

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 7 July 2014  
4.30 pm

Sherborne Suite, Bournemouth Marriott  
Highcliff Hotel, St. Michael's Road, West  
Cliff, Bournemouth BH2 5DU

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

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This meeting is



## Safer & Stronger Communities Board

7 July 2014

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There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **4.30 pm on Monday, 7 July 2014** Sherborne Suite, Bournemouth Marriott Highcliff Hotel, St. Michael's Road, West Cliff, Bournemouth BH2 5DU.

### 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.

### Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place from 3.30pm -4.30pm. Below is the location for each Political Group meeting:

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Labour:</b>            | Blandford Room        |
| <b>Conservative:</b>      | Blandford Syndicate 1 |
| <b>Liberal Democrats:</b> | Blandford Syndicate 2 |
| <b>Independent:</b>       | Blandford Syndicate 3 |

### Apologies:

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

|                          |                             |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Labour:</b>           | Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263   | email: <a href="mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk">aicha.less@local.gov.uk</a>         |
| <b>Conservative:</b>     | Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264  | email: <a href="mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk">luke.taylor@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:Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk">Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk</a> |

### Location:

A map showing the location of Bournemouth Marriott Highcliff Hotel is printed on the back cover.

### LGA Contact:

Daniel Kalley (Tel: 020 7664 3005, email: [daniel.kalley@local.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.kalley@local.gov.uk))

### Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.31 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.

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The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgasafercomms

**LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
 Attendance 2013-2014**

| <b>Councillors</b>        | <b>09.09.13</b> | <b>04.11.13</b> | <b>13.01.14</b> | <b>3.03.14</b> |  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Conservative Group</b> |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| Joanna Spicer MBE         | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Morris Bright             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| David Burbage OBE         | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Ian Gillies               | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Tom Fox                   | No              | No              | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Nick Worth                | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Kay Hammond               | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
|                           |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| <b>Labour Group</b>       |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| Ann Lucas OBE             | Yes             | No              | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Janet Daby                | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Michael Payne             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | No             |  |
| Tony Page                 | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Mike Connolly             | Yes             | No              | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Kate Haigh                | Yes             | Yes             | No              | Yes            |  |
|                           |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| <b>Lib Dem Group</b>      |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| Lisa Brett                | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Anita Lower               | Yes             | Yes             | No              | Yes            |  |
|                           |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| <b>Independent</b>        |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| Philip Evans JP           | Yes             | Yes             | Yes             | Yes            |  |
| Colin Mann                | Yes             | Yes             | No              | Yes            |  |
|                           |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| <b>Substitutes</b>        |                 |                 |                 |                |  |
| Richard Chattaway         | Yes             |                 |                 |                |  |
| Adrian Collett            |                 | Yes             | Yes             |                |  |
| Bhupendra Dave            |                 | Yes             |                 |                |  |
| Jeffrey Milburn           |                 |                 | Yes             |                |  |
|                           |                 |                 |                 |                |  |

## Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2013/2014

| <b>Councillor</b>                          | <b>Authority</b>                            |
|--|---|
| <b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>                  |   |
| Cllr Mrs Joanna Spicer MBE<br>(Vice-Chair) | Suffolk County Council                      |
| Cllr Morris Bright                         | Hertsmere Borough Council                   |
| Cllr David Burbage MBE                     | Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough          |
| Cllr Thomas Fox                            | Scarborough Borough Council                 |
| Cllr Ian Gillies                           | City of York Council                        |
| Cllr Kay Hammond                           | Surrey County Council                       |
| Cllr Nick Worth                            | South Holland District Council              |
| <b>Substitutes</b>                         |   |
| Cllr Bhupendra Dave                        | Oadby and Wigston Borough Council           |
| Cllr Matthew Evans                         | Newport City Council                        |
| Cllr Glenn Jordan                          | Plymouth City Council                       |
| Cllr Jeffery Milburn                       | South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council |
| <b>Labour ( 6 )</b>                        |   |
| Cllr Mrs Ann Lucas OBE (Chair)             | Coventry City Council                       |
| Cllr Mike Connolly                         | Bury Metropolitan Borough Council           |
| Cllr Janet Daby                            | Lewisham London Borough Council             |
| Cllr Kate Haigh                            | Gloucester City Council                     |
| Cllr Tony Page                             | Reading Borough Council                     |
| Cllr Michael Payne                         | Gedling Borough Council                     |
| <b>Substitutes</b>                         |   |
| Cllr Richard Chattaway                     | Warwickshire County 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<br>Chair)     | Conwy County Borough Council                |
| Cllr Colin Mann                            | Caerphilly County Borough Council           |
| <b>Substitutes</b>                         |   |
| Cllr Helen Grant                           | North Yorkshire County Council              |

## Agenda

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

Monday 7 July 2014

4.30 pm

Sherborne Suite, Bournemouth Marriott Highcliff Hotel, St. Michael's Road, West Cliff,  
Bournemouth BH2 5DU

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| 2. <b>LGA Betting Commission update</b>   | 7 - 14      |             |
| 3. <b>Queen's Speech 2014</b>   | 15 - 18     |             |
| 4. <b>Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) Report:<br/>Police and Crime Commissioners: progress to date</b> | 19 - 30     |             |
| 5. <b>Regulatory Services update</b>  | 31 - 34     |             |
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**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 15 September 2014, 11.00 am, Smith Square 3&4,  
Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



## **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This paper summarises the work of the FGM working group since the January Safer and Stronger Communities Board, as well as the proposed next steps on this area of work.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the work of the working group and comment on the proposed next steps.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as advised.

**Contact officer:** Lucy Ellender  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3321  
**E-mail:** [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

### Introduction

1. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a serious form of child abuse and is a criminal offence in the UK. It is defined as “all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons”<sup>1</sup> and can have serious long and short term consequences for women and girls’ health and wellbeing. Figures produced in 2007 indicate that over 20,000 girls in the UK could be at risk, and over 60,000 are already living with the consequences, and the figures could now be even higher<sup>2</sup>.
2. In January members agreed to set up working group to look at these issues in greater depth and make a series of proposals for future work on this issue. This paper sets out the work of the FGM Working Group since its creation and the proposals for next steps.

### The FGM working group

3. Councils and their partners have a key role in safeguarding children from harm, including in cases of FGM. The aim of the FGM working group therefore was to identify areas where the LGA can help councils and their partners to gain further understanding of FGM to help prevent the practice, identify potential victims and provide appropriate support, as well as ensure that their partners are fully informed of the issues and able to take action.
4. Membership of the working group was drawn from the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, the Community Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young People Board. The working group was structured around 3 meetings, with presentations and discussion with a number of different participants including:
  - 4.1. the NSPCC;
  - 4.2. the Foundation for Women’s Health, Research and Development (FORWARD);
  - 4.3. the British Arab Federation;
  - 4.4. London Borough of Hackney;
  - 4.5. London Borough of Lambeth;
  - 4.6. The Association of Chief Police Officers; and
  - 4.7. London Borough of Newham.
5. Following the first meeting of the group it was decided to expand the membership to a number of third sector organisations to reflect the importance of multi-agency working on this issue. Therefore Dr Ash Chand, Head of Strategy and Development from the NSPCC, Rukayah Sarumi, Campaigns and Events Manager from FORWARD and

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<sup>1</sup> WHO website : <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/>

<sup>2</sup> A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales; Dorkenoo et al, Forward 2007 <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm/research>

Fadel Takroui, Chair of the British Arab Federation were invited to join the working group on a permanent basis.

### **The Group's work programme**

6. The Working Group's activity centred on two key themes, firstly, improving the ability of councils to deliver services that deal with cases of FGM, and secondly assisting councils in their work to change societal attitudes in those communities where FGM is practised.
7. In the discussions on the provision of FGM services there was a particular focus around the need for better data collection and sharing to enable councils to more accurately assess the level of risk within their communities. Contributions to the working group identified a number of shortcomings with using census data on its own to accurately predict risk. There were concerns, not only about the age of the data used, but also in the accurate identification of second generation members of affected communities, and the potential for underreporting.
8. The working group agreed that in order to provide the most effective service it was vital that councils have an accurate picture of the level of risk within their communities. Once this picture has been established, councils have further work to do to ensure that risk is communicated effectively between partners, with the risk attached to a child's health records. This would then help to ensure that the risk of FGM is recorded and that potential victims and their families are given appropriate support.
9. The other theme that emerged from the discussion was on the wider work of changing cultural attitudes towards the practice of FGM in affected communities. The discussion centred around the importance of engaging communities in discussions to highlight the potential health issues and the legal implications of practicing FGM. Engaging community leaders, community groups and faith leaders in the discussion on FGM was seen as key to tackling attitudes towards the practice, and a number of councils had been using "community champions" effectively to lead this work. Another strand that the group identified was the importance of changing the attitudes of men in affected communities.
10. The discussions highlighted the importance of working across different partner agencies to communicate risk, and provide a joined up approach towards the issues, ensuring that referrals were being made by professionals and that the referrals were being followed up appropriately by children's services.

### **The Government's response to FGM**

11. The working group also discussed the work of the Government on FGM. The Government successfully bid for funding from the European Commission to fund a project raising awareness of FGM, including a promotion campaign for the NSPCC FGM helpline, community engagement, learning packages for safeguarding professionals, awareness raising sessions with Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards

and hosting an EU wide event to share effective practice. Several ministers also signed a declaration to stop the practice of FGM, to coincide with International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM.

