions as an alternative to the use of the criminal courts. There seems limited appetite for the civil sanctions within the Government itself with the Health and Safety Executive, Food Standards Agency, Office of Fair Trading and the National Metrological Office all saying they are not planning to allow their use. Councils have fed-back to us that they have limited enthusiasm for the sanctions due to the complicated and costly nature of administering them. We will therefore to continue to take this approach with our lobbying.

### **Regulation of Greyhound Stadiums**

6. LACORS has serious concerns about the proposals for the regulation of greyhound stadiums, and these have been communicated to Defra. It is our view that the regulations will not tackle the key policy objective of protecting the welfare of dogs. LACORS successfully lobbied Defra away from requiring dual registration. Most tracks will now be registered by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, leaving 6 tracks subject to council control. However as drafted the legislation is inflexible and does not offer a workable licensing regime for those councils affected.

### **Health and Safety at Work Enforcement**

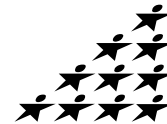
7. Toolkits are now available for councils to help them in assessing compliance with s18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act which lays down the framework within which councils must carry out their enforcement duties. All enforcing authorities must be fully compliant with the Standard by April 2011.

### **E.coli on Petting Farms**

8. LACORS is contributing to the Griffin investigation into the outbreak. The investigation is still receiving evidence and we understand that the findings from the investigation will be presented in the new year.

### **Live Music**

9. LACORS has worked with colleagues in the Musicians' Union, the British Beer & Pub Association, DCMS and the LGA to produce information for musicians and the trade setting out the options for putting on small scale live music in



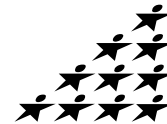
## ***Local Government Association***

licensed premises. A leaflet has been sent to all 32,000 members of the Musicians' Union and BBPA will also be sending the document to all its members. The group has also produced guidance explaining the incidental exemptions in the Licensing Act (where music is ancillary to the main purpose of visiting the venue such as restaurants and bistros).

10. The Government is proposing an exemption to the 2003 Licensing Act which would allow bars, clubs and cafes to put on live music for fewer than 100 people without the need for a licence. Councillors are worried this could pave the way for neighbourhood cafes and bars to stage noisy events without local residents being able to have a say.
11. An LGA Group survey of licensing officers found 9 out of 10 think the proposals to relax the rules for venues would lead to an increase in complaints about noise and nuisance and more than half said they expected the increase to be considerable. The CTS Board has presented these findings to DCMS and will continue to lobby on this point.

### **Policing & Crime Act: Licensing**

12. The Home Office will need to draw up secondary legislation for the proposed mandatory conditions, and guidance will also need to be amended before implementation.
13. Individual members of licensing authorities will be "interested parties". This last minute amendment was as a result of LGA Group lobbying. It has a slightly wider definition than other Interested Parties in that they can make representations or seek a review, regardless of whether they live in the vicinity or have been asked to by someone who does. This is due to be implemented on 29 January.
14. The offence for persistently selling alcohol to under 18s will be amended so that it occurs after 2 or more different occasions rather than 3 or more. This will be implemented on 29 January 2010.
15. Lap dancing will now be regulated under the new Sex Entertainment Venue (SEV) licensing regime. Currently such venues are licensed in the same way as other premises, which means there is no way of limiting how many open in a locality. The LGA Group has supported the introduction of new licensing regime that will make it simpler for local people to object and local authorities to reject a licence application. The new scheme will also allow authorities to limit numbers of SEVs in a locality and issue conditions on SEV licences.
16. Implementation is expected in April 2010. The Policing and Crime Act retains an exemption, which the LGA has lobbied against, for premises where the relevant entertainment takes place less frequently than once a month.



**Local Government Association**

### **DCMS Consultations on Changes to the Licensing Act**

17. DCMS are consulting on proposed amendments to the Licensing Act 2003, including simplifying the requirements for the revision of licensing statements (i.e. removing the requirement to review it every 3 years).

### **Financial Implications**

18. None for the purposes of this report.

### **Implications for Wales**

19. The issues outlined in this report apply to both England and Wales.

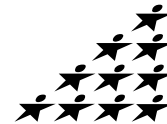
Contact Officer:

Contact Officer: Wendy Martin

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## **Meetings with outside bodies**

### **Summary**

This paper is to inform the members of the Board of the activities that have been undertaken since the last meeting by Board members and officers.

### **Recommendations**

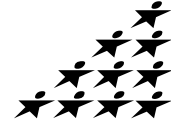
Board members are asked to note the report.

### **Actions**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

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**Local Government Association**

## **Meetings with outside bodies**

### **Member activity**

#### **TV debate on Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)**

Councillor Taylor was asked at short notice to appear on the Politics Show on Sunday 22 November to talk about ASBOs. The programme centred on a mother who felt her child had been unfairly given an ASBO. Councillor Taylor provided a local government view on the use and need for ASBOs.

