

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 8 June 2015  
11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local  
Government House, Smith Square, London,  
SW1P 3HZ

**To:** Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board  
**cc:** Named officers for briefing purposes

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This meeting is



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Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
8 June 2015

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There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 8 June 2015** Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

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**Apologies:**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

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<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3264	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.group@local.gov.uk">independent.group@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Paul Goodchild  
0207 664 3005 / [paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk](mailto:paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk)

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## Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Ann Lucas OBE (Chair)	Coventry City Council
Cllr Mike Connolly	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Janet Daby	London Borough of Lewisham
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Sophie Linden	London Borough of Hackney
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Mohammad Nazir	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE (Vice-Chair)	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Nick Daubney	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
Cllr Joanna Gardner	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Thomas Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Yasmeen Maqbool	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Jeffery Milburn	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Lisa Brett (Deputy Chair)	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Adrian Collett	Hampshire County Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Philip Evans JP (Deputy Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Adrian Naylor	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
<b>Non-Voting 0</b>	

## LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board Attendance 2014-2015

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>15.09.14</b>	<b>01.12.14</b>	<b>23.02.15</b>		
<b>Labour Group</b>					
Ann Lucas OBE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sophie Linden	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Mike Connolly	No	Yes	No		
Janet Daby	Yes	No	Yes		
Kate Haigh	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Tony Page	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Michael Payne	No	No	No		
<b>Conservative Group</b>					
Joanna Spicer	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Nick Daubney	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Joanna Gardner	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Morris Bright	Yes	Yes	No		
Tom Fox	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ian Gillies	Yes	No	Yes		
Nick Worth	Yes	Yes	No		
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>					
Lisa Brett	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Anita Lower	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Independent</b>					
Philip Evans JP	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Colin Mann	Yes	Yes	No		
<b>Substitutes</b>					
Chris Pillai	Yes	Yes			
Richard Chattaway	No	Yes	Yes		
Jeff Muburn			Yes		
Kay Hammond			Yes		
Joanne Beavis			Yes		

## Agenda

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### **Safer & Stronger Communities Board**

Monday 8 June 2015

11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 14 September 2015, 11.00 am, Smith Square  
1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P  
3HZ



## **Queen's Speech 2015**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and discussion.

### **Summary**

The Queen's Speech on 27 May set out the government's legislative agenda for the first session of the new Parliament, and contained six bills of interest to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. This report sets out the details of these bills.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the bills in the Queen's Speech of interest to the Board.

### **Action**

Officers to incorporate members' comments and suggestions in the Board's work going forward.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
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## Queen's Speech 2015

### Background

1. The Queen's Speech was delivered on 27 May, and set out the government's legislative priorities for the first session of the new Parliament. The bills of interest to the Board included the Psychoactive Substances Bill, Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, Enterprise Bill, Extremism Bill, Investigatory Powers Bill, and Policing and Criminal Justice Bill.

### Psychoactive Substances Bill

2. The inclusion of the Psychoactive Substances Bill in the Queen's Speech is a significant lobbying success for the Board. Members will recall that following the LGA's participation in the Home Office's expert panel on new psychoactive substances (NPS), the Board called for the government to introduce a blanket ban on the sale of NPS along the lines of the legislation introduced in the Republic of Ireland in 2010. Commitments then appeared in the Conservative and Labour general election manifestos to ban the sale of NPS. Ahead of the Queen's Speech the Board Chair's call for a bill to be included in the Speech attracted media coverage.
3. The bill received its first reading on 28 May and it was published the day after and can be found here: [http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0002/lbill\\_2015-20160002\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0002/lbill_2015-20160002_en_1.htm). The bill makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, import or export a psychoactive substance. A conviction can result in up to seven years in prison. It is not an offence under the bill to have psychoactive substances for personal possession but does make it illegal to possess psychoactive substances with an intent to supply them. The definition of psychoactive substances covers any substance capable of producing a psychoactive effect by stimulating or depressing a person's central nervous system or affects their mental functioning or emotional state. As this is a very broad definition there are exemptions for alcohol, tobacco and caffeine from the definition with the Secretary of State able to amend the list of exemptions in the future.
4. The bill also creates civil tools so the police and councils can take a proportionate approach to those producing, supplying, importing or exporting psychoactive substances. Prohibition notices can be issued to people producing, supplying, importing or exporting psychoactive substances, while premises notices can be issued to anyone who owns, leases, occupies, controls or operates from a premises from which psychoactive substances are being produced, supplied, imported or exported. If the notices are ignored then the police and councils can seek prohibition or premises orders from the court. Breach of these orders is a criminal offence and can be punished by up to two years in prison, a fine or both. The bill as published gives councils the powers they have demanded to tackle the sale of NPS in their area. Subject to views from members and member authorities the focus going forward will be to support the bill through parliament and explain to parliamentarians why the legislation is needed.



### **Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill**

5. The bill provides the legislative framework to deliver the devolution agreement reached with Greater Manchester, but also provides the flexibility to implement other devolution arrangements as they are agreed including in county areas. The generic provisions in the bill will allow the introduction of elected mayors for combined authority areas, and will also allow the mayor to undertake the functions of police and crime commissioner (PCC) for the area, with the term of office of the PCC being extended until the mayor is in place.
6. The Greater Manchester combined authority area is co-terminous with that of Greater Manchester Police. With other existing combined authority areas there is not a neat overlap between combined authority and police force geographies. The North East combined authority for instance covers almost all of two police force areas, while the West Yorkshire combined authority covers not just the five councils in that area but also the City of York, which is currently policed by North Yorkshire Police. Any further devolution agreements with combined authority areas will have to give consideration to the effect combining the role of PCC with the elected mayor will have on current police force boundaries.

### **Enterprise Bill**

7. This bill is designed to reduce the regulation on small businesses, making it easier to start and then grow a business. The bill will look to make regulators more transparent by compelling them to report against the better regulation requirements and also by extending the trading standards Primary Authority scheme. The Board's work in recent years on Open for Business, Rewiring Licensing and Remodelling Public Protection has been designed to ensure that regulatory work by councils supports businesses and economic growth and make it easier to set-up a new business. The Enterprise Bill provides an opportunity for the Board to press government to reform licensing as proposed in Rewiring Licensing.

