

23 4

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Safer Communities Board

12 July 2010

Corn Exchange, Exeter at 12.00

Present

Chair: Cllr Les Lawrence (Birmingham City) (Conservative)
Deputy Cllr Duwayne Brooks (Lewisham LB) (Liberal Democrat); Cllr
Chairs: Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent)
Conservative: Cllr Tom Fox (Scarborough BC); Cllr Ann Stribley (Poole BC) Cllr
Roland Domleo (Cheshire East); Cllr Joanna Spicer (Suffolk CC)
Labour: Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC); Cllr Dave Lancaster (Salford
City)
Liberal Cllr Daisy Benson (Reading BC); Cllr Anita Lower (Newcastle City);
Democrat: Cllr Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC)

In attendance: Helen Murray, Mark Norris, Wendy Martin, Liz Hobson, (all LGA Group)

Apologies: Cllr Brian Coleman (Barnet LB / LFEPa), Cllr David Smith (Lichfield DC), Cllr Ian Gillies (City of York); Cllr Sharon Taylor (Stevenage BC, Cllr Nilgun Canver (Haringey LB); Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC).

The Chair welcomed Members to the short meeting ahead of the Getting Closer to Member Councils event.

1. End of Year Board report

Helen Murray introduced the report which set out the key achievements in relation to the Safer Communities Board over the last year. The report also listed the initiatives over the year to strengthen engagement and communication with member councils and other stakeholders. In particular the Chair had undertaken a number of speaking engagements and there had been a series of articles in First magazine. Helen noted that the programme plan going forward would need to be amended in light of recent announcements by the new government, for example on abolishing the police confidence target. Members agreed that the First articles had successfully raised awareness of the Board's work on community safety and raised its profile with our membership.

The Chairman noted that the new Local Government Group Constitution had been passed by the General Assembly without amendment. This meant that the Board would become the LG Group Safer and Stronger Programme Board from September and would oversee the work on safer communities across the Group. There would also be stronger links between the Boards. Members noted that it was also important to maintain a strong link between the Board and the Fire Service Management

23 4

Committee (FSMC). Although the Chair of FSMC sat on the Board, if he was unable to attend then there was a risk that the link would be weakened and arrangements should be made for a deputy to attend in his place.

Members suggested that the End of Year report should be attached to the Board newsletter so that it would have a wider distribution.

Action

Officers would discuss with the political groups the need for a deputy to attend the Board when the Chair of the FSMC was unable to do so.

Officers to attach a link to the End of Year report to the Safer Communities newsletter.

2. New Governance Arrangements and ways of working

The Chairman, Cllr Les Lawrence introduced the report on the outcome of discussion at the Lead members meeting on 8 June. The report proposed that Programme Board members should establish stronger links with member councils in their regions and the Chairman invited members to comment on the proposal as a way of building closer working with member councils.

Members commended the idea in principle but there was some concern that it would need support from the centre and that there may be a cost. If other Boards were also making regional links then this should be co-ordinated to avoid any confusion or overlap. However it was also noted that complex arrangements would not be needed and that members could take advantage of existing meetings and events in their regions. The LGA's community safety advisers would also be a useful source of support in local areas. It was suggested that there should be standard briefing material available for members to use. It was also noted that efforts should be made to attract more police authorities into membership.

Action

Officers to provide briefing material for members to use on the Board's priority issues.

Officers to co-ordinate the board's forward programme with other Board activity to ensure no overlap or duplication.

3. Reforming Police Accountability

The Chairman, Cllr Les Lawrence introduced the report and the LG Group position statement agreed by LGA Office Holders which was tabled at the meeting. A meeting was being arranged in the near future with Home Office ministers. A meeting had also been arranged between Cllr Lawrence and the Chair of the Association of Police

23 4

Authorities to take place later in the week. The following points were made in discussion:

It was important to clarify the position of the APA on the role of police authorities and the government's proposal for a directly elected individual.

Independent members of police authorities bring a lot of expertise and we need to ensure that we acknowledge that in our lobbying.

It was also important to consider the position of ACPO with regard to operational powers and the implications for councils and for the public.

Action

Officers to clarify the position of APA.

Cllr Lawrence to report back on his meeting with the APA.

4. Notes of the last meeting

The note of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks for all the work that members had done over the last year. He hoped that the good work would continue in the year ahead under a new Chair.

Date of next meeting: 11 am – 1 pm 13 September 2010, Local Government House