#### **National Citizen Focus Policing Conference**

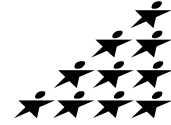
Councillor Lawrence was invited to speak at this conference held in Liverpool on behalf of the LGA, and which was based around the theme of the police confidence target. The LGA was asked to outline how the police and councils could work in partnership to engage communities. In his speech Councillor Lawrence outlined local authorities' engagement with the confidence target, the experience councils have in trying to move public perceptions such as the LGA's own reputation campaign, and some areas of good practice. Other speakers at the conference included Chief Constable Julie Spence, the ACPO lead on the confidence agenda and speakers from the NPIA, HMIC and Ipsos MORI. One area the conference heard about was the difference in the confidence scores between looking at the police performance on their own and then asking about the police and local authority performance together.

#### **Launch of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy**

The LGA was invited to attend a celebration of the launch of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy by the Home Secretary and other departmental ministers. Councillor Spicer represented the LGA at the celebration along with Marianne Fellowes, MBE, the Domestic Abuse Team Manager for Suffolk Police and also a district councillor in Suffolk.

#### **Association of Police Authorities Annual Conference**

The APA's annual conference, which was held in Nottingham this year, included a panel session on partnership working at which the LGA were invited to provide a key note presentation. Councillor Lawrence attended the conference to represent the LGA at this session. In his speech Councillor Lawrence made reference to the close working relationship between the LGA and APA which has been strengthened by joint activity around the Policing Green Paper. One of the key points Councillor Lawrence was able to make was the LGA's view that police authorities could be strengthened both by better communications with councils and improving the skills of police authority members. Other speakers at this



## ***Local Government Association***

session included the Chief Executive of Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership and the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Police Authority.

### **Criminal Justice in Action**

As is detailed elsewhere in the Board's papers Councillor Smith held an event in Lichfield at the start of December to bring local services responsible for preventing offending and reoffending together with the Criminal Justice Council. Councillor Lawrence was able to attend part of the event between commitments in Birmingham and provide the LGA's perspective on the issues of bringing crime reduction partnerships together with the various elements of the criminal justice system.

### **IDeA Leadership Academy - Community Safety Programme**

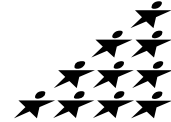
The IDeA Leadership Academy hosted its first two day community safety programme at the start of December. The programme which was aimed at community safety portfolio holders or opposition spokespersons sought to inform the councillors involved in the latest thinking about community safety and tackling crime. The participants heard from Stephen Rimmer, the Director General for Crime Reduction and Community Safety at the Home Office, and speakers from the IDeA, Milton Keynes, Bracknell Forest and the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

### **Meeting with Baroness Stern**

Baroness Stern was commissioned in September by the government to conduct an independent review of how public authorities respond to complaints of rape, with her review reporting in February 2010. As part of her review the Baroness wished to meet the LGA, and a meeting was arranged for early December at which Councillor Lucas represented the Board. Issues covered at the meeting were the role of local government in rape complaints, what the LGA thought the impact of localism would be on the way public authorities respond to rape complaints and whether there was any innovative work the Baroness should be aware of.

### **National Crime Reduction Board**

The National Crime Reduction Board meeting in mid-December, which Councillor Lawrence attended, considered progress against the Home Office's Crime Strategy and also looked at emerging challenges. The Home Office has identified these challenges as being increases in acquisitive crime, the effect of the recession and youth unemployment on youth crime patterns and reducing crime by designing out crime - such as making the theft of mobile phones much less attractive. Increases in acquisitive crime are being addressed by Operation Vigilance, which as members heard from at the Board's last meeting includes peer challenges to the partnerships in the programme from the IDeA.



## **Officer activity**

### **National CCTV Strategy and CCTV Regulator**

The National CCTV Strategy published in 2007 recommended the creation of a national CCTV regulator. In December the Policing Minister, David Hanson MP, announced the appointment of an interim CCTV regulator and a new oversight body. As well as including the new regulator the oversight body will consist of a board to deliver the strategy, and a new Independent Advisory Group. Officers have been lobbying for a place on the Advisory Group for the LGA to represent the interests of councils and feed their views into the new regulator, and though a final decision will not be made on the composition of the Advisory Group until later this month, the Home Office seems to be persuaded by the LGA's case. Officers also understand that the interim regulator's priority is to produce a report by the end of 2010 on whether the regulation of CCTV (including privately owned CCTV) needs legislation or can rely on voluntary compliance, whether a CCTV regulator is needed, and what standards are needed for CCTV equipment, its installation and operation.