### **Extremism Bill**

8. The Extremism Bill will take forward the legislative changes the Home Office has identified as being needed during the development of the Counter-Extremism Strategy, which is due to be published soon. The provisions will give the government greater powers to stop extremists promoting their views, and will include banning orders, extremism disruption orders and closure orders.
9. The banning orders will allow the Home Secretary to ban extremist groups, while the extremism disruption orders will give the police the ability to stop individuals engaging in extremist behaviour. There will also be a new power for the police and councils to close down premises used to support extremism. Other provisions will also allow employers to check whether an individual is an extremist and if necessary bar them from working with children. It is likely that the Board's focus around extremism will be on the delivery of the Counter-Extremism Strategy once it has been published.

### **Investigatory Powers Bill**

10. Following the decision in the last Parliament not to proceed with the Communications Data Bill, the government is introducing this bill to allow the police and security services to access the communications data they argue they need to be able to investigate offences and bring prosecutions as more communications take place over the internet. The Communications Data Bill would have required service providers to retain more data and make it available to the police and security services, and it is thought the Investigatory Powers Bill will do the same. This would mean providers would have to keep data on who people call, text, tweet, instant message or email, what games they play and when they post on social networks. We do not expect local authorities to be given the ability to access this data.
11. The bill will however take account of the recommendations from the report of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation. The review examined the safeguards in place around councils' access to communications data, and the Board contributed to the review by submitting evidence, and by holding a roundtable involving the Reviewer and local authority practitioners in March. The Reviewer's report was submitted to the Prime Minister on 6 May, and the Home Office has indicated the report will be published shortly.
12. Both the bill and the report are likely to lead to further debate in the media about local authority access to communications data and the ability to conduct covert surveillance. Channel 4 News looked at the amount of surveillance conducted by councils at the end of May after the announcement that this bill would be going through Parliament. Even if the government continues to agree with the arguments the Board has previously made about why councils need access to communications data, we may have to make the case to parliamentarians more widely as the bill progresses through both houses of Parliament.

### **Policing and Criminal Justice Bill**

13. The Policing and Criminal Justice Bill will cover a range of measures designed to continue reforms to the police and criminal justice service. These include improving protection for children by introducing sanctions for professionals who fail to take action on child abuse, amending the Police and Criminal Evidence Act so 17 year olds are consistently treated as children under it, reducing the use of police cells as places of safety for those experiencing a mental health crisis, creating a presumption that suspects are released without bail unless it is necessary, strengthening the independence and extending the remit of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, reforming police complaints and disciplinary procedures, and reforming the Police Federation.
14. There is wider LGA interest in some of the bill's provisions as the child abuse proposals relate to work the Children and Young People's Board have done around mandatory reporting of child abuse, and the Community Wellbeing Board has done work around the Mental Health Crisis Concordat, which is designed to ensure people experiencing a mental health crisis are kept safe but also better supported by a range of agencies.

However from the Board's perspective there is little of immediate relevance to its current work programme.

**Conclusion and next steps**

15. The focus for the Board's activity around the bills going forward will initially be on the Psychoactive Substances Bill, but the other bills will be reviewed as they are published and an assessment made as to what work, if any, is needed in relation to them. Further updates will be brought to the Board on any further work undertaken in relation to the bills.
16. Members are asked to note the bills in the Queen's Speech of interest to the Board.

**Financial Implications**

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



## HMIC – Policing in Austerity and PEEL

### Purpose of report

For information and discussion.

### Summary

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has been leading a debate in policing circles about how the service should address further budget reductions. It has also introduced a new assessment process for police forces – police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy programme or PEEL. Adam Pemberton from HMIC will attend the Board meeting to brief members on both these strands of HMIC work.

### Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- (a) Note HMIC's work on policing in austerity and the inspection of police forces;
- (b) Explore whether there are any shared objectives between HMIC's work on policing in austerity and the LGA's work on reforming the funding for local government and greater devolution of power to local areas; and
- (c) Consider how the PEEL assessments of individual forces could be made more useful to local authorities.

### Action

Officers to progress as directed.

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## HMIC – Policing in Austerity and PEEL

### Background

1. HMIC published its first report in 2011 into how police forces were responding to the reductions in central government funding announced in October 2010. Further reports have followed at the rate of one a year, and have tracked how forces are making the savings they need to meet these budget reductions and what effect this has had on the services the police provide to the public. The 2014 report, *Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge*, highlighted a number of difficulties and risks that police forces are likely to face with additional budget reductions in the next spending review period. It also called for a considered and open debate about how policing is best funded and organised in the future.

### The national debate on policing in austerity

2. Following publication of *Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge* HMIC established the National Debate Advisory Group to lead this debate. The group brought together experts from across the police service to discuss a number of questions. Representatives from the College of Policing, police and crime commissioners, chief constables, police officer representative bodies, academics, voluntary sector and other organisations in fields relevant to crime prevention and civil servants were brought together to consider a range of options for the future of policing in a time of further budget reductions.
3. The questions put together by the National Debate Advisory Group for discussion covered: the role and mission of the police service in the future; what functions should be provided locally, what regionally and what nationally; what models of integrating local public services to prevent and reduce crime could be adopted more widely; how should central government grant be distributed and what freedoms and flexibilities should there be to raise additional funds; and, at what point might a force be unviable.
4. The debate on these issues took place on 5 March 2015. This included presentations on the changing demands facing the police, in particular the analysis conducted by the College of Policing of the work undertaken by forces. On a typical day, in an average force, the College estimated officers will make 50 arrests, deal with 101 anti-social behaviour incidents, respond to 12 missing person reports, deal with 9 road traffic collisions and respond to 14 incidents linked to mental health issues. At the same time this average force will be supporting around 2,700 families in the troubled families programme, approximately 1,600 domestic abuse victims, 1,000 children on Child Protection Plans, and managing 1,189 sexual and violent offenders.
5. Much of the discussion at the event on 5 March concluded, as did *Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge*, that with no immediate end in sight to austerity, and opportunities for savings and efficiencies fewer due to reductions that had already been made, more radical changes would be needed in the future. Greater multi-agency working to intervene early to prevent crimes being committed in the first place thereby reducing demand, targeting activity at problems linked with offending and re-offending and increased collaboration between forces and other public services were all identified

as important ways forward. There was also discussion around providing forces with greater financial flexibility and the ability to raise more funding locally. It is likely that the report on the options for the future of policing will pick up on all these elements when it is published on 5 June.