12. The Government is currently producing its own set of online resources on FGM for teachers, police, councils, health workers and other commissioners of local services. It will incorporate case studies, useful documents, leaflets, guidelines, teaching sets and other materials as well as an e-learning tool for professionals, all on one site.
13. There will also be an update of the UK FGM prevalence study which was first undertaken in 2007, which showed that 20,000 girls in the UK could be at risk<sup>3</sup>. The new study will be conducted using the 2011 Census data and will use prevalence data from countries of origin to show the number of women and girls at risk in each local authority area. The Home Office has indicated that they are planning to release the online resources towards the end of July at an event hosted by the Prime Minister.

### **The Serious Crime Bill**

14. The Government have also now published the Serious Crime Bill, amending a number of Acts, including the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. The new Bill would extend the extra-territorial reach of the offences in the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 so that they apply to habitual as well as permanent UK residents. The LGA has welcomed these changes to the Bill.
15. We are also proposing a further amendment to Parliament to the 2003 Act to deal with those who promote and encourage FGM citing religious and cultural justifications, even though they may not explicitly state that people should undertake the practice of FGM. We are currently consulting with a number of interested parties on this amendment and we will be tabling it for discussion at the committee stages of the Bill starting in early July.

### **Next Steps**

16. Following on from the discussions at the working group and the wider work happening in Government on FGM, a number of next steps were agreed to provide councils with the right tools and support to tackle FGM in their communities. The LGA will be looking to produce a toolkit which will focus particularly on those issues that the working group has identified as key to help councils tackle FGM:
  - 16.1. Councillors Guide to FGM: this will be focussed on the role of the council in tackling FGM, what it is, the law, their responsibilities and the role of partners in tackling the issue. This will also include questions for council overview and scrutiny committees, child safeguarding boards, health and wellbeing boards and other committees and partners that are involved in this work. The guide is

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<sup>3</sup> A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales; Dorkenoo et al, Forward 2007 <http://www.forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm/research>

intended to provide councils with a general overview of the issues in tackling FGM and a useful starting point for further work.

- 16.2. Case studies: These will build on the guide, examining in more detail the issues that have been identified during discussions at the working group. The proposed case study subjects include:
  - 16.2.1. Data collection;
  - 16.2.2. Community Engagement;
  - 16.2.3. The use of Community Champions;
  - 16.2.4. Working with faith leaders ;
  - 16.2.5. Engaging men;
  - 16.2.6. Engaging with community groups;
  - 16.2.7. Commissioning an FGM service;
  - 16.2.8. Health and wellbeing approach to FGM;
  - 16.2.9. Domestic violence approach to FGM;
  - 16.2.10. Multi-agency working; and
  - 16.2.11. Referrals to children's services.
- 16.3. Useful Information: This final section would include things like the multi-agency guidelines, a number of professional health organisations guidelines, information from councils, a link to the Government's resource pack, information on victim support etc.
17. Overall the proposed toolkit would be focussed on councils, and in particular on the issues that the working group identified as important in tackling FGM. The working group has also agreed two other pieces of work that the LGA will take forward:
  - 17.1. The LGA will conduct an audit on the rates of referral from professionals to children's services. The Government's multi-agency guidelines state that where professionals are concerned that a child has undergone FGM, child safeguarding guidance should always be followed and referrals made to children's services or the police to allow them to investigate. This piece of work should help us to get a greater picture of how often referrals are happening and what is done with them once they are made. This will help us to gain an accurate picture on how risk is transferred between different partners and the level of interventions being undertaken by children's services.
  - 17.2. The LGA will help to facilitate a bid to the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Programme fund for the development of a specialist FGM service, spanning a number of council areas and bringing together a range of partners from the voluntary and statutory sector. This service would act as a multi-agency "Centre of Excellence" on FGM, providing advice and support to social workers and other professionals and facilitating closer working between agencies at all stages of work to tackle FGM. This could include assistance with training and community engagement work, support around the referral and assessment process, and advice on effective interventions. The LGA would have

an ongoing role in identifying and disseminating learning from this model, and considering the potential for replication elsewhere. Any funding that we were able to secure from the Children's Social Care Innovation Programme would allow us to show that as a national organisation the LGA is taking the lead in this area and working to enable councils to tackle this issue.

18. It is envisaged that the toolkit would be launched at a free event held at Local Government House on 14 October. The agenda for the day would cover a range of subjects drawn from the toolkit and would take the form of presentations and workshops. There will be a final meeting of the working group to review the workplan once the Government's resource pack has been released.
19. We will also continue to engage in discussions with other organisations, for example the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that our work on FGM is joined up.

### **Conclusion**

20. The overall objective of the working group is to ensure that councils have the right tools and support to tackle FGM in their communities. The proposals for the toolkit and wider work should help the LGA to achieve this whilst complementing the work of the Home Office.

## **LGA Betting Commission update**

### **Purpose**

To update members on the work of the LGA's Betting Commission, and to seek their input on next steps.

### **Summary**

Since the March meeting of the Board approved the creation of an LGA task and finish group on betting shops, the Betting Commission has met twice and government has announced changes to planning and licensing controls on gambling.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note progress on the Betting Commission and to provide a steer on the proposed approaches set out in paragraphs 20-28.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as directed.

**Lead officer:** Ellie Greenwood  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3219  
**E-mail:** [ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk)

## **LGA Betting Commission update**

### **Background**

1. At its meeting in March, the Board approved the establishment of a task and finish group focusing on concerns relating to betting shop clustering and Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). Since then, Councillor Page as licensing champion has chaired two meetings of the Betting Commission, membership of which is listed at Annex A of this document. The work of the Commission has attracted significant interest among LGA members, as well as the press.
2. Alongside this, Councillor Page and officers have continued to meet with groups who are interested in the work of the Commission but who are not directly involved in it. Additionally, at the end of April, government announced various proposed changes to planning and licensing controls that are intended to help councils address clustering and increase FOBT player protection.

### **First meeting of the Betting Commission: April 2014**

3. The first meeting of the Betting Commission, in early April, provided an opportunity for a full and frank discussion of the issues relating to betting shop clustering and FOBTs. The meeting clarified that concerns are focused on two related but separate issues: betting shop clustering, and the potential harm to *communities* (such as littering and anti-social behaviour, or negative perceptions of the high street); and FOBTs, and the harm caused to *individuals* through problem gambling.
4. The meeting also established broad agreement among members of the Commission that the fundamental tension is the discrepancy between the objective of the Gambling Act 2005, which has a statutory 'aim to permit' gambling, and a general public perception that accepts the right to gamble but believes it should be restricted.
5. However, it was clear that industry is not in agreement as to whether restrictions on new premises were desirable or not. While the four largest firms do not anticipate a significant future change in numbers, and some have expressed support for a demand / cumulative impact test, Paddy Power's business model, reflecting its status as a smaller newcomer to the market, is about opening further premises and competing with existing betting shops. The firm believes that competition, via clustering, is good for consumers, and indicated it might raise a legal challenge, on the grounds of competition law, if changes to the current system were introduced.
6. Finally, the meeting heard about examples of good practice engagement / agreements between councils and betting shops (including Ealing's Betwatch and Lewisham's Deptford High St Charter), although it was also noted that some councils have struggled to achieve meaningful engagement with the industry. It was agreed that following the meeting the LGA would undertake further work to understand where and why local engagement had been successful.

### **Recent Government announcement on betting shops and gambling**

7. At the end of April, government announced a series of measures aimed at addressing concerns about betting shop clustering and FOBTs. Government chose not to adopt some of the tougher measures that they were considering (for example, giving councils the power to limit the number of FOBTs in a premise). Instead, key proposals include:
  - 7.1 A CLG consultation on proposals to change planning use classes so that betting shops and payday loan shops are contained in a separate use class, with other types of premise moved into a much wider use class. Therefore, planning permission will be required where a new betting shop represents a change of use.
  - 7.2 The requirement for new premises licence applications to demonstrate how betting shops will meet social responsibility requirements in relation to local circumstances.
  - 7.3 A new range of player protection measures that 'end unsupervised high stakes play', but there will be no reduction in the current maximum £100 stake. Customers wishing to stake more than £50 on FOBTs will need to pay over the counter in cash or use account based play, which track and monitor play.
  - 7.4 A range of work on gambling advertising including the implementation of a Think-25 initiative (as distinct from Think-21) in line with other age-restricted products.
8. The LGA welcomed the announcement as an acknowledgement of council and community concerns about betting shop clustering and FOBTs, and believes that they are a step in the right direction. Although they certainly do not give councils all the powers we have proposed, they will provide some scope for councils to take a tougher approach on clustering and FOBTs. However, to do so, councils will need to collect evidence about their concerns, think about how to apply licence conditions, and ensure that they are overseeing how effectively betting shops are applying player protection safeguards.

### **Second meeting of the Betting Commission, June 2014**

9. The second meeting of the Betting Commission provided an opportunity for the group to discuss the government announcement on gambling. DCMS officials clarified that the changes would be implemented from October onwards, with the changes relating to FOBT machines implemented first.
10. The industry raised concern that some councils will seek to use a new planning power to introduce a blanket ban on new betting shops, and warned that they would challenge councils taking planning decision on political, moral or arbitrary grounds. Both CLG and the LGA acknowledged the need for planning decisions to be taken on planning grounds: the LGA felt that councils would utilise the flexibility to amend existing planning policies to deal with the issue. It was noted that the practical impact of the change might be small, with few applications for change of use likely to be required given existing patterns of premises.
11. The meeting heard an interesting presentation from the Assistant Secretary General of the trade union representing betting shop workers, Community. John Park said that staff feel a real sense of pride at working in betting shops, but want to see them regain their status as being a valued part of the community. Feedback from staff suggests that anti-social behaviour is fuelled by FOBTs, and there is concern among members about

safety, late night opening and the use of single staffing in premises. The union is keen to have a constructive dialogue with the industry in the context of ongoing debate about betting shops and FOBTs, and recognises the interaction between recent changes in the industry and current levels of employment.