### **Reducing re-offending**

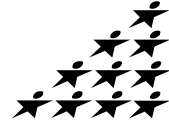
The Policing and Crime Act 2009 includes a statutory duty on CDRPs/CSPs to reduce re-offending and makes probation a responsible authority alongside the police, councils, the fire and rescue service, police authorities and the health service in CDRPs/CSPs. It is anticipated that this duty will come into effect in April 2010. Ahead of that the Ministry of Justice and Home Office have been developing guidance for CDRPs/CSPs on what the duty will mean and how they can go about reducing re-offending. The LGA and, through the Board's community safety advisers network, a number of local authorities, have been involved in workshops with the Ministry of Justice to comment on and help refine the guidance which is due out in early 2010.

### **APA business planning event**

The LGA alongside HMIC, the IPCC, the NPIA, the Home Office and ACPO was invited by the APA to attend a stakeholder consultation meeting about the development of their strategic plan for 2010-2013 and business plan for 2009-2010. Part of the meeting involved consideration of a draft vision and mission statement for the APA. The LGA contribution was to ensure that work around some of the proposals in the Policing White Paper, the police confidence target and financing policing activity were included in the APA's work, which the initial drafts of the plans indicated they would be.

### **Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy**

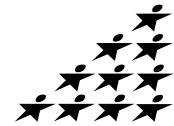
As is reported elsewhere on the Board's agenda the Home Office is developing a Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy. The LGA has been involved in the steering group developing the overall strategy and a number of sub-groups



***Local Government Association***

looking at particular elements of the strategy, seeking to ensure that the interests of local authorities are included in the final strategy.

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## **Criminal Justice in Action**

### **Summary**

The Board's representative on the Criminal Justice Council, Cllr Smith, arranged a visit of Council members to Lichfield to meet local agencies involved in preventing offending and reoffending. This paper provides members with a report on the event and attaches a copy of the report prepared by Lichfield District Council for the Criminal Justice Council setting out the key issues identified during the visit.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the paper and report from Lichfield District Council to the Criminal Justice Council.

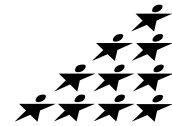
### **Action**

LGA officers to action as required.

Contact Officer: Mark Norris  
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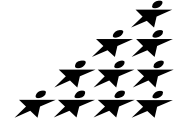
## **Criminal Justice in Action**

### **Background**

1. Cllr David Smith is the Board's representative on the Criminal Justice Council, which is chaired by Lord Justice Leveson. The Criminal Justice Council discusses issues and initiatives across the criminal justice system, with the intention of reviewing it under review and making proposals for reform of the criminal justice system, as well as advising the government on implanting reforms to the criminal justice system. The Council is made up of representatives from various Whitehall departments, as well as professional bodies and organisations with interests in the criminal justice system such as the Crown Prosecution Service, Victim Support, the Law Society and NACRO.
2. Having attended the Council on a number of occasions Cllr Smith thought it would be helpful for members of the Council to learn about the issues facing the criminal justice system and other key agencies on the ground. Members of the Council and other agencies were therefore invited to an event at Lichfield District Council on 2 December 2009 to discuss what needed to be done to prevent offending and reoffending.

### **Criminal Justice in Action**

3. The event, called Criminal Justice in Action, was very well attended with a range of organisations in attendance from Staffordshire and with a national focus. A copy of the report of the meeting to the Criminal Justice Council is attached at **Appendix A**, and the list of attendees is set out in Appendix 2 to the Lichfield report.
4. As members will see from the Lichfield report a wide range of issues were raised at the event. Some of the key points from the discussion from the Board's perspective were:
  - Reducing the fear of crime. Staffordshire Police noted that they have high satisfaction rates (88% are satisfied or very satisfied with the police) with those members of the public they come into contact with, but this is only around 20% of the population. Confidence in the police as measured against the police confidence target is only around 48-49%. As a means of addressing this the police are looking to access information from the criminal justice system so they have general information on the outcome of court cases, while the courts service in Staffordshire has been talking to the local newspaper and agreed a package of information they will receive about court cases, so the journalists have more than just the overall result.
  - Out of court disposals. The Staffordshire court service raised the issue of out of court disposals including the number of cautions and penalty notices used.



The court service felt this had an impact on public confidence as the public did not hear of them, and did not know that action had been taken. The meeting felt that this had to be balanced against the need to avoid criminalising young people, and the Youth Offending Team explained that visible action outside the court was often as effective at preventing further crime and satisfied local people. An incident involving 16 and 17 year olds in one village had not been dealt with by a caution but by getting them to clear up the village which had satisfied the villagers and ensured that sort of incident was not repeated.

- Substance misuse. It was clear from a range of organisations at the meeting that a considerable amount of local crime was related to substance misuse. As a result Staffordshire is establishing a specialist drugs court which would look to address offenders' drugs habits, with there being regular reviews of offenders' progress. It was noted however that while there was considerable funding directed at drugs misuse there were far fewer interventions around alcohol misuse.
- Funding for local services. A number of organisations at the meeting outlined budgetary pressures including a reduction in funding for drugs and alcohol schemes for young people, and the possibility that the number of local courts might have to be reduced with the implications this would have for progressing cases, but also for victims and witnesses. The Total Place programme was noted and it was felt that the freedom to draw budgets together locally and align resources around local priorities was important.

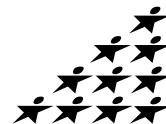
## **Financial Implications**

5. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report.

## **Implications for Wales**

6. There are no separate implications for Wales arising from this report.

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Email: [mark.norris@lga.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@lga.gov.uk)



*Local Government Association*

**Safer Communities Board**

12 January 2010

**Item 7**

Appendix A

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## **Criminal Justice in Action - Lichfield District Council's report to the Criminal Justice Council**

Contact Name/Position: Mark Norris

Telephone: 020 7664 3241

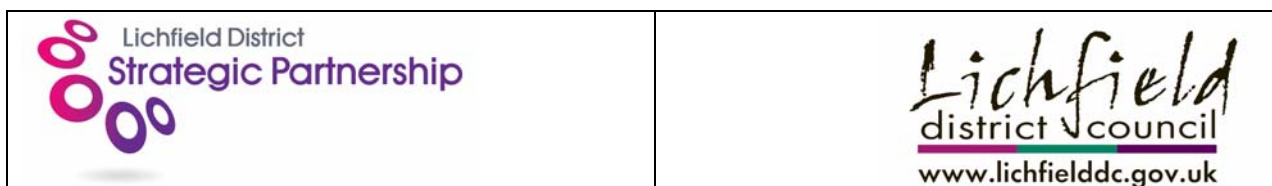
Email: [mark.norris@lga.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@lga.gov.uk)



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

Visit by the Criminal Justice Council to  
Lichfield District Council

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

## SUMMARY REPORT

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The tragic murder of Michael Eccles, which took place in Lichfield during January 2009, was the catalyst for a meeting between members of the Criminal Justice Council, local community safety partners and representatives from the criminal justice system and Home Office. Although the incident was not the focus of the event, it did provide a case study for related issues to be identified and considered.

### 2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The event was based around a discussion on the prevention of offending / reoffending and how agencies could work together to contain the impact of offending upon the community. The programme for the event (attached at **Appendix 1**) provided the opportunity for a range of inputs on specific topic areas within the context of a free flowing debate. Thirty five individuals attended representing 15 different organisations (listed at **Appendix 2**).

### 2.0 KEY THEMES

A wide range of key themes emerged through the discussion and these are set out below:

- 2.1 **Partnership working (local)** - it was recognised that local partnership working (via the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) on crime prevention and problem solving is strong and effective; however, there is a limited interface between community safety partners and the judicial system at both strategic and operational levels. Although it is essential that judicial independence is protected, opportunities to facilitate closer working with the magistrates and CPS could be mutually beneficial. The probation service has recently become a 'Responsible Authority' and this will further strengthen the local focus on offending and preventing reoffending. It was noted that the White Paper 'Protecting the public: supporting the police to succeed' has the potential to simplify the CDRP landscape and develop a closer working relationship with Criminal Justice Boards. However, a 'same for all' approach would not be appropriate and there should always be some scope for **local determination** of priorities and governance structures to address these.

2.2 **Partnership working (national)** - there continues to be some compartmentalisation between different government departments which means that connections between discrete issues are not consistently made and addressed. Different performance management regimes and targets can also mitigate against partnership working (eg. although there is a single confidence indicator, the police and local authority baselines are different). Efforts being made by the LGA to promote cross departmental working at government level should be continued and encouraged.

2.3 **Communication** - the need for more and better communication was recognised at a variety of levels and was a common thread running throughout the event

- **Public confidence needs to be raised;** despite falling levels of crime, fear of crime continues to be high. More effort needs to be put into feeding back on outcomes when an incident is reported or witnessed and more opportunity for both victims and members of the community to be able to track progress on specific cases once they have entered the justice system. Very local initiatives such as community newsletters, covering a small number of streets or a neighbourhood, were felt to be effective and should be promoted
- **The confidence of community safety practitioners needs to be raised;** a recent survey of officers who work within the community safety / criminal justice arena highlighted their own levels of confidence in 'the system' which were even lower than those of the public. This could be addressed through more dialogue between practitioners and by raising the profile of the many initiatives being developed successfully, at both local and national, to tackle offending and reoffending.
- **The public profile of some individual services needs to be raised;** the criminal justice system can appear to be very 'closed' resulting in a lack of public trust and confidence. Good practice examples where the courts have developed very positive relations with the local media were cited. However, budget pressures have resulted in a reduction in the number of courts and the residual service may appear to be increasingly remote.