6. As members will recognise there is considerable overlap with the themes and points identified in HMIC's national debate and those the LGA has been making in its Rewiring Public Services and the First 100 Days campaigns. Joint work with HMIC, the National Police Chiefs' Council and police and crime commissioners may therefore add weight to the changes the LGA is pushing government to make around devolution of powers and providing local areas with greater financial flexibility. The level of overlap is something members may wish to explore with HMIC at the meeting.

### **Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Inspections**

7. The PEEL programme of inspections has been introduced by HMIC to give the public the information they need to be able to judge the performance of their force and policing as a whole. In recent years HMIC has undertaken inspections on specific subjects or services, but even when combined these do not provide a rounded assessment of the 43 forces in England and Wales, so PEEL has been developed to fill this gap. The 2014 PEEL assessment piloted the approach with evidence drawn together from annual all-force inspections carried out by HMIC. The assessment looked at three areas:
  - 7.1 The effectiveness of a force in carrying out its responsibilities, including cutting crime, protecting the vulnerable, tackling anti-social behaviour, and dealing with emergencies.
  - 7.2 The efficiency of the force in relation to how it provides value for money.
  - 7.3 The legitimacy of the force and whether it operates fairly, ethically and within the law.
8. HMIC established a stakeholder advisory group to work with them on the methodology to be used for the assessment of forces' effectiveness, with Cllr Sophie Linden representing the Board on this group.
9. The first PEEL assessment for each force was published on 27 November 2014. Under the assessment HMIC gave a graded judgement on how the force had performed in some of the areas related to effectiveness and efficiency. The 2015 PEEL assessments will see graded judgements made across all the areas related to effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy. These graded judgements describe forces' performance as outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. For the 2014 assessments 39 forces were judged as good, one as outstanding and three as requiring improvement. Information is available for each force on the HMIC website. This force information provides a summary of the force performance against the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy criteria. More detail is available under these headings against the questions that HMIC used as part of the assessment process.
10. The PEEL assessment information is of greatest direct relevance to police and crime panels and their scrutiny of police and crime commissioners. HMIC gave a presentation

at the training event for panels that the Board ran in November 2014 on the PEEL assessment and what information would be available as a result, and information was circulated to panel officers about the PEEL assessments. Members' views are sought on how the PEEL assessments could be made more helpful to local authorities.

### **Next steps**

11. Members are invited to:
  - 11.1 Note HMIC's work on policing in austerity and the inspection of police forces;
  - 11.2 Explore whether there are any shared objectives between HMIC's work on policing in austerity and the LGA's work on reforming the funding for local government and greater devolution of power to local areas; and
  - 11.3 Consider how the PEEL assessments of individual forces could be made more useful to local authorities.

### **Financial Implications**

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report, and any work identified will be met from existing resources.



## **Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) Proposals for the Future Structure of Trading Standards Services**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report informs the Board of the development of proposals by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute for the future of local trading standards services.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board notes the activities outlined and provide direction on the LGA's position on the initial proposals and anticipated further work.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed.

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## **Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) Proposals for the Future Structure of Trading Standards Services**

### **Background**

1. As the Board will recall, in recent years the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has been undertaking various strands of work aiming to assess the current state of local trading standards services. This included the 2013-4 'national conversation' on trading standards; the 2014 workforce survey; and a comprehensive 2014 research project undertaken by Inlogov (University of Birmingham) which looked at services in 13 councils. The research, commissioned jointly with BIS, was published shortly before the election.
2. CTSI has now begun developing a vision for the future of trading standards. The organisation is calling for a strategic review of the structure of trading standards across Great Britain, arguing that the current model is broken.
3. CTSI recently circulated to its members an initial paper outlining its preferred approach. Although this was not formally shared beyond its membership (CTSI expects to develop a public paper in due course, shaped by feedback from its members), the LGA has seen a copy. The LGA has been approached by the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) for its view on the proposals.
4. This paper therefore highlights the key issues arising from the paper and seeks the Board's initial views.

### **Outline of proposals**

5. The paper includes a number of high level recommendations for the future structure of the service:
  - 5.1. The creation of strategic trading standards authorities, which would be larger than the current TS units and go beyond simply sharing services. The paper acknowledges that much more work would be needed to identify the appropriate size of strategic trading standards authorities, taking account of population size, number of businesses, geography and infrastructure links, the footprint of key partners and emerging models of government, eg combined authorities.
  - 5.2. Core funding to be allocated directly from central government to ensure '*guaranteed delivery of their priorities and enforcement of national legislation.*' However, authorities would also be permitted to undertake income generating activities, eg providing advice to businesses (as many existing services are already doing), and to provide services to local authorities and / or government departments on a commissioned basis: '*for local authorities this might be where a problem is affecting a particular locality, for example in the case of underage sales of alcohol, with an associated detrimental effect on health and a possible increase in antisocial behaviour. The governance model for strategic authorities is therefore crucial to ensure that trading standards remains sensitive to community concerns and local need and maintains links with relevant partners.*

- 5.3. A mixed governance model including elected members, business representatives and the third sector. The paper references Local Economic Partnership Boards as a useful comparator: government guidance on LEPs states that business representatives should form half the board, which could also include other economic stakeholders such as universities or colleges, trade unions, the voluntary sector or public sector bodies.
6. The rationale for the proposals is twofold:
- 6.1. Firstly, overall funding cuts and competing pressures across local government have meant that some trading standards services have experienced very significant funding cuts. CTSI argue that some councils are not providing a minimum service, and recently supported a member seeking a judicial review against Liverpool's decision to cut its team from 19 staff members to 4.
- 6.2. Secondly, the nature of risks and threats, and therefore trading standards work has changed significantly. The trend away from routine inspections towards risk-based, intelligence work, coupled with technological and societal changes, means that much trading standards work is now cross-border rather than specifically local. The paper also cites fewer overlaps with traditional partners such as environmental health and licensing, which tend to focus on premises rather than on businesses, and increasingly close links with the police.

### **LGA views on trading standards and key issues**

7. Clearly, as a professional body, the CTSI proposals are intended to help preserve the role of trading standards in future years. However, in Remodelling Public Protection (Remodelling), the LGA highlighted several of the issues the CTSI paper references, linked to the impact of competing local pressures and the trend towards cross-border work in trading standards.
8. Since the purpose of Remodelling was to stimulate debate, the CTSI work can be viewed as a welcome opportunity to constructively engage in serious thinking about the future of an important service. While we may not entirely agree with CTSI's initial conclusions, there is recognition of the need to consider the issues.
9. In Remodelling, we welcomed the creation of the National Trading Standards (NTS) structure, and acknowledged that there was scope for further discussion about whether more regulatory work could be undertaken via the regional NTS structures and / or national teams. The creation of strategic trading standards authorities would extend this approach much further.
10. From a council / LGA perspective, there are clearly a number of important issues to feed in and consider:
- 10.1. There are likely to be benefits associated with strategic authorities, which would provide greater resilience, offer scope for lead authority approaches (recognising the wide variation in trading standards work) and better reflect the nature of modern trading standards work. In Remodelling, we suggested that there could be a case for regional management of more regulatory issues, with some issues remaining a local

responsibility. Would CTSI envisage any trading standards services remaining the responsibility of local government?

- 10.2. There would be a need to consider how strategic authorities, or any other alternatives, could ensure local democratic accountability. Local authorities have a portfolio holder whose responsibilities include trading standards, and ward councillors have opportunities to intervene on behalf of local residents – how would new models ensure an equivalent level of local oversight and influence? Operationally, how would they interact with local authorities, particularly related services such as adult social care and fire? What are the lessons from the National Trading Standards model?
- 10.3. On funding, CTSI propose direct funding from central government. With additional funding unlikely to be available, this presumably anticipates a transfer out of the general local government grant to support the new authorities. Clearly, councils would not welcome further reductions in this grant; perhaps more importantly for the service itself, relying on funding from central government in an era of austerity may not offer any more certainty than the service currently has within local government structures. Therefore, alternative and additional funding models should be explored, for example using income from business rates that is retained locally, or from partners such as the LEPs.
- 10.4. Related to this point, it would be helpful to frame the debate in terms of services rather than just structures. Focusing on structures risks simply transferring existing patterns of activity to new governance models, when this is an opportunity to understand and think about the many and varied roles of trading standards and where these responsibilities, particularly historic ones, should rest. We need to understand what the core or priority trading standards responsibilities applying to all areas are; and what might be appropriate to some but not others? As we asked in Remodelling, we should consider whether it is right for the state to bear all of these responsibilities, and what the role of partners might be.
- 10.5. Perhaps most importantly, one size may not fit all. As is becoming clear in the devolution debate, what works in some areas may not be right for others. As CTSI acknowledge, some services are still functioning effectively, whereas others are struggling. Flexibility about the right approach for different areas would be a sensible approach.

### **Next steps**

11. As the paper recognises, CTSI's proposals are at a very early stage, and require much more thinking. CTSI are inviting government to commission more detailed work on the structure, funding and governance of strategic authorities. It is not yet clear whether government will take up this approach (or whether CTSI will take this forward themselves). However, the National Audit Office is expected in the course of the next year to undertake a review of consumer protection including local trading standards, which could provide further impetus.
12. It is suggested that the LGA's public position on the CTSI work and proposals, pending further work and detail, should be to recognise (as per Remodelling) the need for discussion about the future of trading standards services. It is also possible to recognise

(again as per Remodelling) that with some trading standards work no longer particularly 'local' in nature, alternative approaches may be more suitable for those issues - without necessarily supporting the idea that the entire trading standards service should move away from its current structure.

13. Most importantly, the LGA is likely to want to emphasise the need for a flexible approach that reflects local circumstances and approaches to devolution. The LGA should encourage authorities such as those in Greater Manchester to consider the implications for trading standards as they develop new models of devolution.
14. The LGA should seek to engage with the CTSI work, through officers, the Board's Regulatory Champion and others as appropriate, and further develop our view as more detail and information becomes available.



## End of Year Board Report

### Purpose of report

For information and discussion.

### Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues and work the Board has overseen during last year. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in 2014/2015, and looks forward to next year's priorities.

### Recommendations

Members are invited to:

- (a) Note the achievements against the Board's priorities in 2014/2015;
- (b) Note the sessions the Board is running at the LGA's annual conference;
- (c) Note the Board's priority areas for 2015/16; and
- (d) Agree the programme of meetings for 2015/16.

### Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
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## End of Year Board Report

### Background

1. Although the state of the economy, health services, the availability of housing and improving standards in education have dominated the political headlines over the last year as well as the general election campaign, crime has remained a consistent concern for the public, especially the protection of vulnerable children and young people from sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation (FGM) and new psychoactive substances.
2. The Business Plan for 2014/15 set out a number of priorities for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. These included: supporting economic growth by helping councils to strike the right balance between reducing red tape and protecting the community; improving the ability of fire and rescue authorities to protect people and places from harm, as well as increasing collaboration across bluelight services; promoting partnership work to tackle anti-social behaviour, protect vulnerable people and deal with organised crime, and support councils in improving their community safety work.
3. At the same time the Board had to respond to a number of unanticipated events over the year including continued access for councils to communications data, addressing the role of taxi licensing in child sexual exploitation, and issues arising from two police and crime commissioner by-elections.