12. Finally, the meeting discussed local engagement, and why this had been successful in some places but not others. Broadly, it was felt that where there had been specific local issues that needed to be addressed (e.g., anti-social behaviour, or nuisance linked to betting shops), and where local engagement had been backed by senior figures within the industry (principally the ABB, but also area managers in individual firms), partners from councils, the police and businesses had agreed approaches that had helped to resolve the issues.
13. There was broad support across for the Commission for trying to develop a set of principles to help shape local level engagement between councils and betting shops. There was recognition that in some places, issues had been left unaddressed, and industry had not been strong enough at escalating issues to a more senior level. Addressing these issues could help improve relationships between councils and the industry. The LGA will work on this with the ABB and others in advance of the next meeting.
14. Finally, there was support from the Commission for the LGA's proposal to update the Gambling Act handbook last produced by LACORS in 2010.

#### **Other meetings**

15. In May, Councillor Page met with both the Campaign for Fairer Gambling and the industry funded Responsible Gambling Trust.
16. The CFG are working with a number of councils to launch a Sustainable Communities Act application to reduce FOBT stakes to a maximum of £2.
17. The RGT outlined how the £7m industry funding provided to the body is spent on research into problem gambling and treatment for this condition. The majority of this funding is spent on treatment, which the RGT advised is not often recognised by the NHS, despite the fact that gambling additions tend to be associated with other additions, such as tobacco or alcohol.
18. Treatment services are provided through a national helpline (Gamcare) and counselling services, and for more severe cases at the National Problem Gambling Clinic. The RGT is keen to spend more of its funding on preventative services, and is looking at how to link its work with other agencies dealing with issues such as debt and alcoholism. There is likely to be scope to make links with councils' public health work, and LGA officers will be meeting with officials from Public Health England who are focusing on problem gambling later this summer.

#### **Moving to a conclusion**

19. It is expected that the next meeting of the Betting Commission (likely to take place towards the end of September) will be the final meeting of the Commission. We hope that at that meeting we will be able to agree with industry some principles for local

engagement, and a mechanism on the industry side for councils to raise concerns at a senior, national level if they do not believe they are achieving the appropriate level of engagement at a local / area manager level.

20. Members are invited to provide officers with any local examples of effective engagement with betting shops, or of effective engagement models with other industries that could be used as a template for a partnership framework.
21. The Board is also invited to nominate a representative to be involved in the re-development of the LGA Councillor Handbook on the Gambling Act, to provide a steer on the advice and case studies that will be of most assistance to elected members in their leadership role.
22. It is extremely unlikely that our work will provide a framework for resolving betting shop clustering and / or problem gambling linked to FOBTs. On clustering, despite the new planning powers (which councils had lobbied for), the scope for addressing existing clustering is very limited and the main option for councils appears to be to review whether there is more that they can do to manage existing premises.
23. The Board is therefore asked to provide a steer, alongside the other Boards involved, on whether the LGA should undertake further lobbying on these issues.
24. Since government looks set to create the separate use class for betting shops that many councils had called for, the obvious outstanding 'asks' are on the licensing side. The Board is asked to provide a steer on whether any single solution should be prioritised in our work, or if we should continue to lobby for a broad palette of powers and amendments that can be selected according to local need.
25. Our current asks cover:
  - 25.1 The introduction of a health objective to the Gambling Act;
  - 25.2 A legal definition of 'primary activity' – that is, that the majority of a premises bets should be placed at the counter and not via machines. The Courts have recently overruled the Gambling Commission's existing definition; and
  - 25.3 An ability for councils to introduce cumulative impact policies, where they believe that too many premises in one location are causing more problems than individual shops. This would be comparable to the power that exists for premises selling alcohol.
26. On FOBTs, Government is likely to revisit its position at the end of the year based on the outcome of extensive research into patterns of harmful player behaviour linked to FOBTs and potential interventions to address these. Additionally, local areas are beginning to develop their own evidence base on FOBTs, for example the Liverpool Public Health Observatory has just published extensive research into FOBTs and problem gambling in Liverpool.
27. However, the LGA has so far not called for specific powers limiting their use, focusing more on powers that manage premises. The board is invited to comment on whether this continues to be the right emphasis, particularly in light of the CFG campaign to reduce the stake to £2.

- 28 Independently of the Betting Commission, the LGA will work with member councils on an evidence base around issues associated with clustering and FOBTs, emphasising the need to have clear and measureable impact data specifically linked to the proliferation of betting shops and / or FOBTs, so that appropriate action can be taken.

**Financial Implications**

- 29 Any funds necessary to support this work will be made available from the Finance and Policy Programme Budget. Staff time on this work will be treated as a priority, but can be absorbed within the existing budget.

**Annex A: LGA Betting Commission membership**

| <b>Name</b>                                    | <b>Organisation</b>                 | <b>Role</b>  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Cllr Tony Page                                 | Reading BC                          | LGA SSCB   |
| Cllr Ian Gillies                               | City of York                        | LGA SSCB   |
| Cllr Anita Lower                               | Newcastle                           | LGA SSCB   |
| Cllr Clyde Loakes                              | LB Waltham Forest                   | LGA E&HB   |
| Cllr Flick Rea                                 | LB Camden                           | LGA CTS  |
| Cllr Nick Small                                | Liverpool                           | Councillor   |
| Cllr Sean Woodward / Cllr Pam Bryant           | Fareham                             | Executive Leader / Chairman of Licensing committee       |
| Cllr Tim Mitchell (formerly Cllr Audrey Lewis) | LB Westminster                      | Licensing Chairman                                       |
| Mark Pearson                                   | BetFred                             | Director of Corporate Affairs                            |
| Mark Stebbings                                 | BetFred                             | Head of Development                                      |
| Andrew Lyman                                   | William Hill                        | Head of Compliance and Public Affairs                    |
| Lewis Rogers                                   | William Hill                        | Public Affairs Manager                                   |
| Adam Smith                                     | Paddy Power                         | Head of External Relations                               |
| Simon Reynolds                                 | Coral                               | Compliance Director                                      |
| Ciaran O'Brien                                 | Ladbrokes                           | Head of Public Relations                                 |
| Lee Drabwell                                   | Ladbrokes                           | Operations Director                                      |
| Dirk Vennix                                    | Association British Bookmakers      | Chief Executive  |
| Matthew Hill (observer)                        | Gambling Commission                 | <a href="#">Director of Regulatory Risk and Analysis</a> |
| Rob Burkitt (observer)                         | Gambling Commission                 | Policy Development Mgr                                   |
| Richard Orpin                                  | DCMS                                | Head of Domestic Gambling Policy                         |
| Alison Pritchard                               | DCMS                                | Head of Gambling and Licensing                           |
| Maria Darby                                    | DCLG                                | Planning - Development Management                        |
| Heather Wardle                                 | National centre for Social Research | Research Director Health and Wellbeing                   |





## **Queen's Speech 2014**

### **Purpose**

For information and discussion.

### **Summary**

The Queen's Speech on 4 June set out the government's legislative agenda for the final session of this Parliament, and contained three new bills of relevance to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. This report sets out the details of these bills.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the bills in the Queen's Speech relevant to the Board.

### **Action**

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

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3241  
**E-mail:** [mark.norris@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@local.gov.uk)

## **Queen's Speech 2014**

### **Background**

1. The Queen's Speech was delivered on 4 June, and set out the government's legislative priorities for the final session of this parliament. The main bills of interest to the Board included in the Speech were the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill, the Serious Crime Bill, and the Modern Slavery Bill. The Queen's Speech also contained three 'carry over' bills from the last session including the Deregulation Bill and the Consumer Rights Bill.

### **Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill**

2. The intention of this Bill is to 'help make the United Kingdom the most attractive place to start, finance and grow a business'. It will seek to do this by making it easier for small businesses to access finances, provide small businesses with fair access to the £230 billion spent annually on public procurement contracts, increase transparency around who owns and controls UK companies through a register of beneficial ownership, tackle National Minimum Wage abuses, help publicans of tied pubs by introducing a new Statutory Code and an independent adjudicator to deal with disputes, and stop highly paid public sector employees keeping redundancy payments when they come back to the public sector within a short period of time.
3. The bill also aims to ensure that red tape affecting small businesses is regularly reviewed to ensure regulations are either cut or remain effective. In the LGA's response to the Queen's Speech we pointed out that the Board's vision for local regulation, Open for Business, sought to reduce the regulations surrounding businesses by consolidating existing licensing requirements into one single licensing application process. The LGA briefing also highlighted the importance of pubs to communities and supported a ban on the use of restrictive covenants by the larger breweries which means pubs can be sold and then stopped from being re-opened.

### **Serious Crime Bill**

4. The Serious Crime Bill sets out the legislative provisions identified in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy published in October 2013 as needed to tackle organised crime groups. It strengthens the ability of law enforcement agencies to recover criminal assets from offenders by amending the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The bill also creates a new offence of participating in the activities of an organised crime group as the existing conspiracy legislation makes it difficult to prosecute those who assist the activities of organised crime groups such as accountants, lawyers and technical experts who cleanse electronic data. It will also clarify the existing law to make it explicit that cruelty which is likely to cause psychological harm to a child is an offence. The bill additionally extends the extra-territorial reach of offences under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 so they apply to habitual as well as permanent UK residents. Other provisions in the bill amend the legislation related to gang injunctions to update it in light of current gang practice, introduces powers to seize drug-cutting agents and updates computer related legislation on hacking, denial of service attacks and the circulation of computer viruses.

5. The bill was published in the House of Lords on 6 June and enters committee stage at the start of July. The LGA briefing for the Second Reading of the bill concentrated on three areas. Greater clarification was sought on how the offence of participating in the activities of an organised crime group might impact on local authorities. The briefing also suggested following discussions at the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Working Group that a new offence of promoting or encouraging FGM is created to make it easier to take action against community or religious leaders who seek to justify the practice. Finally the briefing used the Proceeds of Crime Act provisions to suggest that a greater share of recovered assets should be returned to local areas under the asset recovery incentivisation scheme (ARIS). During the Second Reading debate peers probed the Home Office Minister, Lord Taylor about the impact of the participation offence on councils and social landlords, as well as the distribution of assets from Proceeds of Crime Act actions. Lord Taylor indicated the Home Office would be reviewing ARIS in the autumn. An amendment to the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 that would make it an offence to promote and encourage FGM has been drafted and meetings held with peers so it can be tabled at committee stage.

### **Modern Slavery Bill**

6. The Board considered the draft Modern Slavery Bill in January. The draft bill was published in mid-December as part of the government's White Paper on tackling the issue of modern slavery, forced labour and trafficking. The Bill is designed to prevent modern slavery and reduce the future number of victims by:
  - 6.1 Consolidating and simplifying existing slavery and trafficking offences into two offences of trafficking and forced labour, slavery and servitude. It brings together offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003, the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 and the Coroners and Justice Act 2009;
  - 6.2 Increasing the maximum sentence for modern slavery offences from 14 years to life imprisonment;
  - 6.3 Introducing Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Orders (STPOs) and Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders (STROs). The STPOs will be available on conviction for modern slavery offences, while the STROs can be imposed by the courts where an individual has not been convicted but present a serious risk to others. Both orders will allow the court to restrict the activities of those they apply to;
  - 6.4 Establish a new Anti-Slavery Commissioner to galvanise efforts to tackle modern slavery by working with police and crime commissioners, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Crime Agency; and
  - 6.5 Establish a legal duty to report potential victims of trafficking to the National Crime Agency. This will apply to public bodies identified as 'first responders' and will help victims access support as well as provide greater detail of the number of victims of these offences.
7. The bill was published at the start of June in the House of Commons but has yet to receive its Second Reading. As was noted when the Board discussed the draft bill there is little in the bill of direct relevance to local authorities, with the two provisions that do being the requirement to notify the National Crime Agency if the council has reasonable grounds for suspecting a victim has been trafficked, and the creation of an Anti-Slavery Commissioner. The Commissioner will be able to make recommendations to councils about the exercise of their functions and councils will be under a duty to collaborate with the commissioner.



**Next steps**

8. The focus for the Board's activity around the bills going forward will initially be on the Serious Crime Bill as this has areas where we wish to effect government policy and introduce a new offence related to FGM. As work progresses on this bill further updates will be brought to the Board.
9. Members are asked to:
  - 9.1. Note the bills in the Queen's Speech relevant to the Board.

**Financial Implications**

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



## **Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) Report: Police and Crime Commissioners: progress to date**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

The HASC report, Police and Crime Commissioners: Progress to Date was published on 5 May 2014. The report includes a number of recommendations aimed at the Local Government Association (LGA). This report considers those recommendations and options for how they might be addressed.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to consider the recommendations aimed at the LGA together with the proposed responses set out in Table 1 and agree a set of actions.

### **Action**

Officers will take actions as directed.

**Contact officer:** Eamon Lally  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3132/07799768570  
**Email:** eamon.lally@local.gov.uk

## **Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) Report: Police and Crime Commissioners: progress to date**

### **Background**

1. HASC announced its inquiry into PCCs One Year On in November 2013. The LGA provided written and oral evidence to the inquiry.
2. The HASC report, Police and Crime Commissioners: Progress to Date was published on 5 May 2014.
3. The Report examines the work of the commissioners during their first 18 months in office. It considers their effectiveness to date and looks at the relationships they have developed with their chief constables, and Police and Crime Panels.

### **Overview**

4. On commissioners, the view of HASC is that it is too early to say whether the introduction of police and crime commissioners has been a success, but that “a clear message from our evidence is that PCCs have provided greater clarity of leadership for policing within their areas, and are increasingly recognised by the public as accountable for the strategic direction of their police force”. However, the report also notes that “whilst the nascent work of PCCs is still to have its full effect on the public’s perception of local policing, it is inevitable that many will consider the concept of police and crime commissioners to be on probation”.
5. On panels, the view of HASC is that effective scrutiny by police and crime panels relies on creating a constructive working relationship with the commissioner in which the panel acts as a ‘critical friend’. “However, many panels have to date struggled to understand their powers and define their role”.
6. In its evidence the LGA focused on the role and effectiveness of Police and Crime Panels (PCP). HASC has agreed with the key proposals from the LGA, namely:
  - 6.1. To require commissioners to publish a forward plan of key decisions, where these are known in advance, and to publish background information on each decision when it is made.
  - 6.2. That the Home Office provide fuller guidance to panels on their role and remit, and how it relates to commissioners.
  - 6.3. The Home Office should also produce accompanying guidance for commissioners on what constitutes a decision
  - 6.4. If police and crime panels are to play a stronger role in proactively scrutinising commissioners they need to be resourced accordingly in a way that is sustainable.



- 7. In addition, HASC has recommended that:
  - 7.1. PCPs should have powers of veto over the appointment of deputies that are not named as part of the election ticket.
  - 7.2. That police and crime panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a chief constable's service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the Schedule 8 scrutiny process is formally engaged.
- 8. The conclusions and recommendations of the report are set out in **appendix 1**. The full report can be found at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/police-and-crime-commissioners1/>
- 9. The LGA press release can be found in **appendix 2**.

**Recommendations directed at the Local Government Association**

- 10. HASC has recommended areas where the LGA could do some further work to support panels and PCCs. The relevant recommendations are set out in Table 1 together with proposed responses and actions. Members are asked to consider the proposed responses and agree a set of actions.

**Table 1**

| <b>Recommendation</b>   | <b>Proposed response</b>  |
|---|---|
| 10.1. A transition period for new commissioners of one month between election and taking office. This would allow time for the Association of PCCs, College of Policing, Local Government Association, and others to provide intensive training for newly elected commissioners, and a period of transition for post-holders and their teams. | <p><i>The proposed period of transition would be unique within the UK electoral system. It is also not clear that the difficulties experienced by newly incumbent PCC in 2013/14 will emerge in any future election of Commissioners.</i></p> <p><i>However, the LGA will always be ready to work with other organisations across the sector to ensure the effective delivery of public services.</i></p> |
| 10.2. The Local Government Association consider further ways to develop the sharing of best practice between panels.  | <p><i>The LGA continues to support the work of panels in their scrutiny of commissioners, through the provision of a knowledge hub and national and regional events. The LGA will continue to ensure that best practice is shared throughout the sector.</i></p>  |
| 10.3. The Local Government Association and the Association of PCCs agree a protocol on the timely provision of information to panels generally, but with  | <p><i>The LGA is working with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner Treasurers to develop a better understanding of the success and</i></p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>particular reference to the precept-setting process, to enable more effective scrutiny by panels</p>   | <p><i>challenges of the precept-setting process and will use this information to help commissioners and panels improve local processes.</i></p>   |
| <p>10.4. The Local Government Association undertake in-depth research on panels' experience to date on complaint handling, so that it can make recommendations to the Home Office on how the process should be improved.</p>  | <p><i>Complaint handling is an issue that has been raised with the LGA by a number of panels. The LGA is currently gathering information from panels on the key issues as well as examples of where the system is working well. The LGA will use this information to inform best practice in the sector and future discussions with the Home Office on this issue.</i></p>  |
| <p>10.5. The Home Office and Local Government Association undertake research to estimate the actual cost of support for panels to date to determine a more realistic level of funding. We further recommend that to provide long-term certainty, in the future, such funding should come from the police precept.</p> | <p><i>We will work with the sector to assess the feasibility of establishing an actual cost of support to panels, which will include a substantial amount of work provided pro bono by council officials.</i></p> <p><i>The LGA's response will also need to be cognisant of the Home Office's strong direction that additional funding will not be made available.</i></p> |

**Next Steps**

11. Following discussion and agreement by members, officers will:

- 11.1. Draft a short response from the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to the Home Affairs Select Committee welcoming HASC's support for the LGA's main proposals and outlining the action that the LGA intends to take in respect of the relevant recommendations set out in the report;
- 11.2. Continue to work with the Home Office on the scope of additional guidance for Panels and PCCs (see paragraph 6.2);
- 11.3. Carry out actions as directed by the Board; and
- 11.4. Report back to the Committee at a subsequent meeting on the progress of these actions.

## Appendix 1

# Conclusions and recommendations

## PCCs and the public

1. One of the main aims of police and crime commissioners was to make the strategic direction of policing in England and Wales subject to democratic accountability. It is disappointing, therefore, that the turn-out for the elections in November 2012 was so low, leading some to question whether PCCs have a sufficient electoral mandate. Since their introduction, however, public awareness of commissioners has increased significantly, albeit not always for the right reasons. This, combined with the move of the next PCC elections to be in line with the May electoral cycle should ensure a greater turn-out and level of public engagement at the next elections in 2016. Until then, and whilst the nascent work of PCCs is still to have its full effect on the public's perception of local policing, it is inevitable that many will consider the concept of police and crime commissioners to be on probation. (Paragraph 9)

## Training and transition

2. This Report and the Committee's previous reports on PCCs have shown that many of the difficulties that commissioners have faced could have been avoided given greater opportunity to find their feet before starting the job. For the next elections, we recommend a transition period for new commissioners of one month between election and taking office. This would allow time for the Association of PCCs, College of Policing, Local Government Association, and others to provide intensive training for newly elected commissioners, and a period of transition for post-holders and their teams. (Paragraph 11)

3. We continue to believe that there should be a national register of commissioners' disclosable interests, and reject the suggestion that such an exercise is complex and bureaucratic. It has been a perfectly straightforward exercise to produce it for this Report. In the continued absence of any such initiative by HMIC, the Home Office or the Association of PCCs, we produce the latest version of the register as an Annex to this Report. For the first time, we also include the disclosable interests of deputy commissioners. (Paragraph 13)

## The work of commissioners to date

4. Collaborative working has the potential to save money as well as providing a higher standard of policing. We support the efforts of commissioners in working with their neighbours and others in fields as diverse as the provision of blue light services, mental health, community safety, organised crime and counter-terrorism. Although there has been progress in some areas, it is clear that a majority of police forces are

not yet exploiting the full potential of collaboration. We recommend that, for forces delivering less than 10 per cent of their business through collaboration, commissioners and chief constables should prioritise work in this area, seeking advice from those forces that have already demonstrated success. We will also continue to highlight examples of good practice in collaborative working in the future. (Paragraph 24)

**5.** We also support the alliances between Warwickshire and West Mercia, and Surrey and Sussex, the former of which has achieved the majority of their required savings over the current spending period through collaboration. Where such alliances prove successful and supported by the public, we believe there is a case for facilitating the full merger of forces under a single police and crime commissioner and chief constable. (Paragraph 25)

## **Transparency**

**6.** We are deeply concerned that despite a requirement in statute, and a reminder from the Home Office, some commissioners are still failing to meet their transparency requirements. This information is vital in allowing voters to assess the effectiveness of their PCCs. We recommend that the Home Office and the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives continue to pursue this matter with the relevant PCC offices. Furthermore, we recommend that commissioners begin to publish a register of meetings held with external stakeholders. (Paragraph 30)

**7.** However, we believe this information will be more useful to the public and police and crime panels in holding PCCs to account if it is drawn together to allow meaningful comparisons. As such, we recommend that the Association of PCCs begin collating and publishing all statutory information on its website, and carry out comparative analysis where appropriate. In so doing, it should also highlight those PCC offices that are not meeting their requirements. The Home Office or HMIC should also publish a comparative analysis of the range of ways in which commissioners have approached the 2014 Stage 2 transfer of staff and assets. (Paragraph 31)

## **Appointment of deputy and assistant commissioners**

**8.** The employment of assistants and deputies has raised inevitable accusations of cronyism. Whilst we do not question the right of commissioners to appoint a deputy, their appointment must be transparent and instil public confidence. We recommend that at the 2016 elections, candidates for commissioner should be able to name their intended deputies so that they are elected on the same ticket. In cases where a commissioner subsequently seeks to appoint a deputy post-election, the Home Office should set out a clear process for the conduct of their selection. The police and crime panel should also have the power to veto the appointment. (Paragraph 38)

**9.** We believe the status of assistant PCCs is ambiguous and risks creating public confusion about their role, and that the nomenclature should be avoided. In some cases their appointment appears to side-step the scrutiny process required by statute for deputies. In some areas the appointment of multiple assistants could be seen as an attempt by the PCCs in those areas to recreate the former police authorities. We are also concerned that such appointments do not meet the requirement for posts below the level of deputy to be politically restricted. We recommend that the appointment of posts aside from deputy commissioner should in all cases be subject to an open and transparent recruitment process similar to that for entry to the Civil Service or local government, with that process approved by the chief executive of the office of the PCC. (Paragraph 39)

### **Target setting and crime statistics**

**10.** Public confidence in the veracity of crime data has been severely undermined by recent revelations, culminating in the withdrawal of their designation as National Statistics. We welcome the work that HMIC, commissioners and chief constables are now undertaking to ensure the robustness of crime data, especially as they constitute a key indicator on which the public will assess the performance of commissioners in 2016. (Paragraph 46)

**11.** We note that target-setting has been cited as one of the reasons for the manipulation of crime figures. We are concerned, therefore, that a large number of commissioners have set targets or performance measures as part of their police and crime plans. Where this is the case, it is vital that PCCs ensure such targets operate as intended and do not act as incentives for the gaming of crime statistics in the future. We recommend that all such commissioners review urgently the auditing arrangements they have in place. We are mindful also that as the next elections approach many PCCs will feel under pressure to demonstrate their effectiveness. It will be the responsibility of chief constables to ensure this does not translate into pressure on forces to under or misreport crime. (Paragraph 47)

### **Support for victims**

**12.** Many PCCs seem to be taking seriously the responsibility they are due to take on for commissioning victims services. There is a potential opportunity to make a significant improvement to the quality of services offered in this area. However, there are also a number of risks, particularly during the transition phase. We recommend that HMIC evaluate the approach taken after PCCs take over responsibility for commissioning victims services in October 2014 so as to inform decision-making by PCCs in the second tranche. We further recommend that before the next PCC elections, HMIC conduct a full evaluation of the move to local commissioning to inform the approach taken by the next generation of PCCs. (Paragraph 51)

### **Commissioner-led campaigns**

**13.** Police and crime commissioners are increasingly using their voice to lobby Government on policies that are formed at a national level. We welcome this, and hope that they continue to do so. (Paragraph 53)

### **Overall effectiveness of commissioners to date**

**14.** It is too early to say whether the introduction of police and crime commissioners has been a success. As such this inquiry should be seen as a progress report, rather than a definitive assessment of the PCC model. Indeed, even by 2016 it may be difficult to draw a national picture because of the range of different approaches being taken by commissioners, although this should be possible after the term then commencing. However, one clear message from our evidence is that PCCs have provided greater clarity of leadership for policing within their areas, and are increasingly recognised by the public as accountable for the strategic direction of their police force. (Paragraph 56)

### **Holding chief constables to account**

**15.** Commissioners have developed a range of informal and formal approaches to holding their chief constables to account, both in private and in public, for the delivery of policing. The relationship between both parties has to balance an open and constructive approach with robust challenge where necessary. Commissioners must continue to guard against the inherent risks of the new governance model by ensuring decision-making is as transparent as possible, and avoid any temptation to interfere in the operational independence of chief constables in accordance with the Policing Protocol. Indeed, commissioners and chief constables should regard the Policing Protocol as the foundation on which their relationship is based, and training on it should form part of the induction period we have proposed for PCCs. Behind the new accountability framework lies the power of PCCs to fire their chief constable. Whilst the Stevens Commission concluded that this power risked having a chilling effect on the decision-making of chief constables, the evidence we received does not support this assertion. (Paragraph 67)

### **The process for the removal of a chief constable**

**16.** The removal of a chief constable should follow due process. It is clear to us that there are a number of ways in which the procedure of removing a chief constable can be improved to promote greater public confidence. We recommend that the Home Office bring forward proposals to amend the powers of commissioners to suspend or remove chief constables under Section 38(2) and 38(3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 by stipulating the grounds on which they may do so. The Home Office should also provide guidance to commissioners on the use of their

powers in both respects. In the case of a suspension there should also be a clear system of safeguards similar to those which guide suspension in respect of conduct. (Paragraph 75)

**17.** We are concerned that commissioners can side-step the statutory scrutiny process set out in Schedule 8 to the 2011 Act for the removal of a chief constable by simply threatening to use it. Accordingly, we recommend that police and crime panels inquire and report into the circumstances whenever a chief constable's service is brought to an end irrespective of whether the Schedule 8 scrutiny process is formally engaged. (Paragraph 76)

**18.** It is also not right that the statutory scrutiny process can be side-stepped where a chief constable is close to the end of their contract, and the commissioner chooses not to agree an extension. We recommend that the Home Office bring forward proposals to extend the Schedule 8 process to include scrutiny by the police and crime panel in such instances to bring it in line with the process for the removal of a chief constable. (Paragraph 77)

**19.** We have recommended earlier in this Report the need for a period of training for new commissioners before they take office. We believe that instruction in respect of their duties under the 2011 Act, the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012, and other relevant employment law would form a useful aspect of that training period. Finally, we recommend the Home Office, HMIC, CPOSA, and the Association of PCCs work together to develop a third party mediation process that commissioners and chief constables can refer to when their relationship breaks down. Training on this process should also be included in the induction period for new commissioners. (Paragraph 78)

### **The developing role of police and crime panels**

**20.** Effective scrutiny by police and crime panels relies on creating a constructive working relationship with the commissioner in which the panel acts as a 'critical friend'. However, many panels have to date struggled to understand their powers and define their role. Indeed, one former member of a police and crime panel described it as "a crocodile with rubber teeth". In short, they need to conduct themselves less in the style of the former police authorities, and operate more in the mode of select committees. We recommend that the Home Office provide fuller guidance to panels on their role and remit, and how it relates to commissioners. We also recommend that the Local Government Association consider further ways to develop the sharing of best practice between panels. The political balance on panels is also a concern to us, and so we recommend that, where possible in the future, if the chair of a police and crime panel is from the same party as the commissioner, then the panel should consider appointing a deputy chair who is not from that party. (Paragraph 87)

### **Strengthening the role of panels**

**21.** The Government's intention was for commissioners to be held to account by the public with police and crime panels providing 'light touch' scrutiny. But the low turnout for the PCC elections and, the lack of a formal 'Opposition' between elections, inevitably places a greater emphasis on the role of panels in scrutinising commissioners. (Paragraph 92)

**22.** To allow panels to conduct more proactive scrutiny, we recommend that the Home Office brings forward proposals to amend the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 to require commissioners to publish a forward plan of key decisions, where these are known in advance, and to publish background information on each decision when it is made. The Home Office should also produce accompanying guidance for commissioners on what constitutes a decision. We further recommend that the Local Government Association and the Association of PCCs agree a protocol on the timely provision of information to panels generally, but with particular reference to the precept-setting process, to enable more effective scrutiny by panels. In this area, we also recommend that the Government does not again delay confirmation of police funding to such a late stage as last year, with the Autumn Statement not taking place until December. Finally, we recommend that the Local Government Association undertake in-depth research on panels' experience to date on complaint handling, so that it can make recommendations to the Home Office on how the process should be improved. (Paragraph 93)

### **Panel resources**

**23.** If police and crime panels are to play a stronger role in proactively scrutinising commissioners they need to be resourced accordingly in a way that is sustainable. We recommend the Home Office and Local Government Association undertake research to estimate the actual cost of support for panels to date to determine a more realistic level of funding. We further recommend that to provide long-term certainty, in the future, such funding should come from the police precept. (Paragraph 95).

**Appendix 2: LGA press release**

EMBARGO: 00.01 Monday 5 May 2014

CONTACT: Local Government Association Media Office, 020 7664 3333.

**LGA RESPONDS TO HASC REPORT ON POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

Responding to the Home Affairs Select Committee report on Police and Crime Commissioners, Cllr Joanna Spicer, Vice-Chair of the Local Government Association's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, said:

"Councils have warned that a lack of clarity about the role of Police and Crime Panels can hinder them from fully holding their PCCs to account. We are pleased the Committee has listened to our concerns and recognised the need for further guidance and funding which will strengthen the role of PCPs.

"We agree that PCCs and panels will benefit from clearer rules over what constitutes a decision of 'significant public interest' to avoid the confusion and disagreement that exists about what should be scrutinised.

"Requiring PCCs to publish their forward plans will also allow panels to engage in policy development and budgets from the outset. These changes would make it easier for panels to hold their PCCs to account and ensure they are responding to resident priorities and working with councils, the fire and health services and probation to fight crime."

**ENDS**



## **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.

**Briefing officer:** Ian Leete, Adviser  
**Lead officer:** Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3143  
**E-mail:** [ian.leete@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.leete@local.gov.uk)

## **Regulatory services update**

### **Licensing issues**

#### **Licensing reform: *Rewiring Licensing***

1. *Rewiring Licensing* continues to attract interest at all levels. Since the Board meeting in March, a number of MPs have expressed interest in the proposals, and we have worked with them to seek to introduce a licensing review clause in the Deregulation Bill. Our proposal for a clause to hold a licensing review was narrowly defeated at Committee stage. LGA member councils also continue to express interest and submit ideas for reform, and LGA officers have been invited to present on the subject at a number of regional events for licensing professionals.
2. Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe contacted the LGA after reading *Rewiring* to discuss the possibility of introducing a Private Members Bill calling for a Public Health Objective in the Licensing Act. The LGA assisted Lord Brooke to draft a Bill based on the Scottish objective and it was introduced in the House of Lords on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Cllr Lucas and Cllr Hall have written to ministers and other partners to encourage them to support the Bill. It has attracted significant interest from councils and public health representatives: Public Health England have responded very favourably to the proposal, and to *Rewiring Licensing* more generally. However, the Bill is 25<sup>th</sup> on the list of private members bills, so we anticipate that it will struggle to find time for future debate.
3. Cornwall Council has been successful in securing funding from the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) for a project to investigate the practicalities involved in creating a single business licence, as outlined in *Rewiring Licensing*. The LGA helped the council to develop the proposal, which will look at the practical challenges involved in creating a uniform process.

#### **Deregulation Bill / Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) reform**

4. We have been involved in extensive lobbying and briefing activity relating to the Deregulation Bill, which has now moved past the Committee Stage and is expected back in Parliament for Report Stage. A number of regulatory services issues are covered by the Bill, and government has introduced more relevant clauses as the Bill has progressed through Parliament. Our briefings have raised concern about government taking a piecemeal approach to implementing deregulatory measures, and about the introduction of significant new clauses without prior consultation with councils.
5. Of particular concern are the new clauses on private hire vehicles (PHVs): permitting anyone to drive an 'off-duty' PHV; enabling sub-contracting across council boundaries; and introducing a default licence life-span of three years for drivers and five years for operators. Our view is that these clauses unnecessarily pre-empt a more thorough reform of taxi legislation following publication of the Law Commission's comprehensive review of this area.
6. The new taxi clauses have proved controversial, with both councils and taxi associations contacting the LGA to express their opposition. The LGA has opposed the clauses on

permitting anyone to drive a PHV and sub-contracting, but supported the clause proposing a three- or five-year licence lifespan, which is in more in keeping with the 'licence for life' proposals in *Rewiring Licensing*. We have led a campaign against the proposals through:

- 6.1 coordinating with a number of taxi associations, professional bodies and charities such as the Suzy Lamplugh trust to raise concerns about these clauses, securing good media coverage on Sky and radio programmes;
  - 6.2 briefing LGA Vice-Presidents and Peers on our concerns; and
  - 6.3 writing to ministers to outline our concerns.
7. We will be continuing this lobbying in the coming weeks.

### **Other licensing issues**

8. The Deregulation Bill also includes proposals to **introduce a new definition of 'ancillary sales' to the Licensing Act**, reducing the involvement of some businesses and community venues in the licensing process. This proposal was first put forward as part of the Government's Alcohol Strategy, and received a cautious welcome in the LGA response. However, much depends on the detail of the definitions used to exclude or include types of sales and these will be defined in secondary legislation at a later date. During the parliamentary debate on these proposals, the Home Office committed to work with the LGA on this and we will be following this up with officials.
9. Our response to the **Home Office's licensing fees consultation** welcomed signs of progress on this issue, but criticised the complexity of the proposals and raised concerns that a cap on the fees set would potentially prevent the recovery of costs in some council areas. We also argued that the approach to fee-setting introduced by government must be compliant with the EU Services Directive.
10. On a related issue, **Westminster Council has been given leave to appeal the Hemming decision at the Supreme Court** in January 2015. The Board will recall that the original judgement ruled that the council could not include the costs of enforcement activity against *unlicensed* sex establishment operators within the licence fee for *licensed* operators. The team are liaising with officers at Westminster, and have sought legal advice on the potential implications of the case for local government. We intend bringing a paper on this to a future Board meeting.
11. The Board may recall that the **national extension of licensing hours for England's world cup games** did not apply in Wales. This decision was subsequently reversed by the Home Office, with Welsh councils asked to provide a free TEN service to businesses that wanted an extension, and then reclaim their costs from the Home Office. We have pressed the Home Office to make clear to Welsh councils how the money can be reclaimed, as soon as possible.

### **Trading Standards Workforce Survey and 'National Conversation' report**

12. In April, the Trading Standards Institute published a workforce survey indicating a cut to trading standards budgets of some 40% over the lifetime of this Parliament (mirroring the overall cut to central government funding of councils) and a 50% reduction in trading

standards officers since 2009. TSI is calling for the National Audit Office to undertake a review of the whole of the consumer protection regime in the UK, and wrote to the LGA Chairman inviting the organisation to support this call so that we can *'come together to map out a shared vision of the future before this vital service ceases to exist.'*

13. The Chairman's response to TSI recognised the challenges facing the service and the need for serious thinking about the future of the service, but did not support the call for the NAO to be asked to undertake a review of consumer protection issues following its 2011 review. We believe it is incumbent on local government to seek to find its own solutions before inviting the NAO to find them for the sector.
14. On 11 June Cllr Worth and Helen Murray attended the final panel session of TSI's 'National trading standards conversation' work to discuss the draft report into the future of the service. The session was chaired by Lord Heseltine. The draft report outlined concerns about recent cuts to trading standards teams and the viability of some trading standards services, and outlines different options for the future of the service; a series of draft recommendations relating to the report were circulated on the day.
15. At the session, the panel emphasised the importance of the service being able to articulate its core functions and demonstrate its value and cost effectiveness in order to win support in both central and local government. The need for more radical innovation from within the service to think about a variety of different service models (which was acknowledged in the report) was emphasised.

#### **250<sup>th</sup> Chuggers voluntary agreement signed**

16. Cllr Worth spoke at the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority's Annual General Meeting, which celebrated the signing of the 250<sup>th</sup> site agreement between councils and the PFRA. The agreements, developed by the SSC team and PFRA, were recently praised by CLG Minister Brandon Lewis.

#### **Government response to Keogh Review on non-medical cosmetic procedures**

17. Officials from the Department of Health have advised that the government will shortly be consulting on how to legislate for the regulation of non-surgical cosmetic treatments (such as dermal fillers, botox etc). Our expectation is that they will create an enforcement role for local authorities in relation to non-medically qualified practitioners, such as high street beauticians. This raises questions about the consistency of approach to regulating different treatments and activities (for example, tattooists and acupuncture; sunbeds etc), as well as the consistency of powers available to councils in different parts of the country (London currently has much more stringent powers to licence / register special treatments than the rest of the country).
18. We will update the Board on this as and when more information is 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 2013/2014, and briefly looks forward to next year's priorities.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are invited to:

- (a) Note the achievements against the Board's priorities in 2013/2014;
- (b) Note the Board's broad priority areas for 2014/15;
- (c) Agree the programme of meetings for 2014/15; and,
- (d) Propose 2 or 3 innovative projects or campaigns they consider would best support councils in the coming year.

### Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Helen Murray  
**Position:** Head of Programmes  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3266  
**E-mail:** [helen.murray@local.gov.uk](mailto:helen.murray@local.gov.uk)

## **End of Year Board Report**

### **Background**

1. Although the state of the economy is improving, and issues such as unemployment, housing and education have continued to dominate the political environment in the last year, crime remains a key concern for communities and the councils that serve them.
2. The Business Plan 2013/14 set out a number of priorities for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board including, supporting businesses by reducing unnecessary red tape and regulatory burden at the local level as well as by fighting crime, and by improving the ability of fire and rescue authorities to protect people and places from harm; promoting community safety partnership working including with police and crime commissioners; and building the resilience of communities so they are able to thrive in the face of challenging economic conditions and the significant restructuring of services.
3. As previously stated the Board has had to respond to unanticipated events the year. For example LGA supported councils during the flooding crisis, the biggest such event to hit the UK in more than 300 years. In addition the LGA has helped support local authorities tackle ongoing concerns with betting shops and explored further the role that councils and their regulatory functions have in supporting local businesses.

### **Strategic Issues**

4. As the Business Plan set out, the core of the Board's work over the past year has included helping councils to implement the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013; bringing together local authorities and betting shop companies to discuss issues around betting shop clustering and fixed odds betting terminals; working with leading politicians on the Deregulation Bill; running a number of leadership academies for the fire sector; developing a new vision for regulation, Open for Business, and detailed proposals for the reform of licensing frameworks. There has been engagement with Police and Crime Commissioners through joint strategic meetings; continued working with Community Safety Partnerships and working with other LGA Boards such the Children and Young Peoples Board and Community Wellbeing Board on shared issues.

### **Achievements**

#### **Regulatory Work**

5. We set up a taskforce to look at the clustering of betting shops, as well as the harm caused by fixed odds betting terminals. This has brought together council representatives and government officials with the leading high street betting shop firms and industry bodies for the first time.
6. We worked closely on the Deregulation Bill currently going through Parliament, which aims to free businesses and councils from unnecessary and unwanted red tape.

7. We assisted councils in implementing the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 by 1 October 2013. This included publishing guides to the application process and enforcement, publishing template application forms and licences, speaking at conferences and answering questions from officers responsible for the licensing process. Councils have issued over 6,000 licences to date.
8. We launched 'Open for Business: Vision for local regulation' which aims to recognise and build on the contribution local trading standards, environmental health and licensing teams can make to economic growth and job creation.
9. We developed well received proposals for comprehensive reform of local authority licensing frameworks, and secured government funding for councils to pilot the proposals.
10. We successfully lobbied for the Government to amend the Draft Consumer Rights Bill to ensure councils can continue to act on intelligence and target high-risk businesses through unannounced visits.
11. We provided a number of masterclasses for councillors on licensing committees as well as developing an online module on licensing.

### **Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls**

12. We established a cross-Board working group to look at the role councils can play in tackling female genital mutilation (FGM), which has heard evidence from a range of councils and charitable organisations involved in this field.
13. We participated in a range of national panels including the Home Office's national group on preventing the sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable people, HMIC's reference group on their review of the police response to domestic violence and the Home Office's panel on improving the commissioning of domestic abuse services.

### **Fire and Rescue Services**

14. We successfully ran a number of Fire Leadership Essential programmes across the country, involving Chairs and senior members of local fire and rescue authorities.
15. We established an online resource for councils to use to keep up to date with the latest developments on flooding. Supported and kept in contact with local authorities affected by the flooding crisis and participated in the national recovery groups convened by the government.

### **Police and Crime**

16. We gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee's Inquiry on Police and Crime Commissioners, setting out a range of recommendations for strengthening the

ability of Police and Crime Panels to hold Police and Crime Commissioners to account. The Committee adopted many of these recommendations in their final report, including the suggestion that PCCs should have to publish a forward plan of key decisions in the same way councils do.

17. We persuaded the government to amend the injunction provisions in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill to give councils greater powers to tackle anti-social tenants in private rented accommodation, which was one of our key requests in the evidence we gave to the Bill Committee.
18. We established the joint LGA and Association of Police Crime Commissioners joint strategic partnership board, which has discussed a range of issues including domestic violence.
19. We presented key evidence at a number of parliamentary Select Committees and public bill committees where Board members represented the LGA, including the Justice Select Committee's inquiry into the co-ordination of crime reduction policies across Whitehall and the potential impact of the government's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda on reducing re-offending, as well as participating in the Home Office's expert panel on new psychoactive substances.

#### **Events and Media**

20. We held a range of successful conferences to support councils in introducing the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, implementing the new tools and powers for tackling anti-social behaviour (including the community trigger provisions) in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, as well as running the annual Licensing, Fire and Safer Communities conferences.
21. We issued press releases and statements on topics ranging from the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, Police and Crime Commissioners, taxi and private hire vehicles, betting shop clustering, fire service funding, licensing fees and food safety.

#### **Programme of work 2014/15**

22. Building on these achievements the Board agreed a number of overarching priorities which form part of the LGA Business Plan for 2014/15:
  - 22.1 Councils work with businesses to determine the right level of risk and regulation for a local area balancing community protection with economic growth.
  - 22.2 Councils and fire and rescue authorities protect people and places from harm, providing the safe environment in which businesses and communities can thrive.
  - 22.3 Councils work effectively with partners to deliver safe and cohesive communities.
23. As well as completing the work started in 13/14, Members have given a steer on the following broad priorities for 14/15: championing the work of councils in tackling serious and organised crime and crimes against vulnerable people (including domestic abuse, FGM, trafficking, working with the children and Young People's board on child sexual

exploitation); continuing to work on the reform of policing and the blue light services; and responding to civil contingency situations. There are some important new issues which Members will want to discuss such as cohesion and values debates (as a result of events in Birmingham schools) and Prevent. We will submit detailed proposals for consideration at the September Board meeting.

24. This provides significant scope for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to identify innovative projects or campaigns to be delivered over the next year, particularly in the run up to a General Election. **Members are asked to discuss the priorities and propose 2 or 3 innovative projects or campaigns they consider would best support councils in the coming year.**

### **Board Cycle**

25. Lead Members have proposed the following dates for Board in the 2014/15 cycle:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 04 September 2014 | Councillors' Briefing |
| 15 September 2014 | 11.00am               |
| 01 December 2014  | 11.00am               |
| 23 February 2015  | 11.00am               |
| 08 June 2015      | 11.00am               |

26. 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 the meetings.

### **Financial Implications**

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



## Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

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|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b> | Safer & Stronger Communities Board   |
| <b>Date:</b>  | Monday 3 March 2014  |
| <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           |
|----------|---|------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>World Cup Licensing Extension</b></p> <p>Ian Leete, Policy Adviser introduced the report to Members, outlining the expected consultation in relation to a blanket extension of licensing hours during the 2014 World Cup in June and July, due to a number of games (including England's opening game) kicking off after 11pm in the UK.</p> <p>Local Authorities are expecting an increase in the number of Temporary Event Notice (TEN) applications due to the late kick off of games. It was recognised that this would have a significant resource implication across local authorities.</p> <p>However, Members agreed that there are a number of potential issues associated with extending licensing hours. In particular around domestic violence, this typically increased around the time of major sporting events. With a blanket exemption it would not be possible for the police and local authorities to identify who was opening late and therefore difficult to target resources effectively.</p> <p>Members agreed that the key issue was that a decision to impose a blanket extension of licences during the World Cup would undermine local authorities, who can consider the local context before agreeing or refusing any extensions.</p> <p>All Members agreed that Whitehall should conclude the consultation quickly as the World Cup is only three months away, and depending on the outcome of the consultation this could leave local authorities with little time to make appropriate arrangements</p> <p>Councillor Lucas asked officers to take on board the comments of Members and asked that progress is made quickly.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Lead Members to push on the timeliness of the consultation and</p> | <b>Ian Leete</b> |

emphasise that local government could not support a blanket extension.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the issues set out in the report

## **2 Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) and Betting Shops**

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser introduced the report and informed the Board that there had been a lot of media activity focusing on betting shop clustering and Fixed Odd Betting Terminals (FOBTs) recently. There had recently been a change in the position of some of the biggest betting shops, who were keen for greater powers to be given to local authorities with regards to licensing betting shops. This included comments from the chairman of BetFred who would welcome back the demand test and the Chairman of William Hill who wanted to see a cumulative impact test brought in in relation to new betting shops.

Since the paper was circulated to Members, officers had been involved in meetings with both BetFred and PaddyPower, who were both interested to continue discussions, although PaddyPower raised concerns that some of the proposals suggested may be anti-competitive.

Members commented that the issues around betting were wider than just FOBT's in betting shops: individuals were now able to place bets on their tablets, phones and other electrical devices. In most cases the industry encouraged people to play by offering free competitions, and the shops were open later than other licensed premises were. Members also agreed that there was an issue with the clustering of shops.

Overall Members agreed it was the right time to talk with the leading betting shops. It was suggested that a short task and finish group be set up over a six month period, inviting all leading bookmakers to discuss issues and take forward a number of recommendations.

Members queried whether there had been any academic research into betting and issues surrounding addiction to gambling. Officers noted that although there is a significant body of evidence linked to betting shops and FOBTs, there is less agreement among the different interested parties.

### **Action**

To establish a short task and finish group for a six month period, to look into making recommendations on issues surrounding betting shops.

**Ellie  
Greenwood**

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the issues set out in the report

## **3 Psychoactive substances (legal highs)**

Mark Norris, LGA Senior Adviser introduced the report and informed

Members that a number of LGA Members had raised the issue of 'legal highs' being sold in their authority area. The Home Office had commissioned a review into the UK's response to this issue, which the LGA had been invited to contribute. There was a link across to health and in particular health and well-being boards.

Members agreed that this was a serious issue and noted the 79 per cent increase in deaths in the UK from the previous year. There was concern that mixing these 'legal highs' with alcohol further exacerbated the problems and led to people becoming violent.

Some Members felt it was important that further research into the area was key, particularly getting further insight from authorities across the country on their experiences with 'legal highs'. In addition, now that public health was now part of local government it was crucial to look at the long term impacts of this on people's health. Regarding enforcement Members noted that resources in trading standards teams were limited

Councillor Fox commented that he had been to a workshop run by West Yorkshire Police who were concerned with the increase in the use of 'legal highs' and the consequences for the community as a whole. It was important moving forward that young people were educated on the effects of 'legal highs'.

There was consensus amongst the Board that it was important to look at examples from America and also from New Zealand in to how they tackled the issue. There was the opportunity to work closely with licensing authorities and also community safety partnerships.

Councillor Spicer commented that the Home Office had provided access to free testing of 'legal highs' to assist trading standards in identifying if a product was a controlled drug, and this funding needed to continue. There also need to be action around the labelling of the products and greater involvement of the police around enforcement activity.

Councillors agreed there were a number of actions for officers to take forward, including exploring local authorities' work and experience was.

Mark Norris also updated the Board on the group set up by the Home Office, which involved civil servants from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, the UK Border Agency, police officers from the Metropolitan Police and National Crime Agency, academics, charities and the chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Members requested that future engagement with the panel be considered by Lead Members.

### **Action**

To **contact** local authorities to gather their experiences.

**Mark Norris**

To **update** Members on the work of the new group set up by the Home Office.

**Mark Norris**

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the issues set out in the report.

#### 4 Tackling Extremism Task Force

Mark Norris, LGA Senior Adviser informed Members that following the last meeting in January officers had been in contact with the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) to seek how they plan to implement the recommendations from the Prime Minister's Task Force on tackling radicalisation and extremism report related to local authorities.

The Home Office was looking at how it could give effect to the requirement to deliver the 'Channel' programme as this would require new legislation, but it was thought that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provided a means for making councils deliver the Prevent strategy.

Members did not feel that Government's proposed action was appropriate and agreed that it would be beneficial to speak to the Minister for Security and Immigration to raise concerns about the proposed approach to working with local authorities on tackling extremism.

Councillor Lucas asked Members to endorse a letter from Lead Members to the Minister for Security and Immigration asking for a cross party meeting.

##### **Action**

Officers to **write** to James Brokenshire MP, Immigration and Security Minister, requesting a meeting to discuss the Extremism Task Force recommendations.

**Mark  
Norris/Dan  
Kalley**

##### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report and requested officers to follow up meeting with James Brokenshire MP.

#### 5 Regulatory Services Update

Councillor Burbage asked whether the review of licensing legislation recommended in Rewiring Licensing should be undertaken by the LGA rather than asking government to do this. Officers felt that although the LGA has a part to play and want to be closely involved, this work requires central Government attention as licensing is spread across so many Whitehall Departments.,

Members agreed it was important to take a review step by step and not be overly ambitious on every aspect. Moving forward, it was key to prioritise certain areas of licensing and make progress.

##### **Decision**

Members **noted** the report.

## 6 LGA Governance Arrangements

Helen Murray, Head of Programmes introduced the report and explained to Members that there had been changes to the governance arrangements at the LGA. With regards to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board there would be a new name from September 2014 with the Board being called the Community Safety Board. In addition the number of meetings a year had been reduced from five to four.

While Members welcomed the new arrangements, Councillor Mann asked why the Fire Services still had separate meetings, if they were to report to the Board in the future. Councillor Hammond explained that the Fire Services Management Committee had always been represented on the Board, the purpose for Fire now reporting to the Board directly was to ensure all blue light services were together. It was considered that the Fire Services played a distinct role and warranted having their own committee.

Officers confirmed that it was possible to call a meeting at short notice should the Board be required to do so.

Councillor Lucas informed Members that there would be more Lead Member meetings during the year to ensure that communication channels were kept open.

### Decision

Members **noted** the report.

## 7 Notes from previous meeting

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting on 13 January 2014. Councillor Fox requested that his name be added to the attendance list as he was in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Brett updated Members on the first meeting of the FGM working group, which had involved three organisations, namely the NSPCC, FORWARD and the British Arab Federation. Two key issues arose from the first meeting, firstly there needed to be better data collection and secondly there needed to be better models of engagement in reaching out to local communities. There was one more scoping meeting planned for April, at which a work programme would be discussed.

### Decision

Members **noted** the report.

### Appendix A -Attendance

| Position/Role   | Councillor      | Authority                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Chairman        | Ann Lucas OBE   | Coventry City Council      |
| Vice-Chairman   | Joanna Spicer   | Suffolk CC                 |
| Deputy-chairman | Lisa Brett      | Bath & NE Somerset Council |
|                 | Philip Evans JP | Conwy Council              |

Members

Morris Bright  
David Burbage MBE  
Ian Gillies  
Tom Fox  
Nick Worth  
Kay Hammond  
Janet Daby  
Michael Payne  
Tony Page  
Mike Connolly  
Kate Haigh  
Anita Lower  
Colin Mann

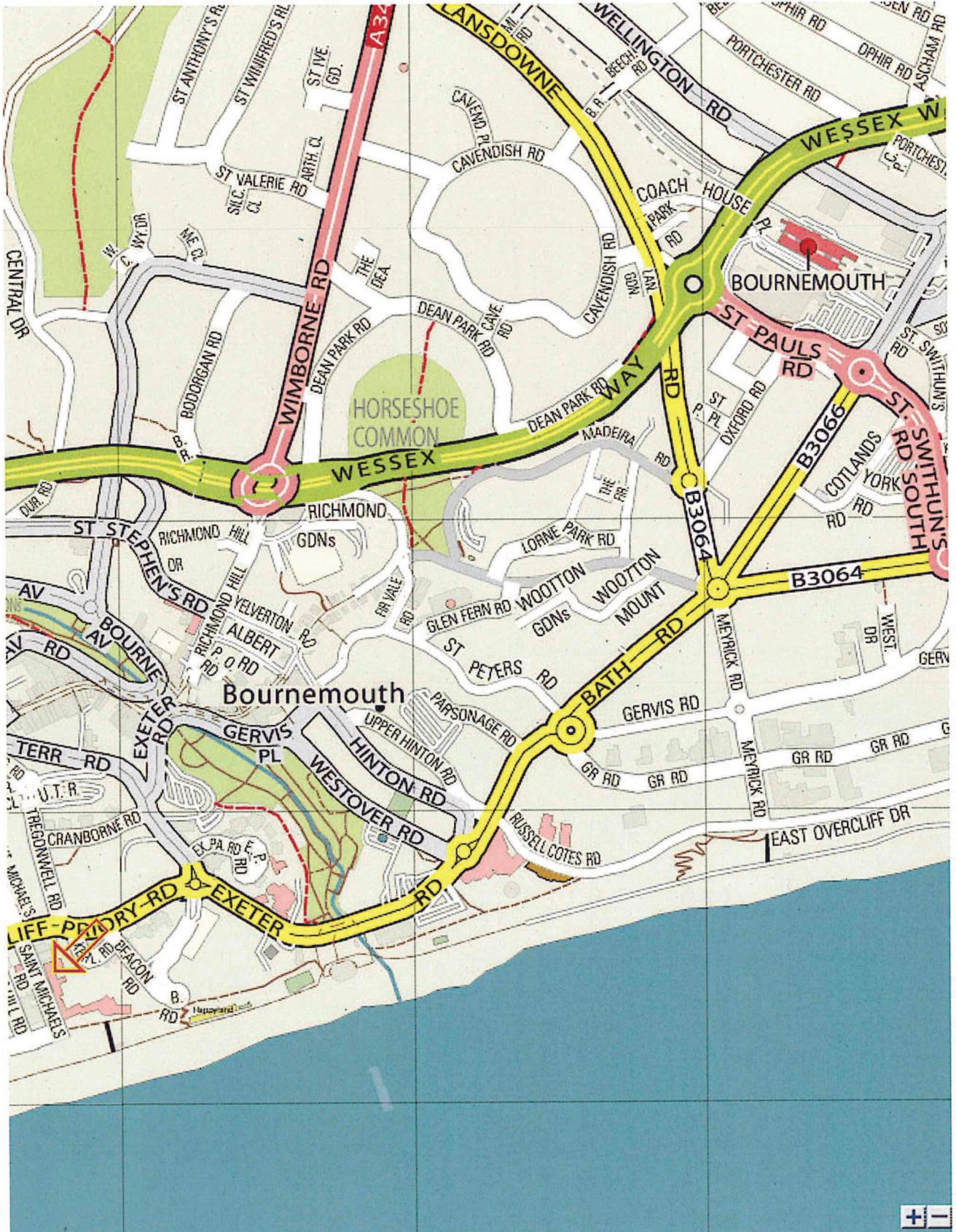
Hertsmere BC  
Windsor & Maidenhead RB  
City of York Council  
Scarborough BC  
South Holland DC  
Surrey CC  
Lewisham LB  
Gedling BC  
Reading BC  
Bury MBC  
Gloucester City Council  
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council  
Caerphilly Council

Apologies

LGA Officers

Helen Murray  
Mark Norris  
Ellie Greenwood  
Ian Leete  
Daniel Kalley





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