

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Thursday, 12 November 2020
11.00 am

Zoom Videoconference

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



Safer & Stronger Communities Board
12 November 2020

There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 12 November 2020.**

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 3263	email: martha.lauchlan@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk

LGA Contact:

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Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage 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.

Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgassc

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2020/2021

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Katrina Wood (Vice Chairman)	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Eric Allen	London Borough of Sutton
Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Andrew Joy	Hampshire County Council
Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Dave Stewart	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Lois Samuel	West Devon Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Richard Auger	Daventry District Council
Cllr Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Cllr James Gartside	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair)	Enfield Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
Mayor Damien Egan	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Cllr Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
Cllr Johnson Situ	Southwark Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Daniel Francis	Bexley Council
Cllr Jeanie Bell	St Helens Council
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Bridget Smith (Deputy Chair)	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Hannah Dalton (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Ashfield District Council
Cllr Nicola Dillon Jones	North Kesteven District Council

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board

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Item	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
2. LGA Business Plan update	1 - 28
3. COVID-19 Compliance and enforcement and wider update	29 - 34
4. Law Commission review of Weddings law - Report to follow	
5. Building Safety Update	35 - 44
6. Update on Maritime and Coastguard Agency Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety	45 - 50
7. Update paper	51 - 58
8. Notes of previous meeting	59 - 66

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 14 January 2021, 11.00 am

Business plan 2019-22 - 2020 review and update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

In October 2019, following a series of consultations and discussions, the LGA Board approved a new 3-year [business](#) plan, built around the United Nations sustainable development goals and comprising:

- six policy priorities with supporting targets
- a Supporting Councils priority with associated improvement targets and
- our internal/operational plan

Whilst the six policy priorities agreed at the time continue to reflect the sector's priorities, LGA Board resolved at their September meeting to add one additional priority – "*Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities*" – to reflect events over the past 8 months and the range of actions arising from them.

The business plan has now been revised and updated to include the additional priority and is attached at **Appendix 1**. It will be published as an interactive PDF with the design as in the current plan.

Recommendation/s

That the Safer & Stronger Communities Board note the 2020/21 update of the 3-year business plan as the basis for work programmes over the coming months.

Action/s

The updated plan will be published on the LGA website

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LGA business plan 2019-2022

2020 update

Introduction

2020 introduction to LGA Business Plan 2019-2022

Every day councils make a difference, delivering essential services that improve the lives of millions. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the value of local leadership like never before, by providing much-needed support to people, businesses and communities that have protected lives and livelihoods.

We know that residents trust their councillors, as democratically elected leaders, to make the right decisions for them and their families, now and in the future. The Local Government Association's (LGA's) polling shows that [73 per cent of residents trust their local council](#) to make decisions about how services are provided in their local area.

These services assist vulnerable people, support the homeless into safe accommodation, deliver new homes, give children and young people with the best start in life, providing dignified care for vulnerable people, help local businesses, and combat climate change. Just a few of the everyday examples of councils supporting our nation where they need it most.

As we look forward, there is an important opportunity to address the inequalities the pandemic has exposed and that have remained entrenched for too long, to connect with people's identities and sense of community, and to rebuild the economy so that it benefits all of our residents.

It is therefore vital that we support councils to ensure they are equipped to meet the challenges we face today, are empowered to innovate and create services that are tailored to their localities, and are resilient to navigate what the future may bring.

This updated business plan sets out how the LGA will continue to support and be an advocate for councils. Our priorities have been reviewed and reshaped this year, to recognise the uncertainties facing local government and us as your membership body. We recognise that we will need to remain flexible, shifting our focus as the need arises.

Through our [#CouncilsCan](#) campaign we will make the case for a new settlement for English local government that gives councils and councillors the powers, freedoms, certainty and sustainable funding to transform our communities for the better.

Promoting the value of local government and supporting councils in their roles as community leaders remains our central mission. Alongside the challenges that a global pandemic brings, we

are moving into a critical period for local public services. This could include a three-year Spending Review, greater devolution of powers to local areas, significant planning reforms and the opportunity to make the case for a long-term settlement for social care. We will continue to be flexible, promoting councils' priorities on emerging issues such as new measures to coincide with the end of the EU transition period and on proposed changes to areas that are delivered locally, such as public health.

Our lobbying work will always centre around the things you tell us are important to you, as we work with government and Parliament to ensure that councils' ambitions for our communities are reflected in national decision-making. Through our sector-led improvement work, we have further developed our offer to provide councils with the support to assist the challenges of COVID-19 and its consequences while working closely with the Government on priority issues. We will continue to offer a helping hand to councils as they improve, innovate and seek to demonstrate their resilience now and into the future.

This business plan sets out the priorities that councillors and officers have told us you want us to focus on. It will be continually reviewed and tested out with our membership to ensure we are always providing the best possible support to councils.

Councillor James Jamieson
Chairman

Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive

Working for councils

The LGA is the national membership body for local authorities. Our core membership is made up of English councils and Welsh councils through the Welsh LGA.

We are politically-led and cross-party and we work on behalf of councils to give local government a strong, credible voice with national government.

We aim to influence and set the political agenda on the issues that matter to councils so they can deliver local solutions to national problems. We fight local government’s corner, supporting councils through challenging times and focusing our efforts where we can have real impact.

We also provide membership services to other organisations through our associate scheme, including fire and rescue authorities, national parks authorities, town councils, police & crime commissioners and elected mayors of combined authorities.

Our vision for local government

Our vision for local government is one of a vibrant local democracy, where powers from Westminster are devolved to local areas, and citizens have a meaningful vote and real reason to participate in civic and community life.

A return to economic growth offers prosperity to every place, with well-targeted and planned investment in infrastructure, training and housing that leads to jobs and a supply of affordable homes.

Public services focus on preventing problems as well as picking up the pieces, delivering positive outcomes for people of all ages in an environmentally sustainable way. Joined up services are built around people and their needs, enhancing the lives of individuals, families and communities and continuing to make local areas better places to live now and for future generations.

