

# Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 19 November 2018  
11.00 am

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith  
Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

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This meeting is



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Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
19 November 2018

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There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 19 November 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

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<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:Lewis.addlington-lee@local.gov.uk">Lewis.addlington-lee@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Benn Cain  
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## Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 8 )</b>	
Cllr Morris Bright MBE (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Eric Allen	
Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Colin Spence	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judith Wallace	North Tyneside Council
Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Ruth Clark	Redbridge London Borough Council
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Kim McGuinness	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Claudia Webbe	Islington Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Dine Romero	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Independent ( 1 )</b>	
Cllr Hannah Dalton (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

## LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board - Attendance 2018-2019

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>3/9/18</b>
<b>Conservative Group</b>	
Morris Bright MBE	Yes
Eric Allen	Yes
Keith McLean	Yes
John Pennington	Yes
Colin Spence	Yes
Judith Wallace	Yes
Katrina Wood	Yes
Nick Worth	Yes
<b>Labour Group</b>	
Simon Blackburn	Yes
Jim Beall	Yes
Carole Burdis	Yes
James Dawson	Yes
Kate Haigh	Yes
Farah Hussain	Yes
Alan Rhodes	Yes
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>	
Anita Lower	Yes
Jeremy Hilton	No
<b>Independent</b>	
Hannah Dalton	Yes
<b>Substitutes/Observers</b>	
Becca Thackray	Yes
Dine Romero	Yes

## Agenda

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

Monday 19 November 2018

11.00 am

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 14 January 2019, 11.00 am, Smith Square  
1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ





## **Food Standards Agency ‘Regulating our Future’ Programme Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

This paper updates the Board on the Food Standards Agency’s (FSA) ‘Regulating our Future’ programme, and introduces a presentation by Heather Hancock, Chair of the FSA.

### **Recommendations**

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are asked to note and comment on the FSAs Regulating our Future programme.

### **Action**

Officers take forward as directed.

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**Position:** Advisor  
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**E-mail:** [rebecca.johnson@local.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.johnson@local.gov.uk)

## **Food Standards Agency ‘Regulating our Future’ programme update**

### **Background**

1. In February 2016, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) launched ‘Regulating our Future’ (RoF), a major reform programme intended to overhaul the way food businesses in the UK are regulated. In January 2017, the then Deputy Chair of the FSA, Tim Bennett, presented an overview of the programme to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board meeting: the paper for this previous meeting can be found [here](#).
2. From the outset, the programme has been exploring how food regulation could be strengthened by: developing an enhanced registration process for food businesses; segmenting businesses depending on risk and other factors; and using existing internal food business data and third party assurance processes to inform official controls undertaken by councils.
3. As reflected in the January 2017 Board meeting, an early professional concern about the RoF programme was a perception that the programme may reduce current local authority involvement in official food controls by introducing a formal role for third party assurance bodies.
4. The RoF programme is predicated on using an iterative, open policy making approach, and consequently the focus of the programme has developed over time. As the role of the assurance framework is now seen as one of the longer term themes for the programme, concerns about the use of third party assessors has reduced somewhat. However, there remain significant concerns among professionals and particularly in Wales about the direction of travel on some of the shorter term RoF proposals, as set out in the key issues below.
5. The changing focus of the programme also reflects the forthcoming impact of EU exit, following the vote to leave the EU after RoF was originally launched. Brexit intersects with RoF in a number of ways: firstly, in that virtually all of the UK’s existing food legislation is derived from European laws; secondly, because of the need for the UK to demonstrate assurance with standards as a country that will in future be outside the EU but exporting to it; and lastly, because of the expected lack of Parliamentary time to implement legislative changes linked to the RoF programme, meaning that the programme is focusing in the first instance on what can be achieved without the need for legislative amendments.
6. Following the January 2017 Board meeting, it was agreed that the Chair of the Board should meet with Heather Hancock, Chair of the FSA, to seek further clarity on the future role of local authorities in food regulation. Two meetings have been held to date, in April

2017 and in September 2018, at which it was agreed that it would be useful for Heather to attend a future meeting to update the Board.

### **Issues**

7. As set out above, since the last update to Board, the FSA have grouped the RoF programme into short term and longer term objectives and is moving forward with different aspects of the proposals at different speeds.
8. The following summarises developments across the key components of the first phase of the RoF program and highlights some of the key issues and areas of concern that have been flagged.

### **Business start-up and enhanced registration**

9. Enhanced registration is about improving the registration process for new food business operators (FBOs). This is based on the principle that registration offers a key opportunity to provide proactive advice and support to new businesses during the start-up phase, helping them to get things right from the outset.
10. It is intended that the availability of better quality data about food businesses, through the enhanced registration process, will help councils to prioritise and target resources and give the FSA an overview of all of businesses; currently there is no central list of FBOs.
11. The FSA have completed the majority of development work for the new online registration service for businesses, which is now undergoing testing. The new system is due to go live by March 2019, once new content has been tested. The FSA will roll out an engagement programme starting early next year to develop key third party alliances for example with trade associations and financial institutions, raising awareness of the need to register and signpost businesses to the FSA website.

### **Segmentation of food businesses**

12. Currently, all new food businesses are inspected when they first start trading. The FSA argues that this 'one size fits all' approach is not sustainable and has therefore sought to develop a more risk-based and proportionate approach to differentiating between businesses. This would allow resources to be targeted according to risk, for example based on data about the type of activities undertaken by the business, or compliance history.
13. The result of this work has been the development of a 'risk engine' which uses a set of business rules to generate a 'risk score'. New businesses registering via the online service will be segmented into categories which are used to determine the nature,

frequency and intensity of official controls. The suggestion that not all food businesses receive an initial inspection appears controversial with some professionals.