2.4 **Substance misuse** - the relationship between offending and substance misuse is well evidenced and recognised. Although the majority of public investment is directed towards interventions in relation to drug use, the impact of alcohol misuse was felt to be a far more significant issue, especially because alcohol is so easily accessible within the home, sometimes provided to children by their parents. Alcohol was a major factor in the murder of Michael Eccles and a significant contributor to the tragic outcome and therefore it is regrettable that alcohol services are regarded as the 'poor relation' within the context of substance misuse. Alcohol misuse can lead on to other forms of dependency behaviour and therefore early intervention can make a significant impact on long term health and risk of offending. Concerns were raised regarding potential reductions in substance misuse budgets and the restrictions on pooled treatment budgets which at present can only be used to commission services in relation to drug misuse.

- 2.5 **Mental health** - mental ill health is another key issue for the offender population. Offenders with mental health problems often suffer 'double discrimination' because they have poor access to services available to the general population and there is a need for more investment in services which are tailored to the specific needs of mentally disordered offenders. The need for a 'pathway' from arrest through the prison system (as advocated by the Bradley report) should be addressed.
- 2.6 **'Difficult families'** - all local authorities have challenging families which can cause disproportionate levels of nuisance and disruption to their local neighbourhood. Partners need to understand their issues and work proactively together to tackle them. This would not only reduce the risk of anti social and offending behaviour but also improve the life chances of the families concerned. The murder of Michael Eccles has led to a serious cases review, the conclusions from which are about to be published. Within the context of this review, Lichfield's LSP is challenging itself about the approach being taken to identifying difficult families and whether agencies are working effectively together in dealing with them. In many cases, the voluntary sector may be the most appropriate conduit into such families and be able to take a more creative approach to prevention.
- 2.7 **Proportionality and dealing with offences** - a careful balance needs to be struck between cautions / out of court disposals / penalty notices and the need to a) avoid criminalising young people unnecessarily and b) deter offenders from committing further crimes. Often the most effective way of preventing reoffending is to take time to understand what has caused offending behaviour in the first place and address the underlying factors. Unfortunately, there is often limited resources available to do this especially in relation to offenders who receive short sentences and benefit from limited if any support while in custody.
- 2.8 **Resettlement** - access to a suitable resettlement service can be a 'postcode lottery' and can be more difficult if custody is taking place some distance from home. Mentoring offenders before they are to be released has demonstrated a proven value but again, more resources are required to support this service which is often delivered by the voluntary sector.
- 2.9 **Victim awareness** - the recent focus on the 'victim perspective' of offending was welcomed and should be supported. The criminal justice System should refocus into a criminal justice Service which places the victim at the centre rather than on the margins of policy and delivery mechanisms. Initiatives that bring victims and offenders together were considered to be particularly effective.
- 2.10 **Budgets** - resource constraints and anticipated reductions in budgets were common themes throughout the event. Most public sector agencies are expecting growing pressure on budgets and concerns were raised regarding the impact on all aspects of the community safety and criminal justice system. Again, the LGA is working with government to address financial issues and where possible mitigate the effects of financial restraint.



### **3.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The 'Criminal Justice in Action' event was considered to be a rare, perhaps unique, opportunity for such a wide range of policy makers, strategists and practitioners to meet together and share an understanding of the national and local criminal justice landscape. Feedback has demonstrated that the participants greatly valued the opportunity to consider this landscape as a whole and better understand how their own role 'fitted in'. Many issues were raised which reflect the complexity and significance of the criminal justice system and these will be used at local level to further inform our strategic approach to community safety, crime and disorder.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To note this report





# CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL  
2ND DECEMBER 2009, 11.30AM - 3PM  
COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE, FROG LANE, LICHFIELD