Our purpose and priorities

Our work on behalf of local government falls under two overarching themes

National voice of local government – we campaign to influence the political agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of councils and we promote and defend the reputation of the sector

Supporting councils - we support councils continuously to improve and innovate through our programme of practical peer-based support underpinned by strong local leadership, through our support for collective legal actions and through our service delivery partnerships.

Our business – underpinning our work on behalf of councils is an efficient, cost effective and forward-thinking business; we are politically led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

Our three-year rolling business plan sets out our key priorities and commitments and demonstrates how our work will contribute to the delivery of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The national voice of local government

We lobby and campaign to influence the political agenda and secure funding and powers on behalf of councils and we promote and defend the reputation of the sector

Over the next 12 months we will focus on the seven areas that councils tell us matter most to them:

Funding for local government

Fair and sustainable funding enables councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.

Adult social care, health and wellbeing

Sustainable funding and better integration with health services enable councils to continue to support people to live safe, healthy, active, independent lives and to promote wellbeing and resilience for all ages.

Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities

Councils lead and work with diverse communities and partners to address inequalities and build safe, cohesive and resilient communities.

Places to live and work

Councils lead the way in driving inclusive and sustainable economic recovery, building the homes that people need and creating places where they want to live.

Children, education and schools

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together to deliver inclusive and high-quality education, help children and young people to fulfil their potential and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Strong local democracy

A refocus on local democratic leadership, and a shift in power post-Brexit from Whitehall to local communities, leads to greater diversity of elected representatives, high standards of conduct and strong, flexible local governance.

Sustainability and climate action

Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat climate change and its impacts and to deliver zero net carbon by 2030.

17 Goals to Transform Our World

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Funding for local government

Fair and sustainable funding enables councils to plan and deliver essential public services beyond the short term, to raise more funds locally and to promote greater collective working across local public services.

CAMPAIGN - #CouncilsCan

With the right funding and powers, councils can continue to lead their local areas, improve residents' lives, reduce demand for public services and save money for the taxpayer.

The benefits to the country of investing in local government are clear and understood – we will:

- continue to highlight the pressures on all services and press for funding that reflects current and future demand, particularly for housing, homelessness, adult social care and children's services
- lobby Central Government to fully meet all costs and income losses arising from COVID-19 in 2020/21 and beyond
- continue to emphasise and evidence the impact, value and efficiency of local government services
- work with central and local government to identify a wider range of suitable and sustainable funding sources for council services in the future
- work with local and central government on a distribution mechanism for local government funding that supports long-term planning, is evidence-based, simpler and more transparent with appropriate transition mechanisms.

People have a meaningful local voice on a wide range of tax and spending decisions – we will:

- press for freedoms that lead to greater local financial autonomy with a view to achieving local control over both council tax and business rates
- lobby for improvements to business rates to help tackle business rates avoidance and develop proposals to improve the system, including valuation and the appeals process
- press for legislation to allow councils to raise more funds locally including new local taxes and set fees and changes which fully recover costs.

Councils are able to access a range of sources of finance to encourage investment and create jobs, supported by an appropriate financial framework – we will:

- further develop policy on capital financing and investing and contribute to national reviews in these areas so that they support and enable prudent investment and financial management
- contribute to reviews of the accounting and financial regulatory framework for councils to ensure it is appropriate, not over restrictive and balanced with local freedom and accountability
- support the United Kingdom Municipal Bonds Agency to deliver cheaper debt financing to councils, through the sale of bonds in the capital markets.

Fair and affordable pay awards enable councils to recruit and retain good staff – we will:

- convene the employer side of the collective bargaining arrangements to agree equitable and affordable pay awards for more than two million local authority and related employees, including fire and rescue authorities.
- provide evidence to the schoolteachers' pay review body and Low Pay Commission in relation to the National Living Wage.

Adult social care, health and wellbeing

Sustainable funding and better integration with health services enable councils to continue to support people to live safe, healthy, active, independent lives and to promote wellbeing and resilience for all ages.

SDG 3 – Good health and wellbeing

Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

CAMPAIGN - The lives we want to lead

We want to build a society where everyone is supported to live a healthy, fulfilled and independent life, staying at home and contributing to family and community life for as long as possible - but escalating funding pressures and increasing demand are threatening that ambition. Our campaign calls for sustainable long-term funding that gives people the care and support they need now and in the future.

Councils secure sufficient resources to deliver effective, integrated social care services – we will:

- continue to lobby for the short, medium and long-term financial sustainability of adult social care and support, arguing that all options, including national taxation, should be considered
- work with government to agree a sustainable, long term funding deal for public health.
- press for an independent review of adult social care pay and full funding for subsequent changes.

Councils lead the debate on the future vision for health and social care – we will:

- promote a clear vision of councils' role in planning and delivering integrated health and care; continue to promote health and wellbeing boards as leaders of health and care and support councils and their partners to develop and deliver place-based person-centred support.
- continue to press for a long-term policy framework for the Better Care Fund (BCF), with lighter touch reporting and greater emphasis on local targets
- continue to lobby for councils and councillors to have a key role in sustainability and transformation partnerships, integrated care systems and wider NHS planning arrangements.

Councils support older people, disabled people and people in vulnerable circumstances – we will:

- support councils to tackle the challenges and exploit the opportunities of a population with increasingly complex needs, including improving dementia and mental health services, carers' support and support for those with autism and/or learning difficulties
- continue to support councils to deliver the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Councils work actively with the NHS to build health and care services around the needs of local populations – we will:

- work with NHSEI and other national partners to ensure that councils and health and wellbeing boards, are meaningfully engaged in developing integrated care systems and their implementation plans
- work with national partners to increase the understanding of, and commitment to, planning and delivery at place level and the leadership role of councils
- support councils to work with NHS and other partners to ensure that implementation plans build on existing priorities to improve health and wellbeing and are subject to democratic oversight and scrutiny
- work with the NHS to manage the pandemic, learning the lessons and promoting local accountability and closer working through the NHS bill and wider work.

Councils have a central role in promoting health and wellbeing locally – we will:

Agenda Item 2

- work to strengthen the position of councils as public health leaders.
- continue to make the case for long-term financial sustainability of public health services and support councils to understand the importance of preventative approaches.
- work with the NHS and partners to develop a system-wide approach to public health workforce planning and address urgent staffing issues in children's public health.
- lobby for long-term sustainable funding for leisure, culture and park services which play an important part in people's physical health and mental wellbeing and tackling health inequalities.

Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities

Councils lead and work with diverse communities and partners to address inequalities and build safe, cohesive and resilient communities.

SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Reduce inequalities within and among countries
SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Councils lead and work with diverse communities and partners to address inequalities and build cohesive and resilient communities – we will:

- review and strengthen the LGA’s work on reducing inequalities, promoting equality through our policy messages and lobbying and our improvement and leadership support to councils.
- promote and support councils in developing the diversity of their candidates, elected members and senior leadership
- underline the need for a strong commitment to tackling health inequalities and ensure that local government concerns and priorities resulting from the impact of COVID-19 on their communities are heard by government
- support councils as they address the inequalities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular regard to those from ethnic groups most affected by the virus and to children and young people whose development and futures will be affected by the containment measures.

Councils lead the way in shaping communities where people feel safe – we will:

- lead the debate on councils’ role in building safer and resilient communities and support them to reduce serious violence, domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and anti-social behaviour
- represent councils’ interests in the UK’s developing modern slavery policies, as we work collaboratively with partners to tackle this
- contribute to the independent review of Prevent and the counter-extremism strategy, ensuring that councils are supported to build community cohesion, promote integration, tackle extremism and deliver the Prevent duty.
- lobby for the resources, powers and data councils need to manage local outbreaks of COVID-19, including shielding the clinically vulnerable, and support them in their test, trace and outbreak management response through a sector-led improvement support programme.

Councils continue to play a leading role in the design and delivery of blue light and other services that help protect local communities – we will:

- work with the HSE and government to establish an effective, professional and fully funded system for regulating building safety
- lobby for sustainable funding for fire and rescue authorities and support them to become more inclusive and representative of their communities and to strengthen their leadership and governance.
- support the fire and rescue sector’s response to Phase 1 of the Grenfell Inquiry and strengthen their ability to take forward the fire reform agenda and the findings from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
- support police and crime panels and share best practice
- work with councils to review and share learning from the COVID-19, to help strengthen community resilience and future emergency responses.

Children, education and schools

Councils have the powers and resources they need to bring partners together to deliver inclusive and high quality education, help children and young people to fulfil their potential and offer lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 3 – Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequalities within and among countries

CAMPAIGN - Bright Futures: children’s social care and mental health services

Helping children and young people to fulfil their potential is the ambition of all councils, but services that support them to do so are under increasing pressure. Our campaign calls for the services that change children’s lives to be properly funded so that all children can have the bright futures they deserve.

Councils lead the way in driving up educational standards – we will:

- set out a clear vision for councils’ role in promoting high educational standards, with the resources, powers and flexibilities to give every child access to a place at a good local school
- lobby for a stronger role for councils in investing in schools - ensuring new schools are high quality, fit for and value for money- and a lead role in decisions about new free schools
- press for a stronger council role in ensuring admissions are fair for all pupils across the school system.

Schools have the funding they need to deliver the best education for all pupils – we will:

- lobby to ensure the national funding formula for schools retains an element of local flexibility to allow councils and schools to reflect local needs and priorities
- highlight the growing pressures on the high needs budget and lobby government to provide councils with sufficient funding and flexibility to meet rising demand and eliminate High Needs deficits
- lobby for flexibility in use of the apprenticeship levy and work with partners to increase take up of quality apprenticeships in schools.

Councils have the flexibility and resources to deliver services that meet the needs of children and young people – we will:

- encourage councils and the Government to put children at the heart of policy making
- continue to paint a positive vision for local children’s services, calling for adequate funding for services, that change children’s lives through our Bright Futures campaign,
- support councils to take a preventative and place-based approach to children and young people’s health, including early years, childhood obesity and support for children's mental health
- work in partnership to improve life chances for disadvantaged households, particularly those with young children, making the case for early intervention and improved integration of services for families.

Councils protect children’s wellbeing and keep them safe – we will:

- support councils to protect children and young people from harm and improve outcomes for all children, in particular children in care and care leavers
- work with government and councils to support child refugees and unaccompanied asylum seekers safe, pressing for improved funding to better cover costs, including for those leaving care
- support councils to tackle the challenges of child criminal exploitation and county lines issues.

Places to live and work

Councils lead the way in driving inclusive and sustainable recovery, building the homes that people need and creating places where they want to live.

SDG1 – No poverty
End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
SDG 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Councils drive the increase in housing supply the nation needs – we will:

- continue to press for additional powers for councils to increase housing supply, promote both affordable and carbon-free homes and make more effective use of surplus public sector land
- support consortia of councils to access significant housing development funds through the creation of new partnership models
- press for powers for councils to ensure the provision of homes integrated with health and care that positively support us to age well
- lobby for a well-resourced and locally responsive planning system, funded by locally set fees with the tools to ensure developers build quality homes that meet local need.

Councils have access to funding to create communities where people want to live – we will:

- continue to press for additional infrastructure funding, including a review of the rules governing developer contributions
- support councils to work with partners to maximise the value of local and national infrastructure investment, including in road, rail, broadband, culture, heritage and recreation
- work to secure the £5 billion of regeneration investment guaranteed to local economies from EU structural funds to 2020 and lobby for alternative UK sources after we leave the EU.

Councils continue to drive higher safety standards across the housing sector – we will:

- lobby for resources and tools to enable councils to shape a good quality private rented sector that meets the needs of their local communities
- work with government and councils to identify high-risk, high-rise residential buildings and lobby for support for councils to make changes and take urgent remedial action
- respond to government consultations, including on the new building safety regulatory framework.

