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Discussions with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report provides Members with a paper on progress with our work on establishing a national representative body for police and crime commissioners since the Board's last meeting in July.

Recommendation

That Members note the discussions since the last Board meeting with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and make a recommendation to the Leadership Board on the proposed Strategic Partnership Board.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Discussions with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

Background

1. As was reported to the July meeting of the Board the Leadership Board discussed the LGA's work to establish a national representative body for police and crime commissioners (PCCs) in April. Members directed that the LGA should secure police and crime commissioners as members of the LGA, under the banner of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Association (PaCCA).
2. The overarching strategy for securing PCCs in membership of the LGA has comprised three strands:
 - 2.1. Engaging at the political level with potential candidates and using the Political Group officers to make contact, and raise awareness of the LGA's offer.
 - 2.2. Using officer networks, principally through the Association of Police Authorities Chief Executives as key influencers to highlight and further develop our offer.
 - 2.3. Engaging the resources of the LGA with Principal Advisers, Public Affairs, Press Officers and others promoting the offer through networks and personal contacts, gathering intelligence and developing relationships to ensure the LGA's profile and offer is timely, relevant and persuasive.
3. At the same time the Home Office has provide funding to the Association of Police Authorities (APA) until 31 March 2013 to set up a successor body to the APA – the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

Discussions with the APCC

4. While the APCC has Home Office backing, as the LGA's campaign has progressed they have been keen to discuss the possibility of working with the LGA to put a joint offer to PCCs at the national level. An initial meeting in May between the APA's Chair, Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson OBE and Cllr Simon Duckworth the Chair of the APCC and the LGA's Chairman led to a workshop on 4 July to explore a joint venture between the two associations.
5. This workshop identified a willingness on the part of both the LGA and APCC to explore what they might be able to offer jointly to PCCs. Officers were instructed to look at what a national membership body for PCCs would need to offer PCCs and what could be provided by the two associations. Following on from this a number of joint arrangements between the LGA and APCC ranging from membership arrangements within the LGA to the creation of a new bespoke joint body were developed and then discussed with the APCC. At a meeting between the Chairman and Chair of the Board

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and the APCC leadership about these options, the APCC were clear they favoured a partnership arrangement rather than a more innovative joint venture.

Possible joint Strategic Partnership Board

6. Details of what such a partnership arrangement might look like have been developed in discussion with the APCC. The result is that a new partnership board with its own identity is being considered by the leadership of the APCC and LGA. The Strategic Partnership Board between the LGA and APCC would enhance the work and activity of both organisations and in particular would support the working relationship of PCCs and local authorities. The Strategic Partnership Board would be a decision making body to:
 - 6.1. Provide central support and assistance to PCCs and councils in England to build effective and efficient local partnerships;
 - 6.2. Promote their work at a national level with government and other stakeholders; and
 - 6.3. Consider any exceptional demands in relation to the work at national level.
7. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board would continue to be responsible for the LGA's work on behalf of councils on community safety, reducing re-offending, licensing, regulatory services, and emergency planning issues affecting councils. The Strategic Partnership Board's purpose would be to address those issues that affect PCCs and councils jointly and to help foster a good working relationship on the ground between them. It would have budget provided by the LGA and APCC to commission work to support its activities, and it is envisaged that the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board would have a place on the Strategic Partnership Board.

Conclusion and next steps

8. The Leadership Board will consider the proposals to create the Strategic Partnership Board at its meeting on 19 September. If the creation of the Strategic Partnership Board is agreed then the next stage will be further work on the details of the Board's governance, and how the LGA will be represented on the Board.

Financial Implications

9. If the LGA agrees to creating the Strategic Partnership Board, the LGA's financial contribution will be a new pressure most likely to be identified through the mid-year review.