### Strategic Issues

4. The core of the Board's work over the last year has included helping councils to improve their response to FGM and submitting a joint bid with Barnardo's for funding to establish a national centre of excellence; making the case for new legislation to tackle the sale of new psychoactive substances; completing the work of the Betting Commission the Board established to look at the clustering of betting shops and the growth in the number of fixed odds betting terminals; amending provisions in the Deregulation Bill around taxi licensing; supporting Westminster City Council's case in the Supreme Court on licensing fees; and developing a 100 Days fire sector offer. There has also been work to assist councils in implementing the new tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, lobbying around the role of councils in preventing terrorism, work on how councils can assist in tackling organised crime groups, and support for police and crime panels to improve their scrutiny of police and crime commissioners.

### Achievements

#### Regulation

5. We lobbied successfully for an amendment to remove the provisions in the Deregulation Bill that would have deregulated taxi licensing and allowed anyone to drive a private hire vehicle when it is 'off-duty'.



6. We submitted a witness statement in the Supreme Court case of *Hemming v Westminster City Council* which outlined the impact a decision to exclude compliance costs would have on councils' ability to undertake licensing enforcement action. The Supreme Court judgement in April upheld Westminster's appeal and ruled that they could recover the cost of compliance and enforcement activity from licences.
7. We were successful in making the case to government for the introduction of a key proposal from our Rewiring Licensing work of a single online application process for licensing applications, with the Autumn Statement setting out a commitment to work towards introducing such an online process.
8. We worked with public health colleagues to develop good practice guidance on introducing 'Reducing the Strength' schemes.
9. We launched a Betting Framework jointly with the betting industry to encourage partnership working over local issues, and developed a new handbook on gambling regulation for councillors to cover changes made by the Gambling Commission which were intended to support licensing authorities and businesses in developing more local approaches.
10. We were successful in ensuring that regulations covering communications data retained local authorities' right to access it, and we contributed to the development of the report by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, which also looked at councils' access and use of communications data.

### **Crime against vulnerable people**

11. We supported councils in improving their response to FGM by creating an on-line resource for councils with case studies and briefings and which included a well-received councillors' guide to the issue setting out what councils can do to prevent FGM occurring, as well as safeguard children. These resources were launched at the conference we held on councils' role in tackling FGM.
12. Our joint bid with Barnardo's to the Department of Education's Social Care Innovation Fund for £2.14 million to establish a centre to improve the social work response to FGM and work in communities to eliminate the practice was successful. Work is now underway to set up the National FGM Centre.
13. We held training events on the licensing implications of tackling child sexual exploitation, offered bespoke support to areas with issues around child sexual exploitation and also revised and added to the taxi licensing handbook for councillors.
14. We commissioned the Centre for Public Scrutiny to write a guide for scrutiny councillors on domestic violence which included a range of questions scrutiny committees should ask councils and their partners about the local response to domestic violence.
15. Board members participated in a range of national panels including the Home Office's national group on preventing the sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable people,

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's reference group on the PEEL effectiveness assessments, and we also contributed to a range of other departmental groups such as the Department of Health's preventing FGM advisory group.

### **Fire and Rescue services**

16. As part of the LGA's 100 Days campaign the Fire Services Management Committee and the Chief Fire Officers Association jointly produced *The Fire and Rescue Service: Making the Nation Safer*. The document set out our shared perspective on what the service offers to the government, and included proposals with the potential to save £500 million.
17. We lobbied successfully for the introduction of regulations making it mandatory for landlords to install smoke alarms in private rented properties. The Regulations made under section 150(1) of the Energy Act 2013 will, subject to Parliamentary approval, come into force on 1 October 2015.
18. We have continued to push for fairer funding for the fire and rescue service, responding to the Independent Finance Commission jointly with the Fire Finance Network.
19. Alongside workforce colleagues we responded to the Government's Independent Review of Terms and Conditions of Operational Firefighters, undertaken by Adrian Thomas.
20. We held a roundtable on equality in the fire and rescue service with senior members of the fire and rescue service, exploring the challenges that the service will be facing in the coming years and how the service should meet them.
21. We held two fire leadership essentials programmes for members on fire and rescue authorities, to help them develop their leadership style, network with other members and discuss good practice.
22. Members have met with the former Fire Minister at the October Fire Commission, as well as the Shadow Fire Minister, Lyn Brown MP as well as Clive Betts MP, Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. We responded to Lyn Brown's consultation on the structure of fire and rescue services.
23. Members have represented the LGA on a number of different boards and outside bodies, including the blue light integration working group and the strategic resilience board.

### **Organised crime**

24. We successfully lobbied for an amendment to the Serious Crime Bill offence of participating in an organised crime group so that unwitting activity by local authorities would no longer be caught by it.

25. We collaborated with the Home Office on producing guidance for the police and local partners on the production of serious and organised crime local profiles to inform local action to tackle organised crime groups.
26. We held joint workshops with the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism and CIPFA on procurement and other types of fraud to identify issues and good practice in reducing vulnerability to fraud, and the results of this work will feed into the next version of the Fighting Fraud Locally guidance.

### **Police, community safety and community cohesion**

27. We lobbied successfully for the introduction of legislation to address the sale of new psychoactive substances, with a Psychoactive Substances Bill being included in the Queen's Speech.
28. Separately we published a guide for councillors to the existing powers available to councils to tackle the sale of new psychoactive substances including use of the new public space protection orders.
29. We ran a series of regional workshops to assist councils in making use of the new tools and powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for tackling anti-social behaviour and published a guide for practitioners on implementing the 'community trigger'.
30. We made a written submission and gave oral evidence to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's inquiry into leadership, ethics and accountability in local policing about the role of police and crime panels in scrutinising police and crime commissioners.
31. We held a training event for members and officers of police and crime panels and commissioned a good practice guide for panels on issues identified at the event.
32. We made a written submission on the draft guidance published by the Home Office on the implementation of the new statutory Prevent duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, and held a roundtable with the Home Office, CLG and practitioners to inform revisions to the guidance.

### **Events and Media**

33. We held a range of successful conferences including the annual Licensing, Fire, and Safer Communities conferences, and held a joint conference with the Children and Young People's Board on tackling child sexual exploitation.
34. We issued press releases and statements on topics covering the proliferation of betting shops, the sale of new psychoactive substances, fire alarms, checks on taxi drivers, recovering assets from criminals, toxic fake alcohol, and metal theft rates.

### **LGA Annual Conference**

35. The Board is running three events at the LGA's annual conference in Harrogate:

- a) Tuesday 30 June 2015 4.45pm  
Out on the town: creating safe and successful night-time economies
- b) Wednesday 1 July 2015 2.10pm  
Preventing the terrorist threat
- c) Wednesday 1 July 2015 5.20pm  
There's more than one way to rescue someone: the role of the fire and rescue service in public health

### **Programme of work 2015/16**

- 36. The LGA's Business Plan for 2015/16 include a number of overarching priorities that fall within the Board's remit:
  - a) Councils work effectively with partners to build and sustain resilient and sustainable communities; and
  - b) Councils facilitate economic growth through the development of risk-based, business-friendly public protection services.
- 37. The work identified within these overarching priorities will complete work started in 14/15 and builds on other areas of work the Board has done and includes: the financing of councils' work around counter-terrorism and preventing extremism; working with partners on reducing crime; building greater collaboration across bluelight services; influencing the review of firefighters' terms and conditions; supporting police and crime panels; working with councils to develop simplified risk-based regulation that supports local businesses; and working with the Better Regulation Delivery Office on the implementation of the regulator's code.
- 38. There will be new issues which Members will want to discuss such as what devolution means for policing and community safety, and how local authorities respond to the possible developing role of police and crime commissioners. The LGA's Executive will also be considering what significant policy issues it wishes to see work on, which may have implications for the Board's programme of work in 2015/16. Detailed proposals for consideration will be submitted for the September Board meeting.

### **Board Cycle**

- 39. The following dates are proposed for the Board in the 2015/16 cycle:

Monday 14 September 2015	11.00am
Monday 30 November 2015	11.00am
Monday 22 February 2016	11.00am
Monday 6 June 2016	11.00am

- 40. Rooms in Local Government House have been provisionally booked for each of these dates, however the venue can be rearranged if Members would prefer to meet outside of London for any of these meetings.



**Financial Implications**

41. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.





## **Regulatory services update**

### **Purpose**

For information and direction.

### **Summary**

This report provides an update on LGA policy work and developments affecting regulatory services that will be of interest to the Stronger and Safer Communities Board.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board notes the activities outlined.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed

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## Regulatory services update

### Outcome of the election on regulatory services

1. The Conservative manifesto did not include any specific commitments in relation to licensing or regulatory services, although there were media reports of the Conservatives committing to freezing licensing fees.
2. At this stage, we therefore anticipate that our priority areas will continue to be those set out at the start of the Board cycle and updated as the year has progressed:
  - 2.1. Delivering on the Rewiring Licensing proposals for the simplification of licensing regimes, and specifically the commitment in the Autumn Statement to create a single online application process by 2018.
  - 2.2. Lobbying for reform of taxi and PHV licensing legislation.
  - 2.3. Supporting local government to consider the options for creating sustainable regulatory services given financial pressures, alongside the implementation of the Open for Business vision.
  - 2.4. Developing an evidence base for localisation of licensing fees.

### Licensing issues

#### *Licensing fees - Hemming case*

3. The Supreme Court's verdict in the Hemming case was published on 29 April. The judgement was generally very positive for local government. Westminster's appeal was upheld, as the court ruled that Westminster were entitled to recover the cost of compliance and enforcement activity (in relation to both licensed and unlicensed operators) from licensees. However, the court referred to the European Court of Justice the question of *how* Westminster levied the fees.
4. The court identified two possible approaches to charging fees:
  - Whereby a council charges a fee upon application (covering the costs of authorisation procedures) and a subsequent fee to successful applicants (covering the cost of enforcing the framework) - the 'type A' approach, or
  - Where a council charges a single fee on application covering all costs, on the basis that the relevant proportion of the fee (covering compliance and enforcement) would be refunded to unsuccessful applicants – the 'type B' approach.
5. The Court found the type A approach of charging two fees is permissible under the Services Directive but felt that the type B approach of charging a single fee upfront was more problematic, on the basis that in legal terms it could mean that a charge has been incurred from the application, which is contrary to the Services Directive. The Court suggested that a charge could possibly include borrowing, or loss of interest during the period in which the application was considered. On that basis, the court referred the issue for consideration by the ECJ.
6. There is therefore an ongoing risk that, were the ECJ to rule that the type B approach – applied by most councils across most licensing frameworks – is unlawful, councils could



still be subject to claims for restitution. Such an outcome would also have implications for how councils charge licensing fees, requiring a more resource intensive approach of charging separate fees at different stages of the process.