Councils lead the way in ending homelessness through prevention – we will:

- lobby for the resources to enable councils to manage the housing impacts of welfare reform and achieve the ambitions of the Homeless Reduction Act and Rough Sleeping strategy
- make the case for adaptations to welfare reform and for the powers and funding that councils need to meet local needs
- with the Chief Executives' and Home Office group on asylum dispersal, inform the development, delivery and funding of support for asylum seekers and refugees and share good practice.

Councils support strong communities through risk-based business-friendly regulatory services – we will:

- press for powers and resources where councils take on additional legal liabilities such as building regulations post-Grenfell and proposed new air quality requirements
- support councils to demonstrate the value of regulatory services and lobby for sustainable funding
- lobby government to bring forward taxi licensing legislation as soon as possible
- press for greater flexibility in the licensing system, including the localisation of licensing fees.

Councils are key partners in delivering the government's national economic strategy – we will:

- support city regions and non-metropolitan areas to deliver effective local economic strategies
- advocate for a voice for councils in the development of a new English land management policy, and for communities to be involved in deciding how their local natural assets are managed
- support local innovation to deliver a better digital infrastructure and continue to press for a regulatory framework that will deliver the best deal for customers
- continue to press for strong local government representation on Local Enterprise Partnerships and improved oversight and scrutiny of them
- support councils to maximise the impact of their cultural, sporting and heritage assets to drive growth in their local visitor economy.

Councils match education, training and skills with business needs – we will:

- continue to press for powers, funding and lead responsibility for councils to integrate and commission back to work, skills, apprenticeships and welfare support under the *Work Local* model.
- campaign for people of all ages to be supported to participate in quality skills development and training and lifelong learning with independent careers advice and guidance
- promote good employment practice that helps young people and adults secure, sustain and progress in work, including Apprenticeships.

Strong local democracy

A refocus on local democratic leadership and a shift in power to local communities post Brexit leads to greater diversity of elected representatives, high standards of conduct and strong, flexible local governance.

SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

Councils as leaders of good conduct in public and political discourse and debate – we will:

- clearly articulate the standards expected for anyone engaging in public and political discourse and debate and what is needed to achieve those standards, underlining that intimidation and abuse of those in public office is unacceptable
- review the member model code of conduct and support our member councils in addressing intimidation and abuse of those in public office
- support to councils to explore ways of engaging with their local community and voluntary sector in local service delivery, enhancing places and local decision making.

Elected members and officers are empowered to tackle incidents of public intimidation – we will:

- explore the practicalities and support the adoption of an informal ‘duty of care’ for councillors
- seek to better understand the scale and impact of the intimidation and abuse our membership is experiencing and promote a new offence for intimidation against a person in public office
- engage with police forces and associated agencies to ensure the impact and seriousness of the public intimidation of local councillors and employees is understood and acted upon.

EU exit and constitutional reform – we will:

- interact with Whitehall on all EU Exit negotiations, articulating councils’ needs and concerns and taking advantage of the opportunity to entrench local government within our new constitutional settlement
- continue to support councils to prepare and deliver a successful transition for EU Exit, with a robust evidence base setting out the risks and opportunities across the country
- press for quick and decisive responses and for all Government communications to councils to be focused, clear, and direct
- ensure that repatriated laws and regulations are not centralised in Whitehall, working on a revised legal framework for those services currently based on EU laws such as air pollution, energy, waste and procurement and redefining regional aid and state-aid rules.

Continued devolution of powers and funding to local areas drive strong and responsive local democracy and greater engagement with communities – we will:

- refresh the case to demonstrate to government how devolution leads to more inclusive and sustainable growth, better public services and improved outcomes for residents
- work with government, business and others to give communities in England and Wales greater responsibility to make decisions on the issues of importance to them.

Sustainability and climate action

Councils take the lead in driving urgent actions in their local areas to combat the negative impacts of climate change and to deliver zero net carbon by 2030.

SDG 13 – Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Councils have the powers and resources they need to lead the way in combatting the effects of climate change – we will:

- lobby for a joint taskforce with relevant Whitehall departments including Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Defra to consider the most appropriate actions, funding, coordination and collaboration
- press government for the funding and policy changes needed to deliver zero net carbon by 2030
- work with government to address the need for greater energy efficiency in the built environment and how this can be achieved through planning practice and changes to Building Regulations
- work with government, as it implements the Waste and Resources Strategy to identify ways to reduce waste and levels of unrecyclable waste and the investment priorities for waste disposal and processing of recyclates.

Councils lead the way in researching and developing alternative transport options – we will:

- establish the resources and regulatory changes needed to support a move to electric vehicles, including provision of charging points on new housing developments and electrification of council and council-contracted vehicle fleets
- identify the incentives and investment required to support a shift towards public transport and walking and cycling, as part of the solution to reducing carbon emissions.

Councils work with partners and stakeholders to implement short, medium and long term strategies to reduce carbon emissions in their areas – we will:

- develop guidance and share best practice, including identifying the top 10 actions councils can take to address carbon emissions in their areas, recognising that one-size does not fit all
- drawing on international experience, develop an evidence base and framework to understand the main carbon sources and the impact of councils' activity
- identify the opportunities of a shift to a low carbon economy as a basis for immediate and effective action
- ensure that the LGA as the membership body for local authorities is modelling best practice in the way it conducts its own business.

Supporting Councils

We support councils continuously to improve and innovate through a programme of practical peer-based support underpinned by strong local leadership and through our service delivery partnerships.

The LGA's sector led improvement programme continues to provide a responsive and flexible offer and remains in a strong position to respond and adapt to councils' needs as circumstances evolve, particularly in the context of COVID-19.

We work closely with councils to understand their future support needs with a view to developing a longer-term offer. Our offer will continue to adapt as the opportunities and challenges facing councils change within the current context

Our core offer is funded by MHCLG grant and has been rapidly refocused to support councils in their response to COVID-19 as well as identifying longer term support needs. We also receive funding from the Department of Health and Social Care for our Care and Health Improvement Programme, whilst our children's improvement programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).

We have developed a new offer linked to climate change and the challenges and opportunities of moving to a zero-carbon economy.

We also receive funding from other government departments for specific sector-led improvement activities, including:

- One Public Estate – funded by Cabinet Office and MHCLG
- Cultural services and sport – in partnership with Arts Council England and Sport England
- Planning Advisory Services – funded by MHCLG
- Return to Work programme – funded by the Government Equalities Office
- Cyber security – funded by the Cabinet Office.

Our commitments will continue to be updated to ensure they match councils needs across the period of this business plan.

Challenge and support from peers – we will:

- maintain an overview of councils' performance to drive improvement, manage the risk of significant underperformance, provide support for councils facing the greatest financial challenges (particularly in the light of COVID-19) and minimise government intervention
- create dedicated programmes in response, including Recovery and Renewal panels, among other forms of remote support in response to COVID-19.
- deliver peer challenges to all councils who request them, including corporate, service specific, financial and place-based. The format will be continually reviewed in light of COVID-19.
- provide member peer support for councils under a change of political control, including new e-learning opportunities, mentoring and advice
- support councils to resolve issues between political and managerial leadership
- support councils in engaging with their communities in light of COVID-19
- provide free council and public access to transparent performance information through LG Inform and LG Inform VFM, with additional charged access for councils to small area data reports and improvement tools through LG Inform Plus
- support councils to develop scrutiny skills and expertise through the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Strong and resilient political and officer leadership – we will:

- support many hundreds of councillors through our leadership programmes both remotely and through onsite learning. Will continue to review the suite of programmes to ensure councillors and officers have the skills they need to respond to the challenges of COVID-19.
- support councillors with the potential to progress in their political careers through our Next Generation programme
- support the leadership development of chief executives, managers and rising talent in councils, in partnership with SOLACE
- help councils, political groups and national parties to attract new talent into civic life through our Be a Councillor programme
- recruit high calibre graduates to the National Graduate Development Programme, working with councils to secure challenging placements
- help councils to address inequalities, gender pay gap, ethnicity gap and support the roll out Disability Confident
- maintain national negotiating machinery on pay and workforce issues
- provide specialist advice and support for the Local Government Pension Scheme
- deliver comprehensive practical support to help councils provide apprenticeships and maximise their levy investment
- support councils to transform their workforces and modernise the way they are managed
- support councils to promote wellbeing, diversity and inclusion in the workplace through information, guidance and bespoke support and work with them to address issues around gender pay gap, representation and recruitment challenges
- attract qualified staff in hard-to-recruit areas back to local government through the Return to Work programme, including social workers, town planners and IT staff.

Councils supporting growth – we will:

- provide practical support to help councils deliver economic growth in their areas in a COVID-19 context, become more efficient and improve outcomes for communities
- in line with the revised national procurement strategy, deliver a support programme to help councils improve their procurement arrangements
- capture and share intelligence about major suppliers to reduce the risk from suppliers getting into financial difficulty in the current uncertain economic circumstances
- support councils to develop a more commercial approach to their activities within the COVID-19 context, through a series of courses, events and sharing good practice
- provide expert financial support, expertise and advice to councils to address specific issues, particularly in relation to COVID-19
- equip more councils with the skills and confidence to use design and behavioural insights to improve public services and respond to COVID-19
- support councils to exploit the opportunities of digital tools and solutions to enable local residents and businesses to access council services online
- with councils, sector representative bodies, MHCLG, Cabinet Office and the National Cyber Security Centre, highlight the importance of cyber security and cyber resilience to protect data and systems
- share best practice of councils who are finding new and effective ways of working to secure outcomes for their communities
- with Local Partnerships, support councils to make savings by providing commercial advice and support on matters of legal and contractual complexity.

Strong communities with excellent public services – we will:

- through practical bespoke support, help councils deal with the housing, planning and homelessness challenges through the Housing Advisers programme and other sector-wide projects

- provide peer focused support to the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to support interim accommodation for vulnerable people.
- offer a mixture of generic and bespoke support for combined authorities, elected mayors and those areas in the process of developing their devolution arrangements
- support councils to counter extremism and contribute to a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence
- strengthen fire and rescue authorities' ability to take forward the fire reform agenda by strengthening their strategic leadership
- support councils to prepare and deliver a successful transition for EU exit
- support councils to embed strengthened approaches to civil resilience and mutual aid through working with MHCLG team to develop training, guidance and other materials for councils

Improving health and care service – we will:

- co-produce with ADASS the sector led improvement programme for care and health
- support social care and health integration and the transforming care programme for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
- support councils to use technology to improve joint working between councils and health partners to enable people to live independently
- help councils develop innovative, efficient and sustainable approaches in care and health services
- work with partners to support councils to develop and improve local services and offer a programme of leadership development
- develop and deliver a support offer to help councils and their partners embed the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) approach
- support councils and their partners to identify and manage sustainability and delivery risks
- work with partners to develop a new suicide prevention sector-led improvement offer
- work with partners and DfE to deliver a sector-led approach to improving children's services.

Improving children's services – we will:

- provide nationally accredited and quality assured courses for practitioners and associates engaging in peer review, challenge or diagnostic activity
- run Leadership Essentials courses for members with lead responsibility for children's services
- publish a series of 'must know' packs for councils, including on corporate parenting
- develop and/or broker a flexible offer of diagnostic or peer review tools either bespoke to individual authorities, as part of a regional offer or commissioned by the DfE for authorities in intervention
- offer mentoring support for councillors with lead responsibility for children's services.

Combating climate change – we will:

- bring together local authorities, universities and other stakeholders to address climate challenges at the local level
- incorporate climate change issues into core leadership programmes for councillors and officers
- develop a package of communications support including how to engage with local activist groups
- help councils build capacity to effectively respond to climate change challenges, including support around leadership, behaviour change and collaboration
- support long term action-planning and setting strategic objectives, including through webinars and bespoke projects

Our Business

We are committed to providing the best and most cost-effective services to councils and councillors across England and Wales. We are politically led, committed to equalities and diversity and we aim to operate in an environmentally and financially sustainable way.

The national membership body for local government – we will:

- develop maintain membership levels amongst local authorities in England and Wales by continuing to offer membership benefits that meet the sector's changing needs and expectations
- launch a new online membership resource, setting out the benefits of membership with councils and councillors
- offer a range of flexible options for councils to participate actively in our work including through an extensive programme of virtual and hybrid events and meetings
- seek to attract organisations with an interest in local government into our associate scheme.

A politically-led organisation – we will:

- reflect the overall ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the motion passed by the 2019 General Assembly, in the way that we work and ensure that our own organisation reflects best practice
- ensure our member governance arrangements continue to reflect and respond to current priorities and the expectations of our membership
- offer political support to individual councillors and council administrations through our political group offices
- ensure that combined authorities, authorities with devolution deals and elected mayors are appropriately represented on our governance arrangements.

Using communications to persuade and influence and support councils – we will:

- deliver first class communications that are highly valued and respected by local government and our stakeholders, to influence the issues that matter to councils, their residents and their communities
- through our communications improvement work, support councils and help to raise the standard of public sector communications.

Financially sustainable – we will:

- continue to develop existing and new income generation opportunities in order to diversify our sources of funding and ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the organisation
- complete the refurbishment of Layden House in Farringdon to increase its capital value and maximise our income from commercial letting of here and 18 Smith Square.
- review options to maximise income from 18 Smith Square in the light of COVID-19 restrictions and the risks, constraints and potential new opportunities that presents.
- invest responsibly and seek to ensure that our contractors, joint ventures and pension funds have in place investment policies that further our objectives
- continue to progress the transfer of pensions from Camden to Merseyside scheme.

Efficient business management – we will:

- continue to streamline our company structures to deliver a solid and tax-efficient base from which to run our business, including the transfer of 18 Smith Square and Layden House to the LGA and the winding up of LGMB and LGA Properties.
- enter into a new ICT contract with Brent Council/Shared Services and with them, continue to develop our ICT to support improved efficiency and our new culture of flexible working.

- equip our 18 Smith Square meeting rooms with the technology to support a culture of flexible working for both employees and members.
- ensure that the suite of policies and procedures that underpin our business are comprehensive, clearly understood, updated regularly and reflect best practice.

Supportive people management – we will:

- continue to roll out the leadership development programme for our current and aspiring managers as part of our wider commitment to develop our employees, including virtual and hybrid options to allow everyone to participate
- deliver our employee health and wellbeing strategy
- monitor staff wellbeing and feedback through our regular “temperature check” surveys and put in place support and policies that reflect our new more flexible working practices
- embed equality, diversity and inclusion into our core values, our policies and our practices.

Collective legal action – we will:

- support groups of councils to mount collective legal actions or fight actions against them where we believe that they have a strong case, commissioning expert legal advice and sources of funding where appropriate
- prepare New Burdens submissions on behalf of the sector where new legislation or regulations result in additional duties or costs to councils.
- provide legal advice on strategic issues with sector wide implications, including commissioning expert legal advice where appropriate.

Committed to a sustainable future – we will

- keep our policies and practices under review to ensure that they reflect the ambitions of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to combatting the adverse effects of climate change
- encourage sustainable travel practices through our expenses policy, our flexible working practices and our continued participation in national sustainable travel initiatives including the Cycle to Work scheme
- minimise the environmental impact of our two central London buildings and the way that we use and manage those buildings, including ensuring that our facilities management and catering contractors have environmentally sustainable policies and practices.

Our service delivery partnerships

Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the LGA and HM Treasury, formed in 2009 to help the public sector deliver local services and infrastructure. It offers support to local authorities in the following areas:

- developing and reviewing strategic business cases and business plans
- service transformation and change
- modelling and legal frameworks for alternative service delivery models
- options appraisal and assurance of chosen approaches or options
- forming effective partnerships (inter-agency brokerage)
- sourcing and commissioning, contract negotiation and management
- economic development and planning
- delivering infrastructure.

GeoPlace

GeoPlace is a joint venture between the LGA and Ordnance Survey, formed in 2010 in response to a government call to bring together existing creators and suppliers of addressing data to one central place and to build a single, definitive address database. It works in close collaboration with local authorities to:

- cleanse and validate the address and streets data produced by councils
- create and maintain national “gazeteers” - registers of address and streets data
- provide support and training to councils ensure that they are able to produce high quality, and timely data in the most cost-effective way.

Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA)

PSAA is an independent company limited by guarantee incorporated by the LGA in August 2014. The Secretary of State for MHCLG has specified PSAA as an appointing person under the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. PSAA appoints an auditor to relevant local government bodies that opt into its national scheme and sets a scale of fees for the work which auditors undertake.

Local Government Mutual Limited and Local Government Mutual Management Services Limited

The Mutual is a shared ownership company between the LGA and a number of local authorities. Membership is only open to councils in membership of the LGA. The Mutual provides:

- indemnity to local authorities in England and Wales as a cost-effective alternative to the traditional insurance market, including cover for all classes of business
- risk management services to its member local authorities.

LGMMSL is a joint venture between the LGA and Regis Mutual Management that provides services to the Local Government Mutual.

United Kingdom Municipal Bonds Agency (UKMBA)

The LGA is a major shareholder in the local government-owned UKMBA, which delivers cheaper debt financing to councils, through the sale of bonds in the capital markets. We support and provide client side services to the Agency, as it works through its managed service provider to aggregate borrowing requirements and issue bonds.

Minimising the impacts of climate change

The LGA is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its activities, reducing pollution and CO2 emissions and contributing to a healthy future for all. These are some of the ways that we deliver on that commitment.

Flexible working

Our flexible working policy allows staff to balance working from home with time spent in the office, subject to the needs of the business. This means less journeys to work and a better work-life balance for our staff and their families. It has also enabled us to reduce by a third the amount of office space that we occupy.

Our ICT is designed to support flexible working, enabling staff to log into their LGA accounts from home on the days when they are not in the office or from trains when they are on the move.

Travel

Our expenses policy encourages staff to use public transport wherever practicable to help reduce the impact of the LGA's business travel arrangements on the environment. The Members' Scheme of

Allowance stresses that wherever possible, councillors are expected to travel by public transport when on LGA business.

Meetings

All meeting rooms at 18 Smith Square have access to video conferencing facilities. This enables members and staff to join and participate in meetings remotely, reducing the need for lengthy journeys to Westminster.

18 Smith Square

Secure cycle facilities and showers are provided in the basement of 18 Smith Square for those who prefer to cycle or run to work.

All lights in the building are energy efficient LEDs, with motion sensors that ensure they are switched off when not needed. Windows on the south and west of the building which are not part of the conservation area are double glazed to reduce energy loss. Recycling bins are provided on every floor.

Procurement

The LGA has a robust procurement policy and process, which underpins the importance of all our contractors being able to demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and combatting climate change. Our procurement documentation states

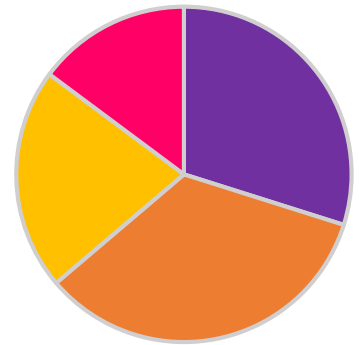
“In adhering to our commitments, the contractor should have systems in place to account for and minimise environmental impacts in all areas of contract delivery”.

Our budget 2020/21

Funding sources and forecast expenditure (Budget) (£'000)

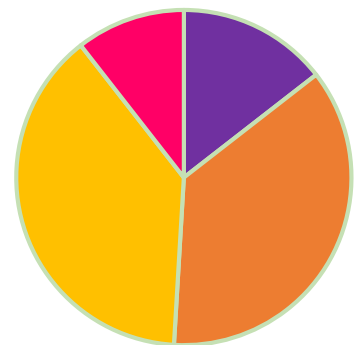
¹Income LG Group 2020/21

- CLG, £19,200 (29.9%)
- Other grants and contracts, £21,799 (33.9%)
- Other income, £13,751 (21.4%)
- Subscriptions, £9,525 (14.8%)



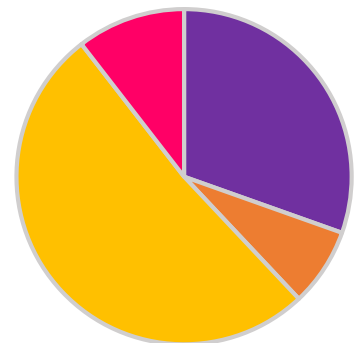
Other income LG Group 2020/21

- Dividends, royalties and interest, £1,992 (14.5%)
- Rental Income and external room hire, £5,014 (36.5%)
- Services, consultancy and other subscriptions, £5,296 (38.5%)
- Conferences, events and sponsors, £1,450 (10.5%)



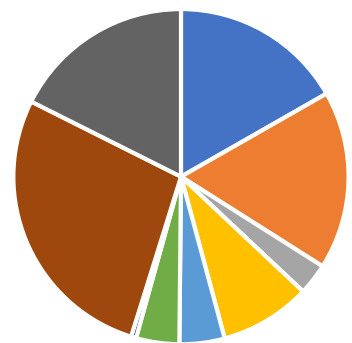
Grant and contract income (including CLG) LG Group 2020/21

- Adult social care, health and wellbeing, £12,477 (30.4%)
- Children, education and schools £3,099 (7.6%)
- Supporting councils, £21,126 (51.5%)
- Places to live and work, £4,297 (10.5%)



Expenditure LG Group by business plan theme 2020/21

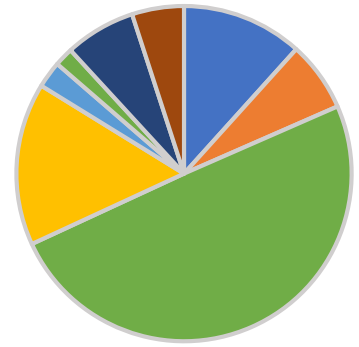
- Funding for local government, £10,652 (16.7%)
- Adult social care, health and wellbeing, £10,961 (17.2%)
- Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities £1,927 (3.0%)
- Places to live and work, £5,591 (8.8%)
- Children, education and schools, £2,773 (4.4%)
- Strong local democracy, £2,652 (4.2%)
- Sustainability and climate action, £311 (0.5%)
- Supporting councils, £17,546 (27.6%)
- Internal & property costs, £11,195 (17.6%)



¹ Design team to amend pie charts

Expenditure LG Group by service group 2020/21

- Business support, £7,434 (11.7%)
- Communications, £4,291 (6.7%)
- Governance and project support, £31,595 (49.7%)
- Finance and policy, £9,976 (15.7%)
- Member services, £1,629 (2.6%)
- Political groups, £1,157 (1.8%)
- Property costs, £4,337 (6.8%)
- Workforce, £3,187 (5.0%)



Our governance

From April From April 2019, the LGA’s responsibilities, assets and liabilities transferred from the previous unincorporated Association to a new company, whose Board of Directors – the LGA Board – is elected annually by the General Assembly. The General Assembly comprises representatives of every council in full membership of the LGA, or in corporate membership through the Welsh LGA. Further information on the company and the way it operates can be found in our Articles of Association and our Governance Framework.