## PROGRAMME

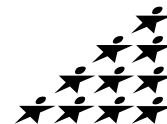
11.15AM	Arrival and refreshments	
11.30AM	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Purpose of the event	Councillor David Smith, Leader, Lichfield District Council
	Lichfield District context - overview	
	Criminal Justice Council - overview of role	
	National Picture	Mark Norris, Senior Policy Consultant, LGA
11.50AM	<b>Crime, offending and reoffending context</b>	Mick Harrison, Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police Juliet Prince, Superintendent, Justice Services
		Mark Jones, Area Manager, South East Staffordshire Youth Offending Team
12.15PM	<b>Preventing offending</b>	
	Licensing (Bird Street Case Study)	Councillor Ken Humphreys, Chairman, Regulatory and Licensing Committee, LDC
	Diversionary activities (Positive Futures Case Study)	Councillor Val Richards, Deputy Leader and Leisure Portfolio Holder, LDC
	Community Development (NLI Case Study)	Councillor Helen Fisher, Community Portfolio Holder, LDC
	Substance misuse	Pat Merrick, County Commissioner for Substance Misuse Sarah Forrest, Priority Service Commissioning Prisons, South Staffordshire PCT
1.00PM	<b>Working lunch</b>	
1.15PM	<b>Preventing reoffending</b>	
	Role of Crown Prosecution Service	Mark Forster, District Crown Prosecutor, CPS
	Role of courts	David Goodman, Justice Clerk and Director of Legal Services
	Role of prison	Tom Watson, Governor of Swinfen Hall Prison
	Role of probation service	TBA
	Resettlement	Jackie Worrall, Director, Policy and Public Affairs, NACRO
	Role of Victim Support	Martyn Herward Regional Manager (West Midlands), Victim Support
2.05PM	<b>Impact of national criminal justice framework on locality</b>	Discussion
2.50PM	<b>Summing up and close</b>	David Smith



## Criminal Justice in Action - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

### Attendees

<b>Lesley Bovington</b>	Community and Partnerships Manager, LDC
<b>Chris Brown</b>	Strategy Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Jenni Coleman</b>	Community Safety Manager, LDC
<b>Nina Dawes</b>	Chief Executive, LDC
<b>Cllr Helen Fisher</b>	Community Safety Portfolio Holder, LDC
<b>Sarah Forrest</b>	Priority Services Commissioning Prisons, South Staffordshire PCT
<b>Mark Forster</b>	District Crown Prosecutor
<b>Lesley Gilman</b>	Chairman Elect, South-East Staffordshire Magistrates
<b>David Goodman</b>	Justices' Clerk and Director of Legal Services
<b>Hugo Gorst-Williams</b>	Strategy Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Mick Harrison</b>	Acting Assistant Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police
<b>Martyn Herward</b>	Regional Manager- West Midlands, Victim Support
<b>Cllr Ken Humphreys</b>	Chairman, Regulatory and Licensing Committee, LDC
<b>Dan Johns</b>	Local Delivery Advisor for the West Midlands, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Mark Jones</b>	Area Manager, South East Staffordshire Youth Offending Team
<b>Cllr Les Lawrence</b>	Chairman, Safer Communities Board, LGA
<b>Lucy McKee</b>	Strategy Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Pat Merrick</b>	County Commissioner for Substance Misuse, Joint Commissioning Unit, Staffordshire County Council
<b>Ian Moss</b>	Director of Strategy Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Bal Nahal</b>	Solicitor, LDC
<b>Mark Norris</b>	Senior Policy Consultant, LGA
<b>Juliet Prince</b>	Superintendent, Justice Services, Staffordshire Police
<b>Cllr Val Richards</b>	Deputy Leader and Leisure Portfolio Holder, LDC
<b>Peter Scott</b>	Area Manager, Business Development, Probation Head Office
<b>Sharon Shattock</b>	Safer Communities Team, GOWM
<b>Cllr David Smith</b>	Leader, LDC
<b>Helen Spearey</b>	Strategic Director, Community Safety, LDC
<b>Laura Timms</b>	Head of Strategy Unit, Office of Criminal Justice Reform
<b>Rose Vakis</b>	Director, Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector
<b>Julie Walker</b>	Director of Housing, HomeZone Living
<b>Tom Watson</b>	Governor, Swinfen Hall Prison
<b>Dawn Williams</b>	Chair, Mentally Disordered Offenders Steering Group
<b>John Wood</b>	Staffordshire Criminal Justice Board
<b>Jackie Worrall</b>	CJC - Director, Policy and Public Affairs, NACRO



## Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

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### Safer Communities Board

9 November 2009

Local Government House at 11.00

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#### Present

<b>Chair:</b>	Cllr Les Lawrence (Birmingham City)
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Cllr Sharon Taylor (Stevenage BC)
<b>Deputy Chairs:</b>	Cllr Duwayne Brooks (Lewisham LB), Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC)
<b>Conservative:</b>	Cllr Roland Domleo (Cheshire East), Cllr Tom Fox (Scarborough BC), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC), Cllr Brian Coleman (Barnet LB / LFEPA), Cllr Joanna Spicer (Suffolk CC), Cllr Ian Gillies (City of York), Cllr Ann Stribley (Poole BC)
<b>Labour:</b>	Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC), Cllr Nilgun Canver (Haringey LB), Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC), Cllr Dave Lancaster (Salford City)
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Cllr Daisy Benson (Reading BC), Cllr Anita Lower (Newcastle City)

**In attendance:** Councillor Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC); Helen Murray, Mark Norris, Liz Hobson, Trish O'Flynn, Paul Johnston (all LGA); Wendy Martin (LACORS)

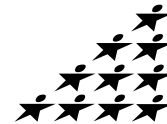
#### 1. The Policing White Paper

Mark Norris introduced the report and outlined the three themes that were expected to form the basis of the White Paper. Mark noted that the White Paper was not likely to include proposals for elected policing and crime representatives, proposals that the LGA had long objected to. Mark outlined other measures likely to be incorporated in the Paper, including proposals to strengthen police authorities and ensure that they better reflected the communities they serve.

Cllr Taylor informed the Board of a recent meeting that she had attended with the Minister for Crime and Policing, and the discussions held at this meeting.

Members made the following comments on the proposals:

- Discussions were held over the quality of political appointees on police authorities. Members agreed that competencies for all members of police authorities was important, as was making training opportunities available for Members on police authorities, though did note that the quality of Members was



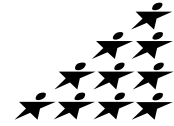
## ***Local Government Association***

not a significant concern on numerous Authorities. Members also felt there should be discussions with the APA on the proposals to strengthen police authorities.

- Members noted that it was essential that police authorities work collaboratively with partners on a range of issues, including shared services. Though this had happened to varying degrees already across the country, Members felt there was still significant work to do on this. Similarly, police authorities should continue to engage further with their communities, particularly with regard to the proposals on community contracts set out in the White Paper.
- Members discussed how police authorities were accountable both to the Council and to the public. It was noted that Councillor members of police authorities fed back on their work through full Council or area based meetings at certain Local Authorities, although this was not necessarily the case across the board.
- Members noted that the community safety local delivery landscape was complicated, with some concern expressed over possible duplication of roles for Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs) and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Cllr Lawrence asked LGA officers to look at the work of the various local bodies involved in tackling crime, their cost and who they were accountable to so that this could feed in to the response to the White Paper.
- Cllr Tom Fox, the LGA's representative at meetings of the Association of Policing Authorities (APA), noted that the last APA Steering Group had been cancelled at short notice and Cllr Mark Burns Williamson agreed to address this to ensure momentum was maintained on this agenda.
- Cllr Taylor stated that she felt it would be useful for clarification from the shadow ministerial team over prospective plans to remove ring-fenced funding for Police Community Support Officers.
- In summarising the discussion, Cllr Lawrence invited Members to continue to share their thoughts on the proposals as set out in the White Paper with LGA officers. Officers informed the Board that the majority of proposals as currently positioned in the White Paper would not require legislative changes as they could be implemented through changes in policy.

### **Decision**

The Board agreed that the draft LGA response to the proposals set out in the Policing White Paper be circulated to all Board members for their comment, prior to being sent to the Home Office.



## **Action**

Officers to reflect the Board's views in the LGA's response to the Policing White Paper, and circulate this response to Board Members for their consideration. **Mark Norris**

Officers to clarify shadow ministerial plans for funding for Police Community Support Officers. **Helen Murray**

Officers to work on identifying the various local bodies involved in tackling crime, their cost and who they are accountable to in order to inform the LGA's response to the White Paper. **Mark Norris**

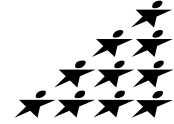
Officers to arrange a joint meeting between the Board's Lead Members and the APA to discuss areas of common interest including the White Paper proposals.

## **2. Total Place programme**

The Board received a presentation from David Bolger from the Leadership Centre for Local Government on the Total Place programme. In his presentation, David covered the areas piloting the programme, the aims of the programme and the evidence coming out of those piloted areas.

The Board thanked David for his presentation, and raised the following points:

- Members agreed that this was an important initiative as any government would need to be looking at something similar as part of the reduction in public spending. Some Members also expressed the view that the Total Place pilots thus far undertaken had not been sufficiently radical.
- Members noted that one issue that would need addressing as the concept developed and some services were merged was how any overspends and budget deficits were dealt with.
- Members also felt the Total Place programme should be used to enhance the role of councillors. The information resulting from the pilots would be useful in enabling Members to challenge partners over delivery, and it was felt to be important that local authority officers appreciated the value that members could add to the programme.
- A query was raised over the difference between Total Place and what Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) should be doing. David responded that there were limited differences between the two, with some Total Place pilots being led by the LSPs, but other areas now looking at what local partners could do on their own.



## **Decision**

The Board agreed that its comments be forwarded to the Improvement Board for their consideration.

## **Action**

Officers to prepare a draft letter to the Chairman of the Improvement Board on the discussions held.

### **3. Safer Communities Board Business Plan priorities 2010 – 11**

The Board commented on the priorities, and agreed that the public confidence and financial inclusion work needed to be taken forward.

The following issues were identified by Members as priorities currently missing from the list and asked for these to be considered:

- Issues relating to LACORS' area of work such as animal health;
- Prevention of crime, including the probation and prison service;
- Government proposals around speedy and summary justice;

In responding to concerns expressed by certain Members, Helen informed the Board that Members had, in light of limited resources, to prioritise efforts on areas that the LGA felt it could best make its influence felt. Helen then went on to outline the process for finalising the Business Plan for the next year.

## **Decision**

Lead Members to feed Board priorities into the Business planning event on 19 November.

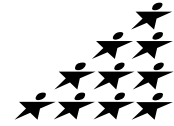
## **Action**

Officers to prepare a letter to Cllr Domleo addressing concerns about LACORS work which would not be prioritised in the next year.

### **4. Operation Vigilance**

Members noted the report, and the LGA Conference earlier in the year on tackling crime in a recession. Members suggested there should be a review one year on to ascertain what activity had been taken, and what impact this had had.





## **5. Update on Regulatory Services Issues**

Members sought clarification on the powers granted within the proposed Policing and Crime Bill to local Councillors as an “interested party” in licensing applications, and the area on which a local Councillor might be entitled to make representations. Members also asked for clarification on the future of the Local Better Regulation Office.

### **Action**

Officers to provide clarification on the scope of the powers granted in the Policing and Crime Bill to local Councillors **Wendy Martin, LACORS**

Officers to add discussions over the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) to the agenda for the January Board. **LGA**

## **6. Meetings with outside bodies**

The report was noted.

## **7. Notes of the last meeting**

The note of the last meeting was agreed, subject to the following amendment on page 1:

“Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC)” to read “Cllr Roland Domleo (Cheshire East)”

## **8. Any other business**

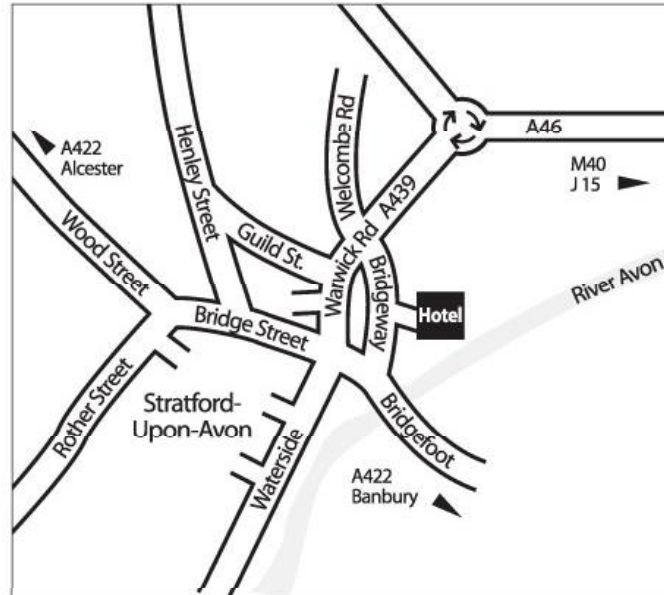
Cllr Lawrence noted that Cllr Ann Stribley would serve as the Board’s nomination on the European and International Strategy Group, with Cllr Nilgun Canver to serve as a substitute Member on the Group. Cllr Lawrence noted that Cllr Ann Lucas would serve as the Board’s Domestic Violence Champion, and that her work would be fed into the Board by Cllr Joanna Spicer.

Cllr Lawrence informed the Board that Mark Norris had produced a paper that was available to Members on the financial cost of violence against women.

Cllr Lawrence added that the LGA had published its response to the RIPA consultation, and that the majority of suggestions in that response had been taken on by the Home Office. Updates on this would be provided in this month’s LGA Group bulletin.



## Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon, Map



### Location

- Road: M40 Jct 15 to A46 to A439
- Rail: Stratford-upon-Avon Station 1 mile

### Holiday Inn

Warwick Road,  
Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Warwickshire,  
CV37 6YR

### Public transport

**Rail:** The nearest station is Stratford upon Avon, which is about a 15 minute walk to the hotel. A taxi from the station to the hotel costs around £4. Direct trains from London to Stratford upon Avon run once or twice a day only, so it is advisable to plan your journey in advance. However, trains to Warwick Parkway are frequent and a frequent shuttle bus service to Stratford upon Avon is available to continue your journey. To find out travel details from other destinations please visit the National Rail website [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

### Car Parks

If travelling by car, the Holiday Inn car park is situated adjacent to the hotel and offers 350 spaces. Use of the hotel car park is charged at £5 per day.

To help reduce the event's carbon foot print, the LGA encourages delegates to make their way to the conference by public transport where possible.