7. We have issued a circular to councillors and licensing officers summarising the Supreme Court's judgement and next stage of the legal process. We have also committed to publishing a further note to councils in late summer / Autumn, to coincide with fee and budget setting processes. This will also enable us to reflect our expected work on licensing fees more widely (see below)

### **Licensing fees – government against localisation**

8. In February the government announced, that following its 2014 consultation on localisation of licensing fees, it had decided against the introduction of locally set licensing fees. The decision was prompted by a limited response rate to the consultation's request for detailed information about the current costs of running the licensing framework. With just 20 councils providing this information, government argued that the evidence based for localisation was both limited and contradictory, with some of the evidence provided actually suggesting fees should fall.
9. The previous government invited the LGA to work with the Home Office to develop a fuller picture of current costs across a representative sample of councils (considered to be 40% of the sector). It also advised that previous evidence (ie the 2007 Elton review) was no longer considered relevant, meaning that the sector needs to develop a completely new evidence base to support not just localisation, but even an increase in nationally set fees.
10. We have confirmed that we are willing to undertake this work with the Home Office. However, before commencing this work – which we anticipate would require external support, and involve local finance teams as well as licensing officers - we will be seeking assurances from the new Minister that the new government remains committed in principle to either localisation or at the very least increases in nationally set fees. This is due to comments during the election campaign suggesting that the Conservative party intended to freeze licensing fees, although this may relate solely to community premises.
11. A detailed study of licensing fees would require councils to evidence the breakdown of different costs in the licensing process, eg application processes, compliance and enforcement, renewals etc. This is of course relevant to the potential implications of the Hemming case, as a result of which some councils may decide to separate out licensing fees in other areas.

### ***Taxi licensing handbook and conferences***

12. In March, we ran two extremely successful conferences on taxi licensing. Over 200 delegates attended events in Manchester and London, covering issues relating to child sexual exploitation, data sharing with the police and licensing reform. Our revised and expanded [taxi licensing handbook](#) for councillors was launched at the events, and has been well received by members.
13. The LGA continues to offer bespoke support to those areas experiencing CSE, including the provision of mentors to elected members overseeing the licensing process.

***Gambling handbook***

14. Following publication of the taxi licensing handbook, we have also developed a new councillor handbook on gambling regulation. The handbook summarises recent and forthcoming changes announced by the Gambling Commission which are intended to support both licensing authorities and businesses in developing approaches which are much more locally focused. The new handbook will be published in the next few weeks.

***Westminster-Manchester gambling research***

15. In March, Westminster and Manchester councils launched a research project considering the scope for identifying and mapping local areas' vulnerability to gambling related harm. The project has been part funded by the LGA, and the findings are intended to help councils understand how local factors and issues should shape local gambling policies. The findings of the project will be made available to all councils when the project concludes.

**Other issues**

16. We are expecting the report of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation into the use of interception powers and **communications data** to be published shortly. The LGA and council officers contributed to the review in regard to the use of communications data by council.
17. As part of our ***Remodelling public protection*** work, we are running a conference on commercialisation in regulatory services on Tuesday 16 June.

## Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 23 February 2015
<b>Venue:</b>	Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p><b>Working with Solace</b></p> <p>The Chair introduced John Barradell OBE, Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City of London, who had been appointed as Solace's lead spokesperson on civil resilience and community safety issues. John provided a background to Solace's work and stated that the focus was on implementation rather than policy, and also to provide tools and support for Chief Executives and managers in local government.</p> <p>The Board asked a number of questions, with a focus on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How Solace would liaise with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners: It was explained that Solace had previously worked directly with Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers in the past, but there was an opportunity to extend these arrangements.</li> <li>• How councils worked with other statutory bodies to work on community cohesion and engagement with hard to reach communities: Solace had responded to the Government's consultation on the draft statutory guidance for the new Prevent duties and the responsibilities which may arise. John Barradell commented that the LGA supported councils on this and Solace supported local authority managers.</li> <li>• How reduced staff numbers would affect response to emergencies such as flooding: It was commented that in the recent flooding events of 2014, the availability of staff was the biggest concern for local authorities.</li> <li>• How councils could protect themselves against denial of service attacks: Solace was working with local authorities on this issue, particularly on procurement. It was noted that catastrophic failure of ICT was not always in the local authority's capability to manage.</li> <li>• The lack of local member representation on local resilience fora: John Barradell commented that he was the Deputy Chair of the London Resilience Forum, but that he was the only council Chief Executive on that body and there were no local members. This was an area which should be and could be progressed as, in view</li> </ul>	

of cuts to services, communities were concerned on how events would be responded to and how they would be supported afterwards.

Helen Murray, Head of Programmes, commented that the LGA had provided input to joint Solace and DCLG guidance on resilience. The joint guidance would be circulated to Board members for information.

The Chair thanked John Barradell for attending, and commented that she hoped that the LGA would have a very productive relationship with Solace going forward.

**Actions:**

- Joint Solace / DCLG guidance on resilience to be circulated to the Board.

**Decision:**

- Members noted the report and thanked John Barradell for attending.

**2 The Rotherham Report: Implications for Licensing**

Ian Leete, Advisor, highlighted that Louise Casey's independent report into Rotherham Council's handling of child sexual exploitation cases had been published on 4 February 2015. The LGA had a comprehensive action plan for CSE which was progressing well, but the Board was invited to consider in particular the taxi licensing areas of the Casey report, and identification of any further actions if required.

The findings of the report with regard to taxi licensing, as well as the actions already undertaken by the LGA on this matter, were summarised.

In the discussion on the report, the following points were raised:

- There was unanimous consensus that the LGA should recommend that councils take a default approach that anyone convicted of an indecency offense should not normally be considered a fit and proper person to be a taxi / PHV driver. Officers agreed to draw up wording to reflect the Board's view.
- Information sharing should be increased so that councils are aware of who has been convicted prior to application for a licence.
- Some councils insist that all taxi / PHV drivers receive safeguarding training before they were issued with a licence.
- There should be a focus on passenger rights and passenger safety rather than trade rights. The public should know where to go to complain, and taxi operators should have a responsibility to make sure their employees are fit and proper after they have received a licence.
- There is a need for a taxi reform bill, as legislation on the matter is extremely out of date. The next Government after the General Election in May 2015 should be lobbied on the matter. An action plan should be drawn up and sent to members for comment prior

to the next Board meeting.

- Although the police are asked to respond on every licensing case they often did not respond. There should be greater co-operation between local authorities on taxi licensing enforcement.
- Local authorities should engage in ongoing safeguarding and inspection, potentially through the use of mystery shoppers.
- There should be joined up work plans between community safety partnerships and local authorities. Community safety partnerships should be informed of what powers they have available regarding licensing.
- When considering reforms and mandatory training for councillors, legislation should be as broad as possible and not just on CSE and safeguarding.

**Actions:**

- Officers to continue to progress the LGA's wider CSE action plan.
- Training of staff and elected members on licensing issues to be explored in depth with the LGA Licensing Forum. The Licensing Forum would also act as a conduit for sharing progress, best practice and any sector-wide issues with councils.
- Officers to liaise with councils to encourage them to take a default approach that anyone convicted of an indecency offence should not normally be considered a fit and proper person to be a taxi / PHV driver.
- Professional bodies to be encouraged to provide comprehensive training programmes for officers and members.

**Decision:**

- Members noted the report and requested that an action plan be drawn up for lobbying the next Government for a taxi reform bill following the General Election in May 2015.

**3 Counter Terrorism**

Mark Norris, Senior Advisor, explained that the Government had recently published draft statutory guidance on implementing the new Prevent duties set out in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which included sector specific guidance on what organisations were required to do. Local authorities had concerns on the draft guidance and a response to the consultation was submitted following approval of the Board's lead members. Members noted that there were concerns that the cost to local authorities was a low estimate, and that London Councils had come back with what they thought the cost would be for London and that the LGA could undertake a similar exercise for member councils. Members were asked to provide a steer on any issues the LGA should raise with the Government regarding implementation of the new Prevent duties.

Following the Paris attacks in January 2015, members were also invited to comment on any issues related to community cohesion required to counter extremist ideology which the LGA should be pressing for Government action on.

During the discussion on the report the following points were raised:

- There should be a greater focus on multi-agency partnership working to co-ordinate Prevent activity. Given the number of existing local multi-agency panels it would not be necessary for local authorities to establish a new panel to assess the extent to which individuals were vulnerable of being drawn into terrorism.
- The London Councils Counter Terrorism conference had highlighted that a number of Black and Asian young people had no sense of identity or belonging to their community.
- Individuals could be drawn into terrorism from any area or background, and so it was unwise for the Home Office to concentrate efforts just on priority areas.
- Many local authorities did not know what was expected of them with regard to the Prevent duties.
- A meeting with relevant civil servants and Ministers should be sought after the General Election in May 2015 so as to be clear on how compliance with the duties would be assessed and what success would look like.
- The LGA should highlight the difficulties in delivery where there was a risk activity would lead to extremists becoming more covert, there was a lack of clarity around what success looks like, and there needed to be greater flexibility in the processes.
- Information should be shared between local partner organisations / authorities during and after terrorism events.

**Actions:**

- Officers to seek meetings with relevant civil servants and Ministers following the General Election to discuss Prevent duties and provide clarity to local authorities.
- Councils should be asked to estimate the costs of implementing the new duties to provide an evidence base to respond to the Government.

**Decision:**

- Members noted the report.

**4 FGM**

The Deputy Chair updated the Board on the LGA's lobbying in respect of the Serious Crime Bill and expressed her thanks to the team for their hard work on FGM legislation. Despite the LGA lobbying for an amendment to the Bill which would make it offence to encourage or promote FGM, Ministers had concerns about the necessity and proportionality of the offence and it was not taken forward. The Deputy Chair also noted the funding the LGA had been awarded jointly with Barnardo's by the Department of Education to establish a centre to improve councils' response to FGM.

**Decision**

- Members noted the report.

## **5 Regulatory Services Update**

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Advisor, updated the Board on LGA policy work and developments affecting regulatory services since the previous meeting. Members noted that the Government had accepted licensing reform proposals for a single online application process which should be in place by 2018.

It was explained that minor amendments had been made to the LGA guidance on Reducing the Strength schemes to reinforce key points about the competition law risk. Guidance had been circulated to all councils along with a letter highlighting the need to ensure schemes comply with competition law.

It was also highlighted that Cllr Evans had launched the LGA's discussion paper 'Remodelling Public Protection' which had been amended following the Board meeting in September and subsequent approval by lead members. The report aimed to prompt further discussions regarding the future of environmental health, trading standards and licensing services. Further updates to the document would be made in due course.

Members discussed the title of the document, observing that 'public protection' would imply that the report covered community safety, police and fire and rescue services, whereas the focus was on environmental health, licensing and trading standards. It was suggested that a reference to 'regulatory services' be made in the subtitle of the document.

In response to a request by the Deputy Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, it was confirmed that the document would be included in an update paper to the next meeting in March 2015.

In response to a question on the Hemming v Westminster case, it was confirmed that there is ongoing legal activity relating to the case, but a verdict was not imminent. Another court hearing would take place in March 2015 and the Board would be updated again at the next meeting.

### **Actions:**

- 'Remodelling public protection' document to be updated following members' comments.
- FSMC to be updated on 'Remodelling public protection' at the next meeting.
- Further update on Hemming v Westminster to be provided at the next meeting.

### **Decision:**

Members noted the report.

## **6 Notes of the Previous Meeting**

Regarding minute 2, concerning gambling regulation, one member

highlighted that the Board had agreed at the previous meeting that the number of fixed odds betting terminals per betting shop should be limited and that government should be lobbied on the issue. The minutes of the previous meeting would be amended to reflect this.

Subject to this amendment members agreed the notes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 as correct.

**Action:**

- Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 to be amended as detailed above.



**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Members	Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr Sophie Linden	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Nick Daubney	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
	Cllr Joanna Gardner	Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council
	Cllr Thomas Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	Cllr Jeffrey Milburn	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Apologies	Cllr Mike Connolly	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
In Attendance	Nathan Elvery	London Borough of Croydon
	John Barradell OBE	City of London
LGA Officers		
	Helen Murray	
	Mark Norris	
	Ellie Greenwood	
	Ian Leete	
	Lucy Ellender	
	Paul Goodchild	

# LGA location map

## Local Government Association

Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

## Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

## Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

**St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

## Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at [www.cclondon.com](http://www.cclondon.com)

## Car parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
- Horseferry Road Car Park
- Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at [www.westminster.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