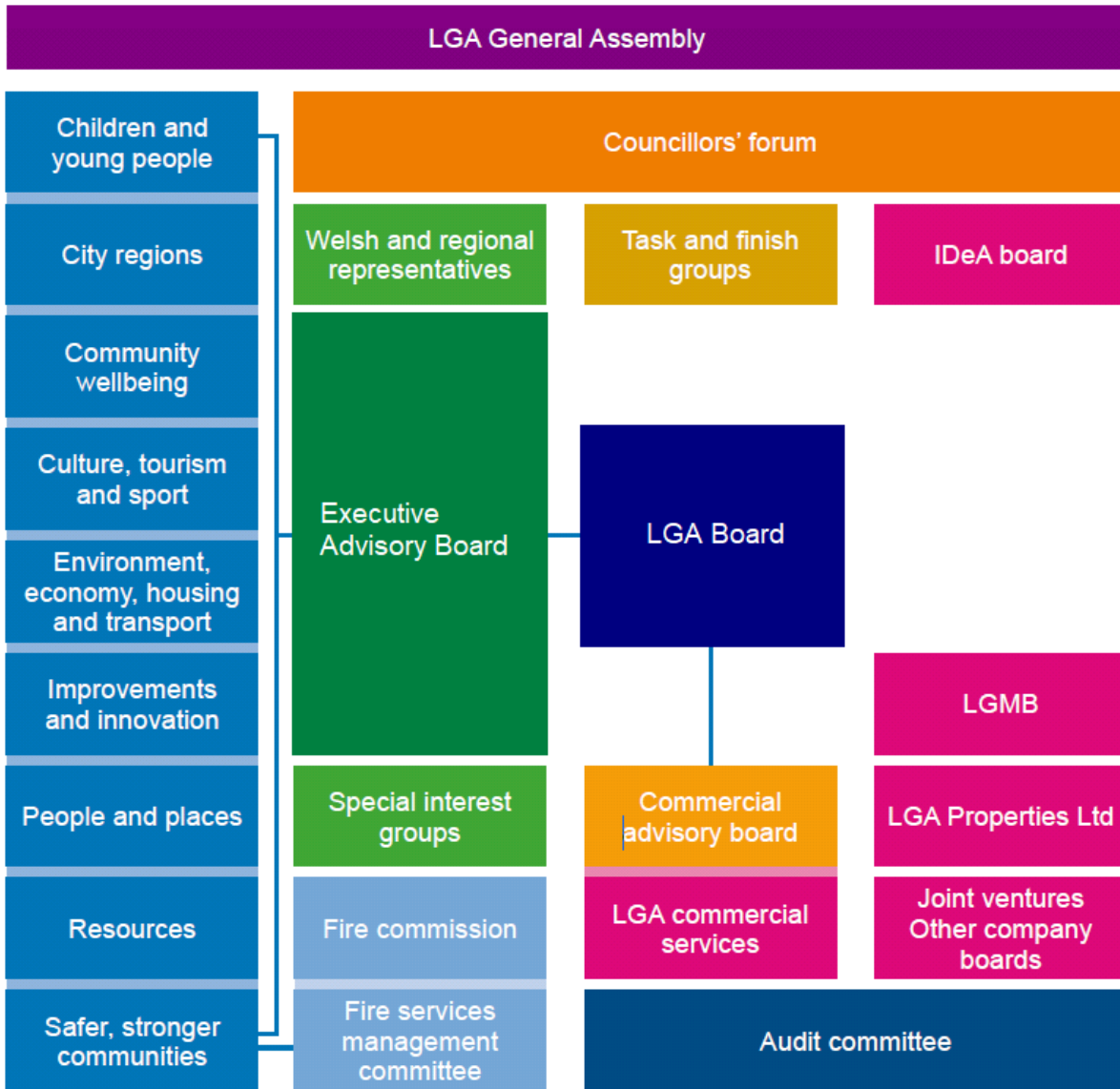
The LGA Board is supported by nine policy boards who together are responsible for developing our policies and campaigns, and for overseeing our extensive programme of sector-led improvement services, across every area of local government activity. The Fire Commission and Fire Services Management Board look after the interests of fire and rescue authorities,

The LGA Board and the chairs of the policy boards meet every six weeks as the Executive Advisory Board and are joined by representatives from Wales and the eight English regions and from three of our special interest groups – the County Councils’ Network, District Councils’ Network and Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities.

The two property boards – LGA (Properties) Ltd and LGMB – are currently responsible for 18 Smith Square, our Westminster HQ, and Layden House, our investment property in Farringdon. However these are in the process of being transferred to the LGA company after which the two property boards will be wound up.

The Commercial Advisory Board is responsible for overseeing the LGA’s income-generating activities to make us financially sustainable now and in the future. That will include overseeing the management and operation of 18 Smith Square and Layden House and reporting back to the LGA Board.

The LGA's governance arrangements



Our major contracts

Catering – Bartlett Mitchell

Bartlett Mitchell (BM) provide all catering services at 18 Smith Square.

BM have been named Sustainable Caterer of the Year for three years in succession. Their policy is to source ingredients locally, regionally and seasonally from farmers who produce food to high environmental standards, reducing the impact of climate change and helping to protect the landscape and our farming heritage. BM use high-welfare meat, poultry, eggs, cheese, and dairy produce and sustainable seafood.

Overseas produce is sourced from ethical suppliers, including coffee from the Soppexcca co-op in Nicaragua which supports women farmers in the region. BM use the 'Free Wheeling' initiative to reduce the number of deliveries to their kitchens.

Total Facilities Management – Bouygues

Bouygues environmental policy recognises that the company's activities and services have the potential to impact on the environment. The policy sets out Bouygues' commitment to minimising the environmental impact of its operations in every way it can and is supported by 'live' environmental improvement plans at all levels.

The company is triple certificated to ISO9001, ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 and the environmental management standard ISO 14001 is fully integrated into its everyday activities.

Bouygues' Facilities Management business was the first in the UK to achieve Energy Management Standard ISO50001. They are currently focusing on reducