

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 16 January 2017
11.00 am

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House,
76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



Guidance notes for members and visitors

Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

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Security

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Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for nine months and we expect to be back in LGH by September 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Safer & Stronger Communities Board
16 January 2017

There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 16 January 2017** Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

Tea and coffee will be provided, and a sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

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 in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

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

LGA Contact:

Felicity Harris
0207 664 3231/ felicity.harris@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.20 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 #lgassc

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Morris Bright (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Peter Britcliffe	Hyndburn Borough Council
Cllr Tim Oliver	Elmbridge Borough Council
Cllr Barrie Patman	Wokingham Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Joy Allen	Durham County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Sarah Russell	Derby City Council
Cllr Erin Hill	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Goronwy Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Helen Powell	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Peter Southgate	Merton London Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Lisa Brett (Deputy Chair)	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council

Safer & Stronger Communities Board Attendance 2016-2017

Councillors	12/9/16	7/11/16
Conservative Group		
Morris Bright	Yes	Yes
Jo Beavis	Yes	Yes
Bill Bentley	Yes	Yes
Ian Gillies	Yes	Yes
Keith McLean	Yes	No
Chris Pillai	Yes	Yes
Nick Worth	Yes	Yes
Labour Group		
Simon Blackburn	Yes	Yes
Kate Haigh	Yes	Yes
Alan Rhodes	No	No
Jim Beall	Yes	Yes
James Dawson	Yes	Yes
Janet Daby	Yes	Yes
Joy Allen	Yes	Yes
Independent		
Clive Woodbridge	Yes	Yes
Goronwy Edwards	Yes	No
Lib Dem Group		
Lisa Brett	Yes	No
Anita Lower	No	Yes
Substitutes/Observers		
Tim Oliver		Yes

Agenda

Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Monday 16 January 2017

11.00 am

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 20 March 2017, 11.00 am, Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG



Regulating our Future – Food Standards Agency proposals for the future of food regulation

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are developing proposals to radically reshape the way food businesses are regulated, with potentially significant implications for councils if these changes are implemented. This paper provides some background on the issue, ahead of a presentation at the Board meeting by Tim Bennett, Deputy Chair of the FSA.

Recommendation

The SSC Board provide an initial steer on the proposals being developed by the Food Standards Agency.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by the Board.

Contact officer:

Ellie Greenwood

Position:

Senior Adviser (Regulation and community safety)

Phone no:

07795 413660

Email:

ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk

Regulating our Future – Food Standards Agency (FSA) proposals for the future of food regulation

Background

1. In February 2016, the Board considered a paper on the FSA's Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), which also noted that the FSA was embarking on a major piece of work to redesign the existing system of food regulation. This paper provides an update on the detailed proposals emerging from the FSA. Tim Bennett, Deputy Chair of the FSA, will be in attendance to talk about the proposals and answer any questions.
2. In discussing the paper last February, the Board indicated their support for the introduction of both a mandatory FHRS system (in which businesses are required to display their rating, as in Wales and Northern Ireland) and registration fees for food businesses, to provide additional resources and ensure parity with the accepted approach to funding regulation in other sectors.

Issues

3. Councils have a range of responsibilities for regulating food and the food chain, principally including food safety and food hygiene, normally delivered by Environmental Health, and food standards which may be delivered by Trading Standards and/or Environmental Health.
4. In discharging these functions, councils are supervised by the FSA, which has overall responsibility for food safety and food standards in England and Wales. The FSA's Food Law Code of Practice and equivalent Feed Law Code set out the way local authorities should apply food law and work with food businesses, while the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Enforcement sets out the organisation's interaction with local enforcement officers.
5. In recent years, the FSA has identified a number of reasons for the development of a new strategy for food regulation in the UK. Although not the only factor driving this work, there is no doubt that the pressures on local regulatory services and the reduction in environmental health and trading standards capacity has shaped this thinking. The Agency's stated rationale for rethinking the existing system are:
 - 5.1. The current one size fits all approach is not fit for purpose in achieving consumer protection.
 - 5.2. Meat industry regulation is the most outdated regime of regulation.
 - 5.3. Local authorities are under severe pressure, and this is worsening.
 - 5.4. There is a major opportunity to use technology to fundamentally change the way we regulate the food industry.

6. The FSA has publicly stated that it is aiming for revolutionary rather than evolutionary change. As the February 2016 paper noted, this has potentially significant implications for councils, given their current role delivering official food and feed controls on behalf of the FSA.
7. The FSA has set out five principles on which a future system of regulation should be based:
 - 7.1. It is the responsibility of food businesses to produce food that is safe and what it says it is.
 - 7.2. Businesses doing the right thing for consumers should be recognised; action will be taken against those that do not.
 - 7.3. The regulator should take into account all available sources of information.
 - 7.4. FSA and regulatory partners' decisions should be tailored, proportionate and based on a clear picture of food businesses.
 - 7.5. Businesses should meet the costs of regulation, which should be no more than they need to be.
8. The FSA has developed an overarching blueprint for a future model of food regulation. Key features of the model include:
 - 8.1. A focus on **set up and registration/permission to trade**, to ensure businesses understand what is expected of them and are supported to achieve this. The registration system will need to ensure that regulators (and potentially others) have ready access to information about who is registered, to support the process of segmentation. This may include the option to reject applications that cannot demonstrate they will operate safely, and there will be a clear focus on encouraging businesses to share information with regulators.
 - 8.2. **Segmentation** of businesses, moving away from the current one size fits all approach. Segmentation will be based on two factors: risk (e.g., type of food, sector, stage in food chain process) and compliance (e.g., FHRS score, compliance history, best practice approaches) and take account of the availability of third party assurance information and willingness on the part of the business to share it. While there is further work to be done to develop the segmentation of businesses (and it is intended the model will be refined through continuous improvement) early indications of different segments include the high risk food businesses; caterers and retailers.
 - 8.3. **Assurance** will be provided by a range of sources through a 'three lines of defence' model. The first line of defence will shift from the current public inspection led approach to a range of sources, including official bodies (such as councils), earned recognition schemes and businesses' own assurance. The second line will be the FSA, as the overarching regulator. The third will be internal and external audit.

- 8.4. **Intervention by regulators as required.** The model is focused on intervening to head off events before they occur, through processes of monitoring, surveillance and verification. Where incidents do occur, regulators will have a role in inspection, audit and sampling, as well providing advice and education. Overall, ongoing compliance will be rewarded with a light touch approach; robust sanctions will be applied where the business is non-compliant and does not take action to address this.
9. The key changes to the outline model from a local authority perspective are changes to the registration process; currently, food businesses register with their local authority and it is not clear if that is the working assumption for the new model. Additionally, the proposal for first line assurance to be provided through multiple sources alongside local authorities and other public bodies is a major departure from the reliance on inspections by local authorities and other regulators in the current system.
10. As noted in the earlier paper, the model is heavily shaped by the model of food regulation currently being implemented in New Zealand, where accredited bodies are used to provide assurance and public authorities provide a backstop of regulatory intervention rather than being solely responsible for providing assurance. One point to note is that the New Zealand model is designed around its position as a major exporter of food, with the system intended to enable it to export into markets such as the EU – something which would be extremely relevant in future.
11. Since the FSA published its outline proposals, it has been working with stakeholders, including businesses and local authorities, to develop them further. An expert advisory group of professionals working in environmental health and trading standards has been inputting to the work. Early discussions between LGA officers and FSA officials have emphasised the need to ensure there is local political engagement, hence the invitation for the FSA to attend the Board meeting. Additionally, an initial pilot of some of the ideas in Bristol is currently being evaluated.
12. A related pilot has seen some English local authorities allowed the freedom to use the Localism Act to charge for FHRS re-visits. The learning from this will also feed into the Regulating our Future work.
13. Reaction to the FSA's proposals among officers working in food regulation in England has been mixed, with some supportive and others opposed on the grounds that removing the requirement for inspection by LA officers poses a risk to public health and protection. As set out below, there has been a much stronger reaction in Wales, where the Directors of Public Protection in Wales group (DPPW) and Welsh LGA have publically opposed the proposals.

Possible questions for the FSA

14. There are a number of issues on which it would be useful to seek clarity from the FSA, and the Board may wish to pose questions on these.
15. As the model is partly inspired by the New Zealand new model of food regulation, can the FSA provide an update on how well the system is operating there?

16. It would be helpful to understand how the FSA envisage the role of local authorities in the new model, including in relation to both the FSA and third party providers. This is particularly the case when, as set out in paragraphs 22-24 below, there is clear opposition to the proposals in Wales but FSA sources have suggested there may be some misconceptions over the future role of councils.
 - 16.1. What role does the FSA envisage for local authorities in their proposed model of food regulation, in terms of both food hygiene and food standards?
 - 16.2. Are councils intended to be the backstop regulator for all struggling or non-compliant local food businesses or just some and if the latter is the case, which ones?
 - 16.3. Would local authorities have the power to intervene quickly in any business if there were intelligence to suggest this was necessary?
17. If the proposed model of multiple sources of assurance is introduced, it would be extremely important for councils to be able to compete against third party providers on a level playing field (rather than being responsible for managing non-compliant businesses). Many councils have the capacity and commercial experience to offer these services, and should not be prevented from doing so. However, to enable this, the restrictions on councils being able to charge for services would need to be considered and addressed as part of any changes to legislation.
18. Similarly, the model would need to work alongside councils' existing primary authority relationships, whereby councils agree contracts to act as the lead authority providing advice to national businesses and trade associations on specific issues.
 - 18.1. Will councils be able to provide the same commercial services as third parties?
 - 18.2. Can the FSA provide assurance that it will take account of the restrictions on councils' ability to charge for services in developing a new model?
 - 18.3. Can the FSA also provide assurance that the proposed model would work alongside primary authority arrangements?
19. We understand that aspects of the new model have recently been trialled by Bristol Council, Tesco and one other business.
 - 19.1. What piloting of the new model is taking place?
 - 19.2. Over what period will the piloting take place and what arrangements are in place to ensure the independent evaluation of the outcomes of the trials
20. The Regulating our Future work commenced before the vote to leave the European Union. With the vast majority of food legislation derived from European directives and decisions, Brexit could have significant implications for how we regulate our food, although opportunities for reducing regulation are likely to be limited for any business that wishes to export to the single market.

20.1. What legislative changes, if any, would be required to implement the new model proposed by the FSA?

20.2. What do the FSA foresee are the implications of Brexit for this work, and for food regulation more widely?

Questions for the Board to consider

21. In order to frame an LGA response to the emerging FSA proposals, it would also be helpful for the Board to discuss what they consider to be councils' role in food regulation. In our Remodelling Public Protection document, we recognised that resource pressures could mean there was a need to reshape some regulatory responsibilities between the public and private sector; there was also an appetite at the Board discussion in 2016 to explore the New Zealand model further. The FSA has done just that, and it would therefore be helpful to understand, in light of the information provided by the FSA, whether the Board are comfortable with the changes being proposed to the respective roles of councils, businesses and third parties.

22. In doing so, it might be helpful to consider related discussions about how to use accredited schemes and bodies in other areas of regulation. In animal licensing, the Government has been considering how the Kennel Club's assured breeder scheme (among others) could support local authority inspection and licensing. Our line on this has generally been to argue that accredited schemes should operate within statutory frameworks, rather than separately to them. Therefore, a Kennel Club assured breeder would still need to be registered with a council, but the council's inspection approach would then be tailored by the fact it is a member of an accredited scheme – leaving the council to target its resources at businesses that aren't members of such schemes.

22.1. What does the Board see as the key priorities for local authorities' role in food regulation? What activities does the Board believe councils should be able to undertake in order to support these priorities, shape their places and protect local residents?

22.2. What is the Board's view on the use of accredited bodies and third parties in regulatory frameworks overseen by councils? Does the FSA approach reflect this view?

22.3. One of the specific concerns in Wales is that inspection by third party auditors paid for by businesses rather than by local authorities protects businesses rather than consumers. Does the Board believe there is sufficient trust in food businesses to enable them to do so?

22.4. Are there alternative approaches the Board would like to explore, recognising the ongoing pressures on regulatory capacity in councils? Is a mandatory FHRS scheme with compulsory upfront registration/licensing fee managed locally a viable or preferable alternative from a local authority perspective?

Implications for Wales

23. As set out above, the proposals have provoked unanimous opposition in Wales (and Northern Ireland). There are a number of reasons why there has been a stronger response in Wales than in England. In particular, there is recent history of high profile food borne illness and consequent death where businesses deliberately set out to operate outside the law. Secondly, there is evidence to suggest that public protection budgets have been afforded greater protection in Wales than in England; combined with the mandatory FHRs promoting an increase in compliance and standards among food businesses, this has led Welsh authorities to refute the suggestion that the current system is broken and needs to be radically changed. The fact that there has been a history of difficult relations between the FSA and Welsh Government/councils may also have contributed, alongside the fact that the Directors of Public Protection of the 22 unitary councils in Wales form a much more cohesive group than the equivalent officers in England.
24. The Welsh LGA has publicly criticised the proposals, arguing that they represent a dilution of food regulation by allowing food businesses to regulate themselves. The Welsh government has called on the FSA to work with it to develop an enhanced, fee-based system of registration/licensing for food businesses, and expressed a preference for continued independent local authority hygiene inspections to be maintained at current levels.
25. The FSA has said that it believes there is some misunderstanding in Wales about the future role of local authorities in the system, and the Board meeting is therefore a good opportunity to seek clarity on this from the FSA.

Financial Implications

26. None.

Next steps

27. Members are asked to provide a steer on the Board's views of the emerging proposals, to enable officers to develop appropriate next steps.



Casey review into opportunity and integration

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

In December, the long awaited review by Dame Louise Casey DBE CB into opportunity and integration was published. Neil O'Connor, Director of the review team, will be attending the Board meeting to discuss the report and how Government proposes to follow it up.

Recommendation

That the SSC Board are asked to:

1. Note the publication of the Casey review and report by the APPG on Social Integration;
2. Provide suggestions of support the LGA can provide on this agenda; and
3. Discuss and direct any further activity.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by the Board.

Contact officer:

Ellie Greenwood

Position:

Senior Adviser (Regulation and community safety)

Phone no:

07795 413660

Email:

ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk

Casey review into opportunity and integration

Background

1. In December, the long awaited review by Dame Louise Casey DBE CB into opportunity and integration was published. The review was commissioned by David Cameron in July 2015, and formed the core part of the fourth pillar of the Government's Counter Extremism strategy to build more cohesive communities. The review was asked to look at how government can ensure people learn English; how employment and opportunities can be boosted, especially for women; and how state agencies can work with isolated communities to properly promote integration and opportunity.
2. Dame Louise spoke about the review at Councillors' Forum in March 2016 and the LGA annual conference in July 2016, giving a clear steer on both occasions that the main focus of the final report in regard to councils was likely to be on local leadership and the role of councillors in particular in upholding British values and not shying away from difficult conversations. However, publication of the final report was subsequently delayed following the post-referendum ministerial changes.
3. Neil O'Connor, Director of the Casey review team at the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG), will be attending the Board meeting to discuss the report and how Government proposes to follow it up.

Issues

4. The 200-page [report](#) includes chapters focusing on the changing UK population; social and economic exclusion; inequality, and specifically women's inequality; religion; hate and extremism, and leadership, as well as a short chapter of recommendations for the future. The review was developed on the basis of information gained from meetings, visits and discussions with members of the public, community groups, academics, politicians, faith leaders and others. As part of the field work, the review team met with and visited a number of local councils.
5. The report highlights the recent increase in immigration to the UK, as well as changes in patterns of immigrations over the past decade. It considers the impact of this on communities, in terms of settlement patterns and levels of segregation across different parts of the country and in regard to school populations and residential areas.
6. Not surprisingly, the report identifies that social and economic progress is perhaps the most important indicator of successful integration, with socio-economic exclusion a sign of integration failure. It surmises that while progress has been made across the years in narrowing gaps and tackling poverty and deprivation, some groups have been left or are falling behind. Across the issues of deprivation, educational attainment, employment and English language, gaps exist for several ethnic minority groups and for poorer households in the majority White British population. The report calls for the range of socio-economic exclusion suffered by some groups to be given greater attention.
7. On equality, cited as another factor of successful integration, the report highlights the striking inequality of women in some communities, as well as for lesbian, gay and

bisexual groups. It flags concern about the safeguarding of children in some communities, particularly in relation to children being educated outside of mainstream education in illegal faith schools.

8. The report also highlights that incidents of hate crime are increasing, and that there is anecdotal evidence that these increase following 'trigger' events.
9. One of the key issues in the report in terms of local government – as indicated in the session at the LGA's annual conference – is leadership. The report argues that *'too many leaders in public and faith institutions and in communities have allowed diversity and difference to become separatism and segregation that has divided communities.'* As in the Casey report into Rotherham Council, the report notes that the fear of accusations of racism, or a well-intentioned desire to be tolerant and accommodating, has had a harmful effect and can conclude that this approach can never be acceptable.
10. The report states that *'some politicians at a local and national level have been guilty of being too willing to turn a blind eye to practices that, at best, exacerbate inequality and hold back community integration...the processes for formal intervention in local government are not sophisticated enough to deal with these issues...more needs to be done to restore confidence in public and political leadership.'*
11. Exploring this in more depth, the report surmises that there is very little recourse to address 'inappropriate behaviour' by councillors, with councillor conduct largely self-regulated. It concludes that there is a void between ineffective action locally on serious misconduct, and exceptional intervention in cases of widespread and serious failure by councils. Alongside this the report also notes that the country's political leadership does not reflect the country's, with at a local level there being a lack of women or ethnic minority councillors, and the report citing instances where women candidates had been blocked from standing. However, despite this commentary, the report does not go on to make any specific recommendations on these points.
12. The report is critical of the fact that governments have commissioned numerous reviews of community cohesion, but have not implemented cohesion or integration plans with enough force or consistency or linked them closely enough to socio-economic inclusion.
13. The review contains 12 core recommendations, summarised below:
 - 13.1. Central government should support a new programme to help improve community cohesion, potentially including area-based plans and projects addressing the key priorities outlined in the review: promotion of the English language; emancipating marginalised groups of women; raising employment outcomes among the most marginalised groups; increasing participation of women in the labour market; improving IT literacy among parents in segregated areas; boosting out of school mixing between young people.
 - 13.2. Central and local government should develop a list of indicators of a potential breakdown in integration; local authorities should collect this information regularly.
 - 13.3. Central government should work with local government to bring together and disseminate a toolkit of approaches which have seen success.

- 13.4. The promotion of British laws history and values within the core curriculum in all schools would support integration. More weight should be attached to a British Values focus on syllabus in developing teaching skills and assessing schools performance
- 13.5. Government should consider whether additional integration support should be provided immediately post-arrival, and how clearer expectations of integration could be set, potentially in advance on application for a visa.
- 13.6. Government should review the route to full British Citizenship and look at what is required to this, and consider an Oath of Integration with British Values and Society on arrival.
- 13.7. Government should work with schools providers and local communities to encourage a range of school provision and projects to ensure that children from different communities learn alongside those from different backgrounds.
- 13.8. Alongside English language support, Government should develop classes to tackle cultural barriers born out of segregation which are identified as a barrier to work.
- 13.9. Government should support further targeted English language provision by making sufficient funding available for community-based English language classes, and through the adult skills budget for councils to prioritise English language where there is a need. It should also consider whether existing programmes are sufficiently coordinated and consistently reaching those who need them most.
- 13.10. The Government should work with local government to understand how housing and regeneration policies could improve or inhibit integration locally, and promote best practice approaches.
- 13.11. Safeguarding arrangements for children outside of mainstream education should be enhanced. All children outside mainstream education should be required to be registered with local authorities, whose duties to know where children are being educated should be increased. The standards against which home education is judged should be considered; Ofsted and the Charity Commission should be resourced to support additional central and local government action to ensure safeguarding of all children in mainstream and other educational environments.
- 13.12. Government should work with the Committee for Standards in Public life to ensure the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for, and tolerance, of those with different faiths and beliefs and those without faith, are enshrined in the principles of public life, including a new oath for holders of public office.
14. The report has been criticised for its clear focus on South Asian communities. Arguably this criticism partly reflects the extent to which the community cohesion agenda has shifted since the review was originally commissioned, not least the fact that much of the field work for the review was completed prior to the referendum. In the context of its role underpinning the counter-extremism strategy it is understandable that there should have

been that focus. However, the referendum campaign exposed a much broader set of divisions within and between communities across the country on generational, socio-economic and geographic lines, as much as between faiths, ethnicity and nationality. In that regard, the debate could be seen to have moved on in a way that is not perhaps reflected in the report. However, the recommendations of the review are still highly relevant across the wider community cohesion or social integration agenda.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration – interim report into the integration of immigrants

15. Publication of the Casey Review was followed earlier this month by publication of the APPG Social Integration's [interim report](#) into the integration of immigrants. Launched in August last year, the APPG inquiry was able to take account of the impact of the referendum campaign, and focuses on two issues: 1) the impact of integration policy on levels of integration, and whether a integration strategy is required, and 2) how a new post-Brexit immigration system could be designed to support communities to manage demographic and cultural change. As part of the data gathering, the inquiry has worked closely with both Boston and Calderdale councils and residents in their areas.
16. The interim report and launch event were critical of the lack of a central strategy for the integration of immigrants, arguing that integration in the UK has been left to chance. The report identifies six principles it argues should form the basis of a future strategy, some of which overlap with similar recommendations in the Casey review:
 - 16.1. Government must develop a comprehensive and proactive strategy for immigrant integration, where integration is defined as including economic, civic and social dimensions.
 - 16.2. Local authorities must be required through a statutory duty to draw up and implement local integration plans, with councils given the funding and freedom to come up with their own localised action plans. The government should also set up an Integration Impact Fund, separate to the Controlling Migration Fund, to enable councils to fund programmes promoting English language learning and social mixing between immigrant and host communities.
 - 16.3. Government should reassess its one-size fits all approach to immigration policy and consider co-designing a regionally-led immigration system with devolved and local authorities, drawing on the Canadian model.
 - 16.4. For new immigrants, integration should begin upon arrival to the UK. The Home Office should learn from best practice in other countries and proactively build a focus on integration into the process of settling into the UK. All immigrants should be expected to have learnt English before arrival or be enrolled in compulsory ESOL classes on arrival.
 - 16.5. There is a need for more and better data on the integration of immigrants. The report supports the Casey recommendation that local resilience might be supported by developing a set of local indicators of integration and requiring regular collection of data.

- 16.6. The Government should demonstrate strong political leadership on immigration in order to build public confidence and facilitate successful integration of new arrivals at a regional and local level. This includes recognising the role of both newcomers and host communities, and avoiding conflating immigration policy and rhetoric with issues of counter-terrorism.

Local government response to the reports

17. Both the Casey review and APPG report make a number of recommendations that are relevant to local government. The Casey review also included sections of commentary relevant to councils which did not lead to specific recommendations, such as the criticism of the conduct of some councillors and the difficulty in intervening to address this. To inform our future work and any media lines on this, it would be helpful to understand the Board's thinking on the recommendations and wider reports.
18. In formulating a local government response to the reports, it is proposed that going forward the LGA adopts the approach that any new duties or work programmes on cohesion must be fully funded by Government. In many councils, roles focusing on issues of cohesion and integration have been lost over the past five years. While councils need to find ways to embed this focus throughout their work, there is no doubt that new activity will require resources to kick-start and coordinate it. Any additional funding should be allocated on a multi-year basis, and allow councils the discretion to spend as is locally appropriate – in line with the specific recommendation of the APPG report.
19. Our response should also emphasise the need for Government's work in this area to be coordinated across departments – particularly those with policy responsibility for key issues such as education, housing and employment - in line with the APPG's recommendation for a comprehensive national strategy.
20. The focus on local leadership and the strategic (rather than detailed) nature of some of the recommendations – such as a statutory duty to develop plans to promote integration – reflect one of the challenges that we are aware the Casey review in particular grappled with: what levers do councils have to tackle some of the core determinants of integration when they do have restricted control over the provision of local schools and housing, and are in the process (in some places) of increasing their powers on employment and skills to enable shape local economies? The challenge for all councils – and for the LGA in supporting them - is to identify levers that enable them to move beyond the provision of community events that bring different groups together – recognising that these are nevertheless hugely important – and tackle what are difficult and deep-seated issues.
21. Members' views on how the LGA can best support councils would be very helpful. Now that the Casey review has concluded and published, we intend to conclude work to develop updated LGA guidance on community cohesion. This can begin the process of sharing best practice work on cohesion and integration across the sector in line with the recommendations of the review, although clearly that work will need to be an ongoing process.

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22. Given the Casey review's focus on local leadership, there may also be scope to develop a specific offer for councillors on this, subject to discussions with the Improvement Team and Leadership Centre.
23. The Board are asked to put forward suggestions of other support that councils would find helpful in this area.

Possible questions for Neil O'Connor

24. As stated, Neil O'Connor from the Case Review team will be attending the Board meeting to discuss the report and how Government intends to respond. Some questions the Board may wish to consider raising include:
- 24.1. Will the Government formally respond to the Casey review and / or APPG report?
- 24.2. What plans does the Government have to take forward the recommendations of the Casey review in particular?
- 24.3. When the Casey review was first announced, the previous Prime Minister outlined that it would inform plans for a major new Cohesive Communities Programme, but this has yet to be announced. Is Government still intending to develop a programme, and if so when might it be announced?
- 24.4. The Casey report commented that it was difficult to intervene where there are failings in local leadership, but made no specific recommendations on this. Is this something Government intends to explore further?
- 24.5. Will the Government commit to working with the LGA and councils in developing a programme of activity that follows up the review?

Implications for Wales

25. There are no specific implications for Wales.

Financial Implications

26. None; work set out in this paper will be carried out within existing budgets.



**Safer and Stronger
Communities Board**

16 January 2017

Modern Slavery

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE, will be attending the meeting to discuss his work and the role of councils in tackling modern slavery.

The report provides an overview of the work that is already underway in a number of areas and asks members for suggestions on how the LGA can best support local authorities in tackling modern slavery.

Recommendations

That the SSC Board are asked to:

1. Note the Government's agenda around modern slavery, the statutory responsibilities local authorities have related to tackling modern slavery and the important role councils can therefore play in addressing this crime.
2. Note the work already underway in councils and regional partnerships to raise awareness of the issues and to tackle modern slavery.
3. Consider in light of the work of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner how best the LGA can support councils around this agenda, and in particular the way forward proposed in paragraph 16.

Actions

Officers to action as directed by members.

Contact officer:	Lucy Ellender
Position:	Adviser
Phone no:	020 7664 3321
Email:	lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk

Modern Slavery

Background

1. In March 2015 the Modern Slavery Act received Royal Assent, putting local authorities under a duty to notify the Home Office when they identify victims of modern slavery.
2. Since the Act came into force there have been a number of announcements from the Government, including a new transformation fund and the creation of a new taskforce, chaired by the Prime Minister. This paper provides an overview of the work underway to tackle the issue.

Modern Slavery

3. Modern slavery is a form of organised crime in which people are treated as commodities and are exploited for criminal gain. It is an umbrella term that encompasses different forms of exploitation including human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. This exploitation can be hidden in plain sight and include car washes, nail bars, farms, factories, private homes and massage parlours. The true extent of modern slavery in the UK is significant; an estimate from the Home Office in 2013 stated that there were between 10,000 – 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK, though it has been suggested that this is an underestimate.
4. The latest figures from the National Crime Agency, published in December 2016, show that 1,002 potential victims were referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) between April and June 2016, compared with 3,266 potential victims referred in 2015. Albania, Vietnam and the UK are the most common nationalities of the potential victims referred, though there were referrals from 70 different nationalities.

Government and Parliament

5. Since the Modern Slavery Act came into force there have been a number of further announcements from the Government including:
 - 5.1. In July 2016 the Prime Minister set out her ambition to tackle modern slavery and announced that she will chair a Modern Slavery Taskforce, bringing together the relevant government departments to coordinate and drive further progress in tackling modern slavery. The Prime Minister also stated that the Government will be using over £33 million from the aid budget to create a 5-year International Modern Slavery Fund.
 - 5.2. The membership of the Taskforce was announced in September 2016, and includes the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Justice and Communities and Local Government, the Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), formerly the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. A range of key partners for the Taskforce were also publicly identified. Alongside the LGA these included the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Interpol and the security services.

- 5.3. In October 2016 the Home Secretary announced a transformation fund of £8.5 million to help law enforcement agencies to tackle modern slavery. The funding will be until 2018-19 and is meant to help law enforcement agencies through providing high quality intelligence and analysis to assess the threat at a national and regional level, and an improved operational response throughout the investigative process.
- 5.4. In October the Government produced a number of materials for authorities on the NRM, outlining the processes for notifying the Government, the process for victims under 18, the forms, and what to do if a victim wants to remain anonymous (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-duty-to-notify>). The NRM was created in 2009 to provide a framework to refer potential victims and ensure that they receive appropriate support. Councils have been under a statutory duty to notify the Home Office of any individuals they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking so they can be referred to the NRM since 1 November 2015.
6. There have also been further discussions in the House of Lords regarding issues around transparency in supply chains. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act deals with this issue and states that a commercial organisation with a turnover of more than £36 million and that supplies goods or services must publish an annual “slavery and human trafficking statement” which is available prominently on their homepage and website. The Act does not expressly include or exclude local authorities, but a private members bill in the House of Lords, introduced by Baroness Young Of Hornsey, would extend this duty to local authorities as well. The Bill is currently waiting its second reading in the House of Commons, which is expected on the 13 January. If the Bill is enacted in its current form this would have an impact on local authorities, though the Government has not signalled that it supports the Bill.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

7. The Modern Slavery Act also created the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of slavery and human trafficking offences as well as the identification of victims of those offences.
8. Kevin Hyland’s appointment as the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner was confirmed in July 2015. In his last [annual report](#) he identified that though significant progress on the issue had been made there was still further work to be done to ensure that best practice was adopted across all agencies. He is keen to engage with councils around this agenda, and is attending the Board to speak about his work.
9. The priorities for the Commissioner for 2015-2017 are:
- 9.1. Ensuring improved victim identification and care, including improvements to the NRM; and supporting the production of appropriate standards in the Statutory Guidance on Identifying and Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery in England and Wales, which is currently being developed by the Home Office.
- 9.2. Driving an improved law enforcement and criminal justice response, including work on data collection and knowledge management systems.

- 9.3. Promoting best practice in partnership working.
- 9.4. Private sector engagement to encourage supply chain transparency and combating labour exploitation, including working with the newly reformed GLAA.
- 9.5. Encouraging effective and targeted international collaboration.
- 10. The Commissioner has supported the creation of number of resources for local government and the emergency services:
www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/resources.

Councils

- 11. Councils have a statutory role in tackling modern slavery, and are identified as a key partners in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. At the heart of councils' responsibilities are those to safeguard child and vulnerable adult victims. As already mentioned councils also have a responsibility to identify potential victims and make referrals to the NRM, and the Modern Slavery Act placed a duty on local authorities to collaborate with the Anti-Slavery Commissioner.
- 12. Councils are already involved in a variety of ways in tackling modern slavery:
 - 12.1. There are an increasing number of regional or sub-regional multi-agency partnerships dedicated to tackling this issue in which councils are active including the South West Anti-Slavery Partnership, which is directed by a Regional Board and has five local anti-slavery partnerships working based on the following police force areas: Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire, and Dorset. There are other regional partnerships covering the East Midlands, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the South East and the West Midlands.
 - 12.2. South East England Councils and the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration have commissioned a film aimed at public sector workers and raising their awareness of modern slavery and how to spot the signs of it in their everyday work and held an Anti-Slavery Day Conference in 2016 for Surrey and Sussex chief executives.
 - 12.3. London Councils, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Metropolitan Police, the Anti-Slavery Commissioner and various national voluntary sector bodies have been working with NHS England to raise awareness of modern slavery. NHS England has also worked with these partners to commission the development of Level 1 multi-agency training for councils, the health service and emergency services. This will provide training on raising awareness of modern slavery on a train-the-trainer model. The plan is to pilot the training in London and then roll it out across England and Wales.
 - 12.4. Individual councils such as the London Borough of Croydon have developed action plans for tackling modern slavery and have been arranging training of their own and partners' staff. Brentwood, Colchester, Cornwall and Croydon among a number of authorities, have also been considering how they can increase transparency around

modern slavery in their supply chains. Brentwood for example is reviewing its tender documentation, taking legal advice on including an anti-slavery clause in its standard terms and conditions and requiring new suppliers to sign a statement that they are not involved in modern slavery.

LGA

13. The LGA has already received an invite to participate in the Prime Minister's Taskforce. Lord Porter will be attending in the future, following the first meeting of the Taskforce which met in November. The LGA has also received numerous requests from a number of different Government Departments including the Home Office and DCLG to participate in different working groups. This is an issue that cuts across both the Safer and Stronger Communities Board and the Community Wellbeing Board and officers are working together jointly on the requests.
14. To assist councils around this agenda the LGA has also created a dedicated resource on modern slavery on the website: http://www.local.gov.uk/community-safety/-/journal_content/56/10180/8112488/ARTICLE
15. The LGA's Productivity team has also developed a work stream to support councils around increasing transparency in the supply chain around modern slavery, and are gathering examples of good practice in this area.
16. With councils already working closely with partners on a regional basis, being involved in the development of awareness training packages, and with well-defined responsibilities around safeguarding, the LGA could best assist councils make a contribution to tackling this issue by supporting efforts to raise awareness, highlighting the training available and helping share good practice. In particular the LGA could:
 - 16.1. Support the roll-out of the Level 1 training developed by NHS England and encourage councils to take it up.
 - 16.2. Identify and promote examples of good practice by councils and partners in addressing modern slavery.
 - 16.3. Publish a guide for councillors and councils to the topic and the role councils have in addressing modern slavery to raise awareness of the issue.
17. Members may also wish to explore with the Anti-Slavery Commissioner where he thinks the LGA could assist his work and support councils on tackling modern slavery.

Implications for Wales

18. Councils in Wales are subject to the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Welsh Government is tackling the issue through the employment of an Anti-Slavery Coordinator, Stephen Chapman. His role is to make Wales hostile to slavery and to co-ordinate the best possible support for survivors. The Welsh Government has also set up the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group with membership from the Home Office, the National Crime Agency, Welsh local authorities and the WLGA amongst others.

Financial Implications

19. Additional resources may be needed to take forward some elements of work, but funding for this may be available from partners like NHS England.

Next steps

20. Members are asked to:

- 20.1. Note the Government's agenda around modern slavery, the statutory responsibilities local authorities have related to tackling modern slavery and the important role councils can therefore play in addressing this crime.
- 20.2. Note the work already underway in councils and regional partnerships to raise awareness of the issues and to tackle modern slavery.
- 20.3. Consider in light of the work of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner how best the LGA can support councils around this agenda, and in particular the way forward proposed in paragraph 16.



**Safer and Stronger
Communities Board**

16 January 2017

Update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Recommendation

That the SSC Board note the update.

Action

Officers to progress as appropriate.

Contact officer:	Mark Norris
Position:	Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no:	020 7644 3241
E-mail:	mark.norris@local.gov.uk

Update paper

Investigatory Powers Act

1. The Investigatory Powers Act received Royal Assent at the end of November. The Act maintains councils' right to access communications data, and will enable them to access a slightly expanded set of communications data which is likely to assist in some trading standards investigations. Although the Act does not alter the process councils are required to undertake in order to access data (that is, routing their requests through the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) at Tameside council and gaining Magistrates' approval of requests), there is a requirement to formalise the 'collaboration agreements' under which councils work through NAFN, and an opportunity for councils to develop collaboration agreements to share designated senior officers (who provide internal authorisation of requests to access data). We are working with NAFN and the Home Office to clarify the implications of this and ensure councils are aware of them.
2. Since the Act was passed, the Government has lost a judicial review relating to the legality of the Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act. A European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling shortly before Christmas will now need to be interpreted by the Court of Appeal, and it remains to be seen what the implications may be for the new Act, as well as for previous use of communications data.

Medical examiners

3. LGA officers continue to engage with the Department of Health (DH) and others around implementation of the new medical examiner service, including through officer representation on the DH Strategic Programme Board. DH has agreed to hold more detailed discussions with councils to think through local implementation, including costs, in more detail; we expect that workshops to explore these issues will be scheduled for January or February.
4. We have received a reply from Lord Prior of Brampton, former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, to our joint letter with SOLACE in which we outlined the LGA's key concerns about the reforms; we will be looking to schedule a meeting with the Minister to discuss these issues in more detail.
5. Sessions on the introduction of the service were held as part of the LGA's Deaths, Funerals and Coroners conference in December.

Water safety campaign

6. Following the presentation and discussion at the last Board, LGA officers met representatives of National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) partners (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Chief Fire Officers Association, Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency) and discussed how best to take this work forward. A meeting will be arranged in the early 2017 to discuss the relationship between

the Water Incident Database and LG Inform, the NWSF and LGA will work together around the Camber sands inquests and discussions with the Home Office. The NWSF is to provide the LGA with ten top tips for councils on water safety for the LGA's website and will put together a proposal on water safety workshops – looking at what would encourage Local Resilience Forums and counties to attend. Officers have proposed a water safety session for the LGA conference.

National Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Centre

7. In November, the National FGM Centre won the Safeguarding Award at the Children and Young People Now Awards. The judges said that the Centre won the award as the “initiative that has made the biggest contribution to prevent and protect children and young people from abuse and neglect”, with one judge saying the centre was “a prime example of multi-agency, ground-breaking practice”.
8. Training is available through the Centre and over 900 professionals have been trained through the Centre since November 2015, including staff from social care and health. The aim of the [National FGM Centre's training offers](#) is to enhance participants' understanding and skills to act appropriately and confidently to protect and support girls who are at risk or have been subjected to FGM. 100 per cent of delegates who have attended the training would recommend it.
9. The Centre's funding is in place until March 2017, and the key issue for the Centre now is sustainability for the future.

Domestic abuse announcements

10. The Home Office published a number of items regarding domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in December. This included the [National Statement of Expectations](#) (NSE) for local VAWG provision, which sets out core expectations to ensure that victims get the help they need. The aim is for local services to be victim-centred, strategically commissioned, and include a focus on safeguarding individuals, managing perpetrators and local awareness-raising. A [three-year £15m VAWG service transformation fund](#) for service commissioners to support delivery against the NSE was announced, with grants to be awarded early in financial year 2017/18. New [VAWG commissioning guidance](#) for commissioners and service providers in England was also published to support implementation of the NSE.
11. Revised [statutory guidance for undertaking Domestic Homicide Reviews \(DHRs\)](#) has also been launched. The LGA fed back comments from sector officers on the draft over the summer. The updated guidance was accompanied by a publication analyzing [key findings from previous DHRs](#).
12. Also published was updated guidance on the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#).

Prevent and Counter-Extremism

13. A joint roundtable on counter extremism with the Home Office was held on 14 December, chaired by the Minister, Sarah Newton MP. The following councils were represented: Barking & Dagenham, Bristol, Camden, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lewisham, Luton, Manchester, Portsmouth, Rochdale and Tower Hamlets. Among issues discussed were concerns about right-wing extremism and the need to share good practice. The Special Interest Group on Extremism should help with the latter need when it is formally launched in early 2017. The guide associated with it will appear, jointly badged with LGA and the Home Office at the same time.
14. The Centre for Public Scrutiny has been commissioned to produce a scrutiny guide for councils around prevent and counter extremism and an LGA Leadership Essentials Course covering both will run at the end of February. Both are intended to support councillors in holding portfolio holders to account on these issues and the guide will specifically contain a set of suggested questions through the scrutiny process.
15. A roundtable for councillors volunteering as Prevent Champions will be held by the Home Office on 23 January. We anticipate that members of the Champions Network will be asked to attend future regional conferences with other councillors to offer advice on their local approaches to Prevent, and to provide mentoring and guidance around the Prevent duty to members seeking individual support. LGA officers will work alongside Home Office colleagues to facilitate this process

Improving the community safety response from councils

16. The LGA's research team conducted a survey over the autumn of all community safety partnerships/county strategy groups in England and Wales, to help build a picture of how community safety partnerships are currently resourced, their priorities and challenges, and how the picture has changed over recent years. The [survey findings](#) are available on the LGA website.
17. Two stakeholder workshops were held in November in Birmingham and London to explore some of the emerging themes from this project, informed by the outcomes from the survey and a discussion paper setting out key issues. Further written responses to the discussion paper are expected over the next couple of weeks from other stakeholders unable to attend. The outcomes will be reported at the next Board meeting.

Taxi Licensing

18. We held a series of successful events for councils on taxi licensing in November 2016. The events focused on providing support to councils around oversight and scrutiny of licensing, the role of the licensing committee, as well as sharing best practice and tackling specialist issues like preventing child sexual exploitation and supporting disabled access. Another regional event has been planned for 21 February in Preston.

19. An updated version of our taxi licensing handbook for councillors has been published and shared with the councillors and officers who attended regional events as well as our licensing champions. The handbook will be circulated more widely to all of our members once it has been updated to include the Department for Transport's new statutory best practice guidance. We are expecting this to be published early this year.

Dog control measures, animal welfare and licensing

20. The LGA is assisting the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) with a survey of councils to assess recent anti-social behaviour (ASB) measures to control dogs and reduce dog attacks. The Secretary of State has requested the work be undertaken following high profile dog attacks in late summer and autumn. The LGA has been invited to submit views on the issue by spring.
21. Later this month, Defra are expected to publish proposals for reforming the licensing of animal establishments, following a consultation last year. This follows the publication of an EFRA select committee report into the welfare of domestic animals in November 2016, which called for the current duty on local authorities to become a funded, statutory duty.

Policing and Crime Bill

22. The Policing and Crime Bill completed its passage through the House of Lords at the end of December. During the latter part of the committee and report stages, a number of amendments were made to the Bill in line with established LGA lobbying objectives. The government introduced amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 which will allow councils to publish cumulative impact assessments and have regard to them when setting their licensing policies, and also introduce greater flexibility in the use of the late night levy so that it can be used in part of the council's area rather than across the whole of it. The government also amended the provisions about transfer of fire governance from fire and rescue authorities to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) so that local residents have to be consulted before any change in governance.
23. An amendment from Baroness Finlay, a crossbencher, to the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 which was agreed by the government, will reduce the cost of deprivation of liberty safeguards to councils. Coroners will no longer have to conduct inquests where the deceased had been deprived of their liberty due to lack of mental capacity under the Mental Capacity Act. In our [briefings](#) we also supported the introduction of a public health objective into the licensing process and limits on the availability and use of gaming machines. The amendments made in the House of Lords will be considered by the House of Commons from 10 January and Royal Assent is expected shortly afterwards.

Death, Funerals and Coroners Conference

24. On 1 December the LGA held a Deaths, Funerals and Coroners Conference. The conference was well received, with an 84 per cent satisfaction rate with the conference. Councillor Morris Bright chaired the conference. The programme covered a wide range of issues including funeral poverty, the implementation of the medical examiners service,

the future of the services, pathology and commercialisation. Councillor Ian Gillies, SSCB Bereavement Services Champion, provided the opening address and outlined the work of the LGA on these issues. The conference welcomed approximately 60 attendees from coroners, cremation and burial services.

Brexit

25. Following the discussions at the last two Board meetings on the implications for the Board's work on the decision to leave the European Union, we have been talking to Cornwall Council about how they could assist the LGA work through the technical details of EU regulations, decisions and directives and assess the scope for reducing or refining regulations. This work should be assisted by the LGA's intention to make the list of EU legislation applying to councils available relatively soon.

European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling in Hemming licensing fees case

26. In November, the ECJ issued a ruling in the long running Hemming case concerning the cost of sex establishment licensing fees in Westminster. As the Board will recall, the Supreme Court overturned an earlier Court of Appeal ruling by finding that Westminster were entitled under the EU Services Directive and UK Regulations to charge licensees the cost of administering and enforcing the licensing regime, rather than just the cost of processing applications. However, the Supreme Court sought guidance from the ECJ on whether Westminster was entitled to charge for this at the point of application, or whether it was only lawful to do once an application had been accepted and a licence effectively granted.
27. The ECJ argued that it was not permissible under the Services Directive for councils to levy a charge at the point of application. However, the commentary to the ruling also suggested the ECJ did not support the Supreme Court's ruling that charging licensees for the cost of administering and enforcing the framework was lawful under the Services Directive. Therefore, although the ECJ ruling is only binding in relation to the specific question it was asked, it effectively gives a green light to further challenges on this point in the future.
28. The LGA has issued guidance to member councils outlining the need to ensure the structure of their licensing fees is lawful in light of the ruling.

Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title:	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Date:	Monday 7 November 2016
Venue:	Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	<p>The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and listed apologies.</p> <p>Cllr James Dawson declared an interest as a member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).</p> <p>As there were technical problems with the presentation for the Water Safety item, it was agreed that item 3 on Violent Crime would be dealt with first.</p>	
2	Water Safety Campaign	
	<p>Charles Loft, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. He discussed the incidents in Camber Sands over the summer and the effect this had had on all councils. He drew members' attention to the issues set out in paragraph 10, asking them to comment on what more could be done to improve water safety. Amongst a number of suggestions, members were asked to consider supporting the work of the National Water Safety Forum and for a water safety session to be set up at the LGA's National Conference.</p> <p>Chris Margetts, Chief Operating Officer from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, spoke to members about the work of the Chief Fire Officers Association and the National Water Safety Forum. The forum had captured all fatalities by drowning (broken down by local authority areas) and had produced a drowning prevention strategy which the government had agreed to support. By the end of 2018, all areas are expected to have carried out a water safety risk assessment.</p> <p>He discussed problems around no government department having responsibility for the area and the work the forum was doing to assist local</p>	

authorities, highlighting a case study from Northamptonshire, where the RNLI, Local Authorities, the FRS and the Water Safety Forum and had worked together to improve water safety.

Members made the following points:

- The Northamptonshire case study was discussed and members were advised that this had been locally funded by the partners. It was also advised that Fire and Rescue Authorities did not receive any specific funding for this work. There was a water safety working group to share good practice and resources, with prevention being the best way to reduce the financial impact.
- Members asked if the database could be broken down by area. They were advised that you could search by location, age etc, but it only currently listed fatalities.
- It was highlighted that eight authorities were missing from the database (including Derbyshire) as they had had less than three fatalities by drowning.
- The Camber Sands incident was discussed and the challenges media coverage of the incident had presented as well as the help the LGA had provided noted. A mobile lifeguard in the area had provided reassurance to local residents. The number of alcohol related fatalities in rivers due to drowning were noted and options for prevention and education on this issue were discussed given that there was often little evidence on how people had ended up in the river. In many incidents, the victim had not realised that the temperature of the water was so low.
- Members requested that point 15.1 (opportunities for learning to swim) was strongly emphasised, as it was felt many did not understand the dangers of failing to learn, and teaching needed to cover lifesaving. Members also requested that more work was done on teaching water safety to key risk groups and that the paper further emphasised that the dangers applied everywhere (inland and in coastal areas). It was suggested that social media was used to highlight messages.
- Individuals who had rescued others or pets from drowning and the risks associated with this were discussed, as was the need to address post-traumatic problems faced by rescuers.
- The need for localised campaigns on water safety was highlighted, such as in Lincolnshire where there were particular risks associated with the local marshes and drainage ditches.
- Members discussed suggestions for combined authorities to have responsibility for water safety as devolution deals progressed.

- Members noted that water safety education had benefits for those going on holiday and asked for figures on British tourists that had died aboard as a result of drowning, as the WAID data did not capture this.
- Issues on lack of funds for councils to fund prevention methods were highlighted.

Decision:

1. Members noted the report and agreed the actions in it

Actions:

1. Officers to emphasise the importance of the availability of opportunities to learn to swim, as well as education on water safety.
2. Officers to investigate the figures on deaths of those travelling aboard (due to drowning).
3. Officers to progress the recommendations set out in the report

3 Violent Crime

Rachel Duke, Adviser, introduced the item, advising members that police statistics show violent crime has risen, bringing long-term declining trends to an end. The report provided an overview of the statistics and the nature of violent crime for further discussion. Member authorities/ organisations had raised concerns and had approached the LGA for support on this issue.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- Incidents of serious knife crime were often related to drug and gang crime. More needed to be done to deal with the drug trade.
- The public sector needed resources to deal with any increase in crime, given the reductions that had had to be made to services like youth workers.
- Members asked how increases in the figures translated into actual numbers of offences (compared to percentages). It was also asked what percentage of crime had been racially motivate, and whether there had been an increase in hate crime.
- Given the availability of knives at home, members stressed the importance of education in reducing knife crime.

- Increasing violence on television and in the media was touched upon as a possible cause of rising crime.
- Members highlighted the need to work in partnership with PCCs in this area to ensure that local plans were in place to tackle crime and resources were available to deliver them. There had been no mention of PCCs in the report or of the role of police and crime plans.
- Members further discussed the importance of partnership of place and community safety, and requested that the paper focused more on this. It was highlighted that many 3rd sector organisations had good relationships with young people and could assist in tackling the issue.
- It was suggested that a conference was organised jointly with PCCs and 3rd sector bodies.

Decision:

1. Members noted the report and agreed the recommendations in line with the steer above.

Actions:

1. Officers to ensure work emphasises the importance of partnerships of place in tackling this issue (e.g. community safety partnership).
2. Officers to look into organising a joint conference with PCCs and the 3rd sector.

4 Homelessness

Charles Loft, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. The EEHT Board had commissioned a report to help inform the LGA's position on homelessness and would consider how to use the findings of the report going forward. He highlighted key issues such as the problem with a high proportion of ex-offenders ending up homeless after release. The report for the SSC Board set out the key findings and recommendations that crossed over with its remit. Members were asked to comment on these.

The following points were made:

- The opportunity to work together in existing partnerships should be expanded upon and the role of Police and Crime Commissioners considered. It was suggested that a guide was produced on partnership working.
- Drug-related problems were discussed and the importance of early

intervention for those coming out of treatment for drug and alcohol addictions.

- The quality of life in housing for ex-offenders was discussed, including the sense of isolation they can feel, the need for support in buying replacement essentials such as white goods and cookers. Members asked what the suicide rates were.
- Members felt this was another report where a sense of the total numbers involved would be helpful in appreciating the full picture.
- It was highlighted that sharing of information was important, especially when opening new hostels. It was also noted that it was difficult to set up hostels in many areas, as there was often opposition from the local population. Planning applications for housing of this type was met negatively by the public.
- The different companies that had been awarded contracts to operate community rehabilitation companies could produce different results given the commercial emphasis of some. It would be helpful to know if there were different outcomes and results between them.
- There were problems facing ex-service personnel who sometimes became homeless. Members asked whether the LGA was backing the campaign to gather better statistics on the numbers of homeless ex-service personnel. Officers advised that CWB were making calls for better data gathering on this.
- It was highlighted it was politically difficult for politicians to prioritise ex-offenders for housing over others in need.