14. The next phase of this work will be for the FSA to consult on proposals to move away from inspecting all food businesses when they begin trading, towards a more targeted approach where 'low risk' businesses only receive a visit if issues arise.
15. An initial version of the risk engine will be released in conjunction with the new enhanced registration system by March 2019, although improvements will continue to be made as the evidence base for interventions improves.
16. The Board meeting is an opportunity to seek clarity about how the FSA imagine that food businesses will be segmented and how thinking has developed around how the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) will operate within this new system of segmentation

#### **Primary Authority National Inspection Strategies**

17. Primary Authority (PA) was introduced to ensure the provision of consistent regulatory advice to businesses and has been operating in regulation for several years. It offers businesses (and more recently umbrella organisations like trade associations) an opportunity to form a legally recognised partnership with a local authority - the primary authority – which can then provide assured advice for other local authorities to consider when carrying out inspections or dealing with non-compliance. PA operates across a number of different areas including environmental health, trading standards and fire safety; there are around 2500 PA partnerships across the country.
18. As part of their advisory role, PAs have the ability to develop inspection plans which set out national priorities for inspection of the business in question and is a way to focus routine regulatory activity by local authorities to where it is most needed.
19. An inspection plan can go a stage further; the PA can propose a National Inspection Strategy (NIS) that controls the number and frequency of proactive council interventions. For example, the PA could decide that based on evidence that a business (or group of businesses) is well managed, a lower number, or a more tailored style, of regulatory interventions are appropriate. A proposal for a NIS needs to be approved by the Secretary of State before coming into force.
20. NIS essentially focuses compliance work on business wide controls rather than those at individual premises. Assurance that the business is meeting its responsibilities will be assessed centrally by its primary authority, with feedback from LAs used to check that the NIS is working.

21. Whilst this is an approach used in other sectors, and PAs have the necessary powers to develop food safety NIS, to date none have. The FSA have identified that the reason for this is there has been no guidance for authorities on using NIS. They have taken steps to address this through updates to the Code of Practice on Food Law, to acknowledge NIS and outline what LAs should do if a primary authority was to issue one.
22. In the context of food safety, the FSA has suggested that NIS would be suited to primary authority relationships with multi-site businesses (or groups of businesses) that demonstrate high levels of compliance. Any proposed NIS would need to meet the FSA's robust standards. A key aspect of this proposal would be that the PA assesses the Food Hygiene Rating rather than the local councils.
23. The FSA have worked with a number of authorities to test out how NIS could work, which has resulted in the development of a set of criteria to form the basis of an 'FSA standard' for primary authorities wishing to develop a NIS, which was tested as part of a pathfinder project between 2017 and 2018.
24. Working with six primary authority partnerships, the project analysed the primary authorities' assessments of business data and compared this with findings from local authority hygiene inspections to determine whether the PA's assessment of the rating and local authority inspection outcomes were consistent.
25. The FSA reported promising results from these pilots, with 80 per cent of PA predicted ratings matching the actual FHRs following an LA inspection. In total 95 per cent of the assessments were the same or lower, meaning only five per cent of PA assessments over-estimated the FHRs score given following an actual inspection.
26. Whilst results were promising concerns were raised by the officers involved about the type of businesses this is appropriate for and the need for sufficient oversight.
27. The FSA argue that the pilot suggests that using business data to predict local level compliance provides a reasonable level of accuracy. More detailed work has been carried out to look at where there were variations between predictions and actual scores and the reasons for these.
28. The FSA has reported that a small number of PA hygiene partnerships in England are actively considering developing NIS, with the view to trialling the concept early in 2019.
29. The early proposals suggest that the PAs will use business data and information, combined with intelligence from the relevant local enforcing authorities, to better inform the frequency of local food hygiene inspections. The outcomes of this work will be used to further refine the FSA standards and test how these work in practice for PAs, LAs and the FSA.

30. This proposal has been met with some significant pushback in Wales, where it is believed that NIS would dilute the mandatory FHRS and associated high levels of standards. The WLGA wrote to Heather Hancock in September to outline concerns (see [Appendix A](#)).

### **Longer term workstreams and other developments**

31. The FSA is also exploring the scope for combining food standards and hygiene work for some businesses, and is surveying LAs on how these controls are currently delivered. Typically (although not exclusively), standards are currently delivered by Trading Standards and hygiene by Environmental Health.
32. A new digital tool, known as the '**Balanced Scorecard**' has been developed to inform the FSAs oversight of local authorities' performance. This will draw on statutory LA data returns, but will also be able to draw on other data sources, including FHRS, to provide a more rounded picture. LAs will be able to access 'a version of' the tool to help benchmark their performance against others'.
33. The FSA have also been looking at other forms of **regulated private assurance** and how they may be used to inform official controls. This includes exploring how information about business' compliance with the Business Retail Consortium (BRC) Standard for Food could be used to inform official control activity. The recent review of Cutting Plants and Cold Stores has identified some areas of work to act as feasibility study for this.
34. The review of Cutting Plants<sup>1</sup>, which was launched following the exposé at 2 Sisters Food Group chicken plant in 2017, has also put forward some significant recommendations on the delivery of official controls, including a proposal to **pilot the use of a single organisation to deliver all Official Controls** relating to these businesses in a given geographical area.
35. The future of **charging** is also being explored and the FSA is currently scoping out a new funding model that would see businesses meet the cost of regulation (in line with the recommendations of the Cabinet Office's Regulatory Futures review). Currently at the options appraisal stage, the FSA intends to consult on options for 'providing sufficient ring-fenced financial resource for ongoing delivery of the changing regulatory system.'

### **Possible questions for the FSA/ to guide discussion**

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-and-fss-review-of-meat-cutting-plants-and-cold-stores-final-report\\_1.pdf](https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-and-fss-review-of-meat-cutting-plants-and-cold-stores-final-report_1.pdf)

36. 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:

36.1 What reassurance can you give that local authorities will still be notified that a food businesses has registered locally? How will the new online registration service link up to local systems?

36.2 The suggestion that as a result of segmenting businesses not all food businesses receive an initial inspection appears controversial with some professionals. It would be useful to have some practical examples of the type of businesses the risk engine might suggest do not receive an initial inspection.

36.3 It would be useful to understand whether the FSA has any concerns that the Primary Authority National Inspection Strategy (NIS) approach risks turning the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme into a paper based exercise.

36.4 What is the current thinking about the timetable for work around third party assurance and charging models?

36.5 What has the survey of LA food hygiene and standards work revealed about the scope for joining these services up?

### **Implications for Wales**

37. As noted in the January 2017 [Board paper](#), the RoF programme has provoked particularly strong feeling in Wales. This is partly because of the perception that council food hygiene and standards work has suffered smaller cuts than in England and is therefore considered to be more robust, meaning that the rationale for overhauling the current framework is weaker.

38. These concerns persist. Steve Thomas, Chief Executive of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) wrote to Heather Hancock in September 2018, to outline the WLGA's concerns about NIS and their view that this would potentially undermine the existing mandatory FHRS in Wales ([Appendix A](#)).

### **Financial Implications**

39. None.

### **Next steps**

40. Members are asked to note and comment on the FSAs Regulating our Future programme.





**Ein Cyf** /Our Ref: ST/FSAHH  
**Eich Cyf** /Your Ref:  
**Dyddiad** /Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
**Gofynnwch am**/Please ask for: Steve Thomas  
**Llinell uniongyrchol**/Direct line: 029 2046 8610  
**Ebost**/Email: steve.thomas@wlga.gov.uk



Heather Hancock DL LVO  
Chairman FSA Board

Sent by email  
[heather.hancock@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:heather.hancock@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Heather,

The Association writes to you in relation to the Food Standards Agency Board meeting taking place in Wales on 19 September 2018, and in particular the paper your Board is considering, *Regulating our Future – Assurance Framework For Primary Authority National Inspection Strategies (NIS) and Next Steps on Regulated Private Assurance*.

We are aware of the recent submissions to the Wales Food Advisory Committee, by our Directors of Public Protection Wales (DPPW), and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

These submissions have alerted us to matters of significant concern in relation to future public protection activity in Wales.

It is not the intention to reiterate the points raised by both of the above, however it is our belief that the concerns are valid. As such, the Association draws your attention to a number of points, namely:

- The potential to seriously undermine the success and credibility of the statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in Wales which requires on-site inspections by independent local authority officers to generate food hygiene ratings. The paper highlights the legislative barriers to implementing NIS in Northern Ireland and Scotland but does not sufficiently address the situation in Wales. The proposal that where there is a NIS in place it will reduce proactive inspections by local authorities and inform food hygiene ratings is in direct conflict with the legislative requirement in Wales for ratings to be generated from evidence gained during inspections at individual food establishments. Until this matter is resolved, the Association is of the view that the proposals are premature and should not be applied in Wales.

Steve Thomas CBE  
Prif Weithredwr  
Chief Executive

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**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.  
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.  
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.

- The principles set out in the Welsh Ministers' joint statement of December 2016 which should be appreciated, respected and adhered to. The Ministers made it clear that Welsh Government's preference is for 'continued independent, consistent local authority food hygiene inspections to be prioritised and maintained at appropriate levels' and they 'would not wish to see consumer confidence in the FHRs undermined by infrequent inspections, or inspections carried out by auditors who are not independent of the food business, or those they supply. It would also be inappropriate for food businesses to receive FHRs inspections independent of intervention inspections.' The Association is not aware of any consultation that has taken place with Welsh Ministers, local authority Chief Executives or consumers in Wales about these proposals.
- The proposal in the paper for the Secretary of State to consent to a NIS controlling the number and frequency of food inspections by local authorities in Wales does not take account of the fact that food law is devolved and it is Welsh Ministers that should provide this consent in Wales.
- There is no evidence in the paper that the views of consumers in Wales (or England) have been sought on the proposals despite the fact that the FSA was set up to protect the public's health and consumer interests in relation to food.
- More detailed consideration of the potential impacts and unintended consequences of the proposals would be of benefit prior to the recommendations of the report being endorsed. The Association's view is that the wider (non-food) strategic implications of weakening the public protection system in Wales has not been considered.
- There is a suggestion in the paper that local authorities are not already targeting those establishments that pose the greatest risk. This simply is not the case. Local authorities in Wales have developed and are implementing a robust revisit policy which ensures the least compliant food businesses are prioritised for action and improvement. Wales has an excellent track record when it comes to enforcement and there are many examples of businesses that have primary authorities being prosecuted for failures at a local level.
- The concept of consultation by the FSA appears to have been nothing more than lip service on a number of occasions. Significant time and sustained efforts requiring considerable resource has been spent by local government in providing the FSA with information, with apparently little or no bearing on outcomes. The FSA continues to bombard local government with consultations and requests for information/assistance. This is not sustainable and is taking officers away from the front-line.

- The apparent reliance on work (evidence) undertaken by the FSA, which although unpublished, is central to the ROF programme
- The business case for a move to NIS is not available nor is there a robust cost benefit analysis. Therefore, any agreement to introduce this new approach in Wales is at least premature, at worst reckless.

The Association has, we believe, the same objectives as the FSA, in that consumer protection and business compliance are at the heart of the work we do. The proposals in the paper are not well timed and our view is that FSA, and local authority resources would be better spent preparing for the UK's exit from the EU.

We would welcome political dialogue with you in Wales to ensure the future of our regulatory system remains fit for purpose, and can be collectively strengthened in future.

Yours sincerely,



**Steve Thomas CBE**  
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive



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## **Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This report updates the Board on the LGA's building safety related work since its last meeting.

### **Recommendation**

That members note and comment on the LGA's building safety related work.

### **Action**

Officers to action any matters arising from the discussion as appropriate.

<b>Contact officer:</b>	Mark Norris
<b>Position:</b>	Principal Policy Adviser
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<b>Email:</b>	mark.norris@local.gov.uk

## **Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings**

### **Background**

1. The LGA's activity around fire safety in high-rise buildings since the last Board meeting has centred on progressing the support package for councils to assist them in taking action to ensure private high-rise residential buildings with combustible cladding systems are made safe, on influencing the shape of the government's response to Dame Judith Hackitt's final report and its recommendations, and work on other building safety issues including fire doors and large panel system buildings. This report summarises this work.

### **Social housing high-rise buildings**

#### *Progress in Remediation*

2. Progress continues to be made in carrying out remediation to the 45 council owned and 100 plus housing association blocks with combinations of aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding and insulation that does not meet the building regulation standards. The latest figures published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) at the start of November show that remediation work has been completed on 28 social housing high-rise blocks. Work is ongoing on a further 87 blocks, and plans are in place or in development for the remediation of the remaining 44 social housing blocks.
3. The Permanent Secretary at MHCLG convened a roundtable in October with councils and housing associations with blocks with ACM cladding systems to discuss progress and issues related to remediation. From this it was clear that issues with the quality of workmanship in installing key fire safety measures in cladding systems are common place and not just confined to ACM cladding systems, but also to other systems such as those using external wall insulation.
4. Following the roundtable MHCLG, the LGA and the National Housing Federation are in discussion about how the experiences and good practice that councils and housing associations have developed as a result of the remediation programme can be shared more widely across the social housing sector, especially as this learning will help councils prepare for the introduction of the reformed regulatory regime set out in the final report from the Hackitt review. Current proposals include establishing an on-line forum on the LGA's Knowledge Hub along with running a series of regional events early in 2019.

### **Private high-rise buildings**

#### *Progress in Remediation*

5. The latest statistics from MHCLG show there are 289 private buildings with ACM cladding systems that need to be removed. Of these 199 are residential high-rise blocks, 29 are hotels and 61 are student accommodation. Remediation work has been completed on 19 of these buildings, and has started on a further 21. An additional 98 buildings have plans in place and plans are being developed for a further 49 buildings.



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However there are no clear plans in place for 102 buildings, and there are a further 24 buildings where it is still not clear what type of cladding is present – MHCLG anticipates however that only a small number of these will have ACM cladding.

#### Partial Cladding

6. A number of these buildings are only partially covered with ACM cladding. MHCLG published a guidance note in September from the Independent Expert Advisory Panel which made it clear that due to the risk of fire spread posed by ACM cladding systems the clearest way to ensure the safety of residents is to remove all ACM, including small or partial areas of cladding, and replace it with a safe material. The publication of the advice will assist local authorities in taking enforcement action under the Housing Act 2004, once the further guidance MHCLG have committed to producing is published.
7. However we are aware of one council that has already taken successful enforcement action against a partially clad private residential high-rise building at the first-tier tribunal, ahead of the additional statutory guidance being published, and LGA officers will explore if there is any good practice to learn from this case that can be shared with other councils.

#### Additional Statutory Guidance

8. As was reported to the last Board meeting MHCLG committed in the Secretary of State's statement at the end of June to producing further guidance that would make it easier for councils to use their powers under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) in relation to fire safety hazards posed by ACM cladding systems on private high-rise buildings.
9. The LGA, London Councils and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) have been working closely with MHCLG on the drafting of this guidance. This has involved seeking the views of environmental health officers and their testing of the new approach to ensure it is as robust as possible. The Housing Act requires any HHSRS guidance to be considered by Parliament before it can be used, and once the drafting of the guidance has been completed the next step will be for it to be laid in Parliament. It is anticipated this will happen before the end of the year, with the guidance being available for use by councils early in 2019.

#### Joint Inspection Team

10. Members will recall from the report to the last Board meeting that the private sector remediation taskforce established by MHCLG agreed plans for setting up a joint inspection team. As was reported to the last Board meeting this team will be run by the LGA but paid for by MHCLG. Considerable progress has been made in the discussions with MHCLG about the size and cost of the team, and work has started on drafting a grant agreement between the department and the LGA. However recruitment has not been able to proceed as swiftly as had originally been hoped as issues related to the professional indemnity of the team are resolved.

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Private Sector Remediation Taskforce

11. The private sector remediation taskforce meeting has met twice since the last Board meeting. It has received updates on progress with the remediation of the private high-rise residential buildings with ACM, and heard from councils in London and the North West about the issues they have faced with ensuring building owners take action to remove ACM cladding systems.

**Building Regulations and Fire Safety Review**

12. Since the last Board meeting the LGA has continued to engage with MHCLG officials as they develop the government's response to the recommendations in Dame Judith Hackitt's final report. The focus of this work has been on developing proposals on how the new Joint Competent Authority (JCA) recommended in the Hackitt Review could function and has involved discussions with the NFCC, Local Authority Building Control, and latterly the Health and Safety Executive, as well as MHCLG. There is an on-going dialogue with MHCLG about how these key regulators and the LGA can work together and with the future JCA.

Ban on Combustible Cladding

13. Following the consultation this summer on banning the use of combustible materials on the external walls of high-rise residential buildings, the Government announced at the end of September that it would proceed with the ban. This represents a considerable lobbying success for the LGA, which called for a ban on the use of combustible materials in cladding systems on the external walls of high-rise residential buildings on the day of the publication of the Hackitt Review's final report, once it became clear there was not a recommendation along those lines in it. Work is currently underway on how the ban will work in practice, and the LGA has been able to comment on preliminary drafts.

**Wider Building Safety Issues**

Fire Doors

14. LGA officers, along with London Councils, the National Housing Federation and a number of local authorities have been meeting regularly with MHCLG officials to discuss issues related to fire doors. In these discussions the LGA has been keen to stress the need for greater clarity around which types of fire doors have been tested (including what doors have been tested to avoid duplication of tests, the details of those that have failed, and the time they have failed in) so that landlords are aware of what action they need to take, and what advice they can provide their tenants. As a result of this MHCLG has provided answers to a set of frequently asked questions, a copy of which is now hosted on the LGA's website, and to create a joint testing programme to avoid doors being tested multiple times at public expense. We have also raised the question of how the costs of replacement doors are met.

Spandrel Panels

15. In October MHCLG issued an advice note to building owners about spandrel panels (and also window panels and infill panels). They have aesthetic and functional purposes and

are generally required to meet a number of requirements including those related to fire safety. MHCLG's advice is for building owners to check the materials in the panel to ensure they do not present a risk of fire spread over the external wall of the building they are used on. If there are no written records the advice note suggests that building owners take samples. Where spandrel panels do not meet the required fire safety standards then the advice note states that they should be replaced. The LGA is currently exploring the implications of this advice note for councils.

#### Large Panel System (LPS) Buildings

16. Since the Board meeting in June LGA officers have been in discussion with MHCLG officials about building safety issues related to LPS buildings. MHCLG agreed that an initial first step would be to establish a forum in which building owners could share best practice about ensuring their LPS buildings meet the building regulation requirements about being able to resist disproportionate collapse. A forum meeting was held in early October. The next stage of work is to identify where and what LPS buildings are still in existence so more authorities can be brought into the forum. LGA officers are currently in discussion with MHCLG about how this can be done, and has also been testing the information that is available on the numbers of buildings with councils to see how accurate it is.

#### **Implications for Wales**

17. Building regulations and fire and rescue services are devolved responsibilities of the Welsh Assembly Government, and the main implications arising from the recommendations of the Hackitt Review and the government's response to it are on building regulations and fire safety in England. However the Welsh government has announced that it will be making the changes recommended in the report to the regulatory system in Wales, and the LGA has been keeping in contact to ensure the WLGA is kept informed of the latest developments in England.

#### **Financial Implications**

18. Although the LGA is setting up the Joint Inspection Team, the cost of doing so will be met by MHCLG. Other work arising from this report will continue to be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes an additional fixed term post in the safer communities team to support the LGA's building safety work.

#### **Next Steps**

19. Members are asked to note and comment on the LGA's building safety work.





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## **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**

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

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## Update Paper

### Serious Violent Crime

1. At the Conservative Party Conference, the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP [announced](#) the Government would be launching a consultation on new legal duty to underpin a public health approach to tackling serious violence. He also [announced](#) the Government would be investing in a new £200 million youth endowment fund aimed at 10 to 14 year olds who are most at risk of youth violence. There will also be an [independent review of drug misuse](#). These announcements were discussed at the Serious Violence Taskforce meeting which Cllr Blackburn attended. Officers are taking forward discussions with the Home Office.
2. The LGA also submitted [written evidence](#) to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry on serious violence.

#### Meeting with Redthread

3. Cllr Blackburn met with the Chief Executive of Redthread, a youth work charity based in London that supports young people aged 11–25 in their personal and social development. Their projects look at health-based interventions and support for younger people at the ‘teachable moment’ to help steer them away from a life of crime. We will continue working together as members of the Serious Violence Taskforce.

#### Knife Sales

4. With the latest official figures showing a 40 per cent rise in knife crime in England and Wales in the past two years, we [called](#) for plans in the Government's Serious Violence Strategy to fund councils to prosecute retailers for breaches of knife sale laws to be brought forward as soon as possible. This is alongside our wider campaigning for councils' vital work in early intervention and public health to be recognised and properly funded.

#### Enhancing Community Safety Conference

5. In October, LGA Vice-Chairman of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Morris Bright spoke at the Inside Government Conference on enhancing the relationship between the police and local authorities. He spoke about the importance of strong partnerships and multi-agency working to tackle crime. On serious violent crime, he said that early intervention and prevention would be key to tackling the root causes of serious violence.

#### MHCLG Fund: Supporting Families Against Youth Crime

6. On 20 October 2018, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) [announced a new fund](#): Supporting Families Against Youth Crime. The fund is designed to be used flexibly to enhance the existing package of support provided by local Troubled Families Programmes to enable a greater focus on preventing youth and gang

crime. The fund is open for councils to submit their bids until the deadline on 8 December 2018.

### Serious Organised Crime Strategy

7. The Government released its new [Serious Organised Crime Strategy](#), which sets out how it will target and undermine crime networks and protect victims from its impacts. As we said in [our response](#), long-term investment in local services is crucial to enabling us to identify signs of exploitation and intervene at an early stage. Only with the right funding and powers can councils continue to make a difference to people's lives, by supporting families and young people, and helping to tackle serious violent crime in our local communities.

### Moped, Motorcycles and Scooters Roundtable

8. The Home Office held its final roundtable on moped, motorcycle and scooter related crime in October. This follows the [announcement](#) that moped offences in London have halved as a result of targeted police operations, according to Metropolitan Police figures. The Home Office group will now focus on other types of vehicle crime.

### **Unauthorised Encampments and Developments**

9. The LGA is convening a private roundtable with council officers who have responded to unauthorised developments and encampments in their local area. We are keen to speak to planning, environmental health and community safety teams about their experiences. The roundtable is taking place on Monday 17 December, 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at our LGA offices in Westminster. If you would like further information or would like to attend, please contact [Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk).

### **Domestic Abuse**

10. The Home Affairs Committee has published its [report](#) into domestic abuse. Cllr Simon Blackburn [gave evidence](#) to the inquiry to highlight councils' role in tackling abuse and providing support to victims. [Responding](#) to the report, we reaffirmed how seriously councils are taking this issue, and the work many are doing to invest in more early intervention and prevention schemes.

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

#### National FGM Centre

11. Following the successful launch of the National FGM Centre's FGM risk assessment tool in Manchester and London earlier this year, Cllr Anita Lower and lead officers of the NFGMC hosted a consultation event in Cardiff in October aimed at showcasing the tool to relevant members of Welsh government and local government with an aim to making it relevant under Welsh legislation.

### **Gambling and Licensing**

#### Children and Young People's Access to Gambling

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12. Cllr Kate Haigh will update the Board on recent discussion with Tim Miller, Executive Director at the Gambling Commission on children and young people's access to gambling.

**Modern slavery**

13. We are continuing to take forward work to support councils on tackling modern slavery. To build on the publication of our council guidance earlier this year, we have recently commissioned the development of a series of good practice case studies. We are also holding a workshop on disrupting modern slavery later this month; more than 80 delegates are due to attend.
14. Colleagues in the LGA's productivity team (who lead the LGA's work on commissioning) are leading our work to support councils on the issue of transparency in supply chains. Although not a mandatory requirement for councils, more than 60 have published transparency statements; this figure is expected to rise to 100 by the end of the year. The independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which is being led by Frank Field and Maria Miller MPs, and Baroness Butler-Sloss, is looking at the issue of transparency in supply chains, and may propose extending the Act's mandatory requirements to public authorities including councils.
15. At the end of last month, the Responsible Car Wash scheme was launched. The scheme is aiming to increase compliance among franchise car washes operating on the site of supermarkets and other major businesses, thereby enabling enforcement activity to be targeted at rogue operators where modern slavery may be present.
16. Officers have been engaging with the Home Office on their National Referral Mechanism reform programme. The Home Office will shortly be launching a consultation on the role of first responders (who can refer suspected victims of slavery into the NRM), including councils.
17. Cllr Rhodes has recently held discussions with the National Crime Agency regarding promoting council involvement in weeks of activity targeting specific areas of modern slavery. Additionally, the LGA Chairman Lord Porter recently attended the Prime Ministerial taskforce on Modern Slavery.

**Taxi / PHV Updates**

18. The Ministerial task and finish group, set up to look at taxi and PHV licensing which the LGA was part of, has now published a [final report](#). The report, which is a report of the Independent Chair Professor Mohammed Abdel el-Haq rather than the group, picked up on a number of longstanding LGA asks including the urgent need for new legislation.
19. On 12 November Cllr Anita Lower will be attending a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Taxis to discuss the LGAs view on the report's findings and urge Government to move swiftly to respond to the report and bring forward a Taxi and PHV Licensing Reform Bill. A Westminster Hall debate on the Task and Finish Group's recommendations is due to take place on the 13 November.



### **Prevent, Counter Extremism and Integration**

20. In October, the LGA's Chief Executive met Tom Hurd, the Director General at the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism to discuss Prevent. They discussed the progress of MAC and Dovetail pilots. There will not be a uniform roll out of MAC, but that in six months' time the Home Office will have a better idea of the direction for the next two years. Given this timescale, it was agreed that that it would be a good idea to have a session on Prevent at the LGA Annual Conference in July 2019. It seems unlikely that Dovetail will be rolled out in 2019-20 but this will depend on the results of the pilots, which were expected to be available in early 2019. We hope to be involved in discussing these results.
21. The meeting also covered the effect of Prevent de-prioritisation on councils and discussed the possibility of meeting this by varying the approach. This work is being taken forward at officer level.
22. The Chair of our Safer and Stronger Communities Board will be meeting Baroness Williams later this month to discuss our ideas for developing further our joint work to counter extremism.
23. Following another successful Prevent Leadership Essentials course in Coventry in October, we are continuing with preparations for forthcoming events on cohesion and integration, and counter extremism. There are a limited number of spaces left on these free residential courses for elected members, on 11-12 December (cohesion and integration), and 17-18 January (counter extremism). Please see [the LGA website](#) for further details and book information.
24. Alongside this, as part of our work to support the Special Interest Group for Countering Extremism ([SIGCE](#)), chaired by Leeds and Luton councils, we are hosting the SIGCE's next seminar, on 29 November. The seminar will focus on local leadership in countering extremism. For further information and to book a place, please visit the booking site [here](#).

### **Civil Resilience**

25. We have finalised the text for the updated LGA councillor guide on civil resilience and a new document, developed in conjunction with Solace, on the life cycle of an emergency. These will be completed in time for the first of our planned councillor masterclasses on civil resilience, the first of which takes place in Leeds on 22 November. We are also proposing to hold two further events for councillors in March, in the North East and in Liverpool.

### **Airside Licensing**

26. The Home Office have launched [a call for evidence on airside alcohol licensing](#) at international airports in England and Wales for the period of three months.
27. The aim of this call for evidence is to allow the government to assess the true scale of the problem of drunk and disruptive passengers at international airports in England and Wales, the extent to which airports and airlines use effectively the existing statutory

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powers and other measures to address the problem, and the impact the proposed extension of the Licensing Act 2003 to airside premises that sell or supply alcohol could have in reducing drunk and disorderly behavior. We are also interested in understanding the impact, if any, a decision to maintain or remove the exemption, could have on your respective organisation as well as customers.

28. The LGA have contacted all local authorities with international airports in their areas, in order to gather views that will feed into our response.

### **Dangerous Dogs Legislation**

29. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's report *Controlling Dangerous Dogs* is calling for a full-scale review of current dog control legislation and policy to better protect the public.
30. The inquiry was launched to investigate Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) and wider dog control, amid concerns that the current approach was not protecting the public adequately. The Committee said an alternative dog control model should be developed that focused on prevention through education, early intervention, and consistently robust sanctions for offenders. Among its recommendations to Government, the inquiry is calling for:
  - 30.1 An independent review into the factors behind dog aggression and attacks, and whether banned breeds pose an inherently greater threat. The Committee raised serious concerns about the robustness of the Government's evidence base on BSL, and highlighted evidence showing that some legal breeds can pose just as great a risk to public safety as illegal breeds.
  - 30.2 Mandatory dog awareness courses for owners involved in low to mid-level offences. A compulsory training course, similar to speed awareness courses for drivers.
  - 30.3 Awareness campaigns to encourage responsible ownership and improve childhood education on staying safe around dogs.
  - 30.4 A new Dog Control Act to consolidate the existing patchwork of legislation and provide enforcement authorities with new powers.

### **Brexit**

31. Officers have been working with the LGA's Brexit policy leads on two issues falling within the SSCB's remit:
  - 31.1 The implications of Brexit, and specifically a no-deal exit, on councils' regulatory functions, particularly at ports of entry.
  - 31.2 Civil resilience planning to support councils and wider local resilience forums in responding to the implications of a no-deal exit.

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32. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently held a series of workshops to map out the implications of a no deal scenario on regulatory functions, and the steps required to be taken to plan for these. Feedback from councils suggested that while the impact on specific regulatory responsibilities may be limited (depending on the approach taken at ports of entry), the cumulative impact of changes to underpinning legislation and guidance, need to advise and support businesses and different transitional arrangements could be significant. We are urging government to continue its dialogue with councils, but to do so by engaging with existing regulatory panels at meetings which are already scheduled.
33. On resilience, Government departments have been engaging with local resilience forums since the summer, to encourage them to think about how civil contingencies plans and procedures could support local areas in the event of a worst case outcome (for example, backlogs at ports or disruption to supply chains). To support this process, we are encouraging Government to ensure that all LRF members and councils are given consistent access to clear information about the Government's own planning assumptions for Brexit.

#### **Public Safety and Festivals**

34. Cllr Kate Haigh met with Chief Constable Harrington, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Lead for Events to discuss how the LGA could work with the NPCC to develop a consistent approach to the management of large events, such as festivals.
35. CC Harrington has asked whether the LGA could provide representation on the NPCC National Working Group on Event Safety, which he Chairs. The LGA is exploring representation of this group.



## Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

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**Title:** Safer & Stronger Communities Board  
**Date:** Monday 3 September 2018  
**Venue:** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 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

#### 1 Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed new and existing members to the board. A round of introductions were made.

The Chair noted the apologies that were received from:

- Cllr Jeremy Hilton

No declarations of interest were made.

#### 2 Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2018/19: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Chair invited Benn Cain, Member Services Officer, to introduce the item.

Benn stated that the paper was for members to agree:

- the terms of reference for the Board;
- the Board's membership;
- the Board's nominations to outside bodies;
- future meeting dates for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB); and
- the appointment of member champions.

The Chair thanked Benn for the update and invited members to comment:

- Members requested that the meeting date in November be held a week later; the Board then agreed for the next SSCB to be held on Monday 19 November. All other meeting dates were agreed.
- Members agreed the terms of reference.
- Members agreed the Board's membership.
- Members agreed the nominations to outside bodies.
- Members agreed to the following Member Champions:

Abuse, exploitation and modern slavery  
Anti-social behaviour  
Bereavement services  
Community cohesion and integration  
Licensing  
Domestic abuse  
Prevent and Counter-extremism

Regulatory Services  
Drowning prevention  
“Scambassador”

Cllr Alan Rhodes  
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)  
Cllr Nick Worth  
Cllrs Farah Hussain and Katrina Wood  
Cllrs Kate Haigh and Eric Allen  
Cllrs Katrina Wood and Jim Beall  
Cllrs Simon Blackburn (Chair) and Colin  
Spence  
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)  
Cllr James Dawson  
Cllr Judith Wallace

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

### **Action**

- Members noted the report.

### **3 Safer and Stronger Communities Board Policy Priorities for 2018-19**

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item.

Mark stated that the paper sets out proposals for the SSCB priorities and work programme for 2018-19. The proposals are based on corporate LGA priorities and options for broader work based on a continuation of ongoing work (including responding to recent policy announcements by Government) and areas of interest previously indicated by Board members. The Board’s work priorities also include the impact of the UK’s departure from the EU on relevant issues, such as regulatory services in relation to food safety; Mark stated that it is difficult to say what the work load may be currently, as this is dependent on the final deal.

The Chair thanked Mark for his update and asked members to comment:

- Members requested that we include work on removing modern slavery from supply chains as part of our work on this issue. Mark confirmed that work on this is underway, and led by the LGA’s productivity team as part of its commissioning support.
- Members emphasised the links between drugs and a wide range of societal issues; Mark discussed the on-going work the LGA is undertaking in relation to drug and alcohol abuse and stated that the team are having live discussions with the Home Office on this.
- Members discussed deaths caused by drowning during the hot weather over the summer due to the hot weather and the campaign to include Cold Water Shock Training in swimming lessons. Mark confirmed that the LGA will make a submission to the Swim England review on this.
- Members stressed the need to continue to press for a public health objective in licensing.
- Members requested more information on potential cross-cutting work on mental health and community safety issues (paragraph 15.6). Mark stated that this will be discussed at future a future meeting of the SSCB.

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

#### **Action**

- Members noted and agreed the report.

#### **4 National FGM Centre**

The Chair invited Leethen Bartholomew, Head of the National FGM Centre, to introduce the item. The National FGM Centre was set-up via a partnership Barnardo's & the LGA, funded by the Department of Education (DoE), and works with local areas to try to tackle FGM.

Leethen gave his presentation to the Board via a PowerPoint presentation, which was shared with members. In the presentation, Leethen:

- Discussed the aims and objectives of the centre's work, noting that the centre also supports local authorities in relation to breast flattening & child abuse linked to faith and belief.
- Made reference to the Government's Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which includes breast flattening and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Noted that this abuse has links to Human Trafficking and that abuse linked to faith or belief is a growing issue in the UK.
- Outlined that FGM is a hidden crime, with reported cases of FGM being undertaken in the UK extremely hard to prove and women unwilling to report abuse due to fear and judgement. It was discussed that women who are victims of FGM are four times more likely to be victims of domestic abuse (DA). Leethen stated that all cases are extremely complex.
- FGM is not just prevalent in countries in Africa, but also in South America, India and Asia.
- Described the centre's services, including the knowledge hub tools, the FGM Assessment Tool (launched in February 2018) which has been globally accessed over 2000 times, and the Global Prevalence Map, as well as its community engagement work and early intervention and prevention work
- Also made reference to Operation Limelight, which investigates inbound and outbound flights from the UK.

The Chair thanked Leethen for his update and welcomed members to comment:

- Members discussed how community engagement is key with this area of work.
- Members discussed the view of Sharia Law in relation to FGM, breast flattening and abuse linked to faith and belief. Leethen stated that there was no religious justification for FGM in Islam. Members noted FGM is practiced across a range of religions, , and that this type of abuse is much more linked to culture.
- Members discussed the link with mental health (which is a modern, Western concept) and this type of abuse.
- Member discussed operational issues in relation to low prevalence areas (and made reference to paragraph five), noting that the initial focus on low prevalence areas was in made in agreement with the Department for Education.

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

**Action**

- Members noted the update.
- Leethen's PowerPoint presentation to be circulated after the SSCB.

**5 Civil resilience and Operation Black Start**

The Chair welcomed Lord Toby Harris of Haringey, UK Coordinator for the Electric Infrastructure Security Council, to introduce the item.

Lord Harris' presentation outlined the implications of a major power failure, which could be caused by a number of different events, including:

- Terrorist attacks on the UK electricity grid, either through an Electrical Magnetic Pulse (EMP) or cyber-attacks.
- Natural disaster, including extreme weather, space weather (such as a solar flare), all of which can cause natural EMP's.

Lord Harris also made reference to the Lancaster incident, which highlighted our reliance on power and the interconnection of modern life, in terms of all of our systems (eg communications) being dependent on electrical power. Emergency generators do exist, but tend not to be tested regularly because it involves switching the power off; hence these often fail when needed.

Lord Harris made reference to the services and national infrastructure that may stop being provided/or fail:

- Schools will probably be closed or used as crisis centres.
- Fuel supplies will dry up, meaning people won't be able to get to work – this is especially worrying when thinking about medical staff or engineers.
- Nuclear power centres; what happens when the nuclear core coolant fails?
- Water and sewage systems will fail.
- Communication systems – including phone masts – will also fail, which will inhibit the emergency services' response and information, although the BBC will have the facility to keep broadcasting. Lord Harris also made reference to the government's decision to take out copper landline wire, which would mean old style telephones would no longer work either.

Lord Harris stated that local council emergency plans tend to assume that power will still be available, and are not predicated on other authorities or areas also being impacted. He mentioned the possible impact of austerity on capacity in this area, and urged councils to take the time to think about this issue.

Lord Harris concluded with the importance of how to manage a national emergency incident, and how local ward councils are the best placed to work out what buildings should be kept open and how to help the most vulnerable people.

The Chair thanked Lord Harris for his update and welcomed members to comment:

- Members discussed reliance on businesses such as supermarkets giving food out. Lord Harris stated the major supermarkets have all confirmed they will hand out free food and emergency supplies, however there could be legal concerns over



this, for example in terms of any food that has gone out of date and legal liability.

- Members discussed the implications of Brexit. However, Lord Harris stated that the UK's electrical dependence is different as we are an island and not part of the European mainland continent.
- Members discussed resilience, with Lord Harris advising to prepare a grab bag to include; something to keep you warm, a wind up radio; a wind up torch; and containers of water for two weeks.
- Members discussed how this is an issues that is not at the forefront of peoples mind until it happens.
- Members discussed previous education in relation to resilience. Lord Harris stated that this has disappeared, and that there is a real nervousness on the part of Government to issue guidance around resilience to the public to avoid causing fear and panic.
- Members discussed the need for sharing best practices amongst local authorities. Lord Harris stated that some authorities that have a high risk of flooding have good plans but encouraged all local authorities to prepare extensively, and where possible, move this up the political agenda.
- Members welcomed plans for a series of councillor training events on civil resilience.
- Members discussed generators and the issues on reliance on them. Members questioned if there is list of public bodies that have generators. Lord Harris stated that there probably is not a list in circulation, and questioned how authorities would prioritise diesel supplies.
- Members agreed the presentation highlighted the importance of emergency planning at a very local level, and not just in relation to a blackout scenario.
- Members discussed ways of ensuring preparation without causing panic. The Chair asked if it would beneficial for future updates and case studies of preparation and best practices. Members agreed this would be helpful.

#### **Action**

- Members noted the report.
- Officers to explore the development of case studies of preparation and best practices.

## **6 Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings**

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item. Mark stated that the report sets out the LGA's building safety related work since the last Board meeting, including the LGA's response to Dame Judith Hackitt's final report, the LGA's response to the consultation on the ban on the use of combustible materials on high-rise residential buildings, and remediation work to private high-rise buildings with combustible cladding systems.

Mark also stated that the Secretary of State for MHCLG has set up a private high-rise buildings remediation taskforce, as remediation work to the cladding on these buildings is very much behind public sector buildings. Mark concluded by stating the Secretary of State has asked the LGA to set up a joint inspection team, which will be funded by MHCLG.

The Chair thanked Mark for the update and concluded made areas to the two areas to note in the report:

- The Chair made particular reference to paragraph 13, the government's announcement that it would be fully funding the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding. Details on how councils can apply for funding were published on 3 July 2018), and the Chair praised officers for all their hard work, stating that this announcement would not have happened without the LGA lobbying, which built a very strong case.
- The Chair also made particular reference to the submissions set out in both **Appendix A and B**, and highlighted the importance of these messages being raised at a national level.
- Members agreed that all ongoing work is appropriate.

**Action**

- Members noted the report.

**7 Update Paper**

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item.

Mark stated that the report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda. The Chair asked members to comment:

- Members discussed the BBC's round-table interview on drowning prevention, in a response to the UK's second heatwave.
- Members noted that the new strategy on female offenders has a number of indicators linked to councils, in terms of early intervention work, a more cohesive community solution, and better custody facilities. Members also highlighted the five new women's prisons being delivered under the strategy.
- Members also discussed the new Safer Car wash App to report possible instances of modern slavery, referenced in paragraph 13 – 15 in the report.
- Members also discussed the work carried out by the parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee in relation to modern slavery (referenced in paragraph 16 – 18 in the report), noting that that the LGA submission was well received.
- Members also discussed the recent event attended event at the American Embassy, in relation to FGM.

**Action**

- Members noted the update.

**8 Notes of previous meeting**

Members agreed the noted to the previous SSCB on Monday 11 June 2018.

## Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Eric Allen	Sutton London Borough Council
	Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Colin Spence	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Judith Wallace	North Tyneside Council
	Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Jim Beall	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Dine Romero	Bath and North East Somerset Council	
Cllr Becca Thackray	Lambeth London Borough	
Apologies	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council

# LGA location map

**Local Government Association**  
 18 Smith Square  
 London SW1P 3HZ

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 Fax: 020 7664 3030  
 Email: [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)  
 Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

## Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

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

## Bus routes – Horseferry Road

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

## Bus routes – Millbank

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

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

## Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

## Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

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

## Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

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