Decision:

1. The board noted the report and the recommendations in line with the steer above.

Actions:

1. Officers to look into producing a guide on existing partnership working and the role of PCCs on this issue.
2. Officers to feedback to the CWB the Board's support for calls for better data gathering on the numbers of homeless ex-servicemen.
3. Officers to feedback the discussion to the EEHT board to inform the LGA's cross-cutting work on homelessness.

5 Gambling Review

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser, introduced the item. She advised members that on Monday 24 October, the Government had announced a review of gaming machine stakes, and this report outlined the key themes the LGA would cover in its submission. The LGA would reiterate support for a reduction in the stakes, highlight concerns members had about advertising and would look widely at the impact on communities. Evidence would need to be submitted by the 4th December. She asked for members' views on this.

The Chair asked for long points to be emailed to officers.

The following points were made:

- This was an opportunity to raise awareness of the issues with all councils, as gambling had an impact on other problems such as domestic violence and alcohol addiction.
- The impact of gambling on community safety and the problems with violence in betting shops were discussed and it was requested that the need to protect shop staff from violence should be captured in the report.
- Members asked whether councils should submit responses to the LGA or to the government, and were advised that they could do either.
- Members requested that Leicester's scrutiny report was circulated to the board.
- It was agreed that the LGA would specifically a £2 maximum stake rather than simply calling for stakes to be brought into line with other high street stakes.
- The risks of internet gambling were touched upon.

Decision:

1. Members noted the report and the recommendation.

Actions:

1. Officers to circulate Leicester's scrutiny report.
2. Officers to capture problems with violence against staff in betting shops in LGA work.

6 Update Paper

Members noted the update paper and made the following points:

- Institute of Alcohol Studies work on minimum unit pricing was noted, as was the campaign to reduce the breathalyser limit. It was agreed that officers would look into supporting this.
- Members noted the links between the future of pathology services and the introduction of medical examiners and the possibility this could reduce the number of post mortems.
- Members asked for an update on Prevent.
- Taxi licensing was discussed, and the problems with some authorities having different standards to others.
- Members asked if Trading Standards could be involved with tackling the problems around faulty tumble dryers.
- Misuse of public space protection orders and rules around exercising dogs were discussed.
- The decision of the DVSA to withdraw tests for taxi drivers was discussed.
- Concerns were raised over instances where taxi drivers had denied access to those with guide dogs to taxis. Members were advised that the LGA was currently working on this issue.

Decision:

1. Members noted the report.

Actions:

1. Officers to look into the progress of work from the Institute of Alcohol Studies on reducing the minimum unit of pricing.
2. Officers to update members on prevent when possible.
3. Officers to look into involving Trading Standards further with the issue of overheating tumble dryers.

7 Notes of Previous Meeting

Members **agreed** the notes of the last meeting as an accurate summary of the discussion.

8 EU Exit Update

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the item. He advised members that the paper looked at the implications of leaving the EU for the areas the Board covered, setting out the regulations, decisions and directives in EU law relevant to the Board's work and proposals for work around this agenda.

He advised members that Cornwall Council had offered to assist the LGA in setting out the effect of Brexit on this area.

The following point was made:

- Members asked at what point papers on Brexit would not be confidential so that they could be shared with council colleagues (for briefing purposes).

Decision:

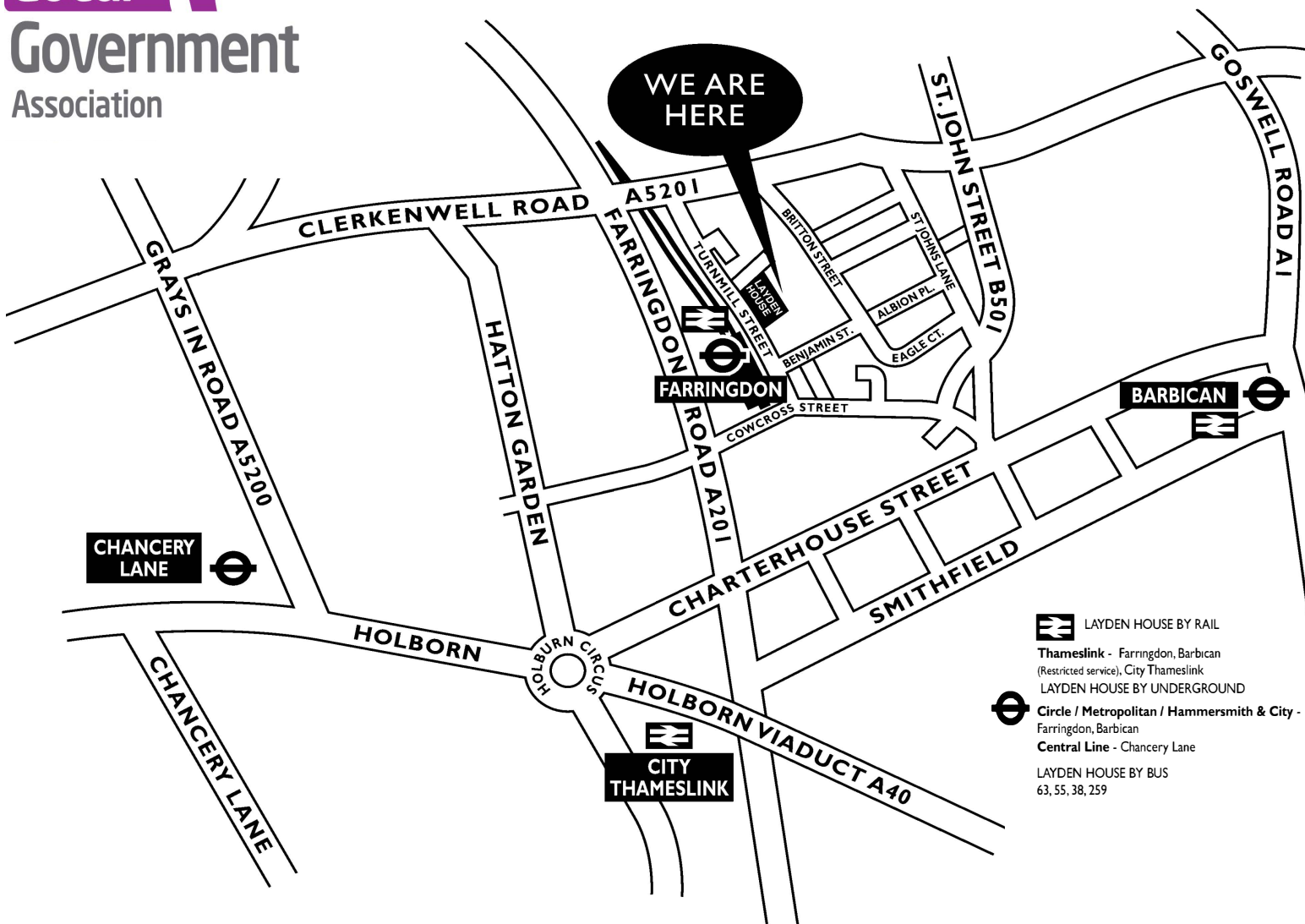
1. Members noted the paper and the recommendations.

Action:

1. Officers to discuss the confidential status of Brexit papers with colleagues.

Appendix A –Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	Cllr Bill Bentley	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
	Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Joy Allen	Durham County Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Tim Oliver	Elmbridge Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Goronwy Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council



Layden House

76-86 Turnmill Street,
London
EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 3000 Fax: 020 7664 3030

**The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

Public Transport

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

Bus routes - Farringdon Station

63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
55 - Oxford Circus - High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

Cycling Facilities

The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.
For more information please go to www.tfl.gov.uk

Car Parks

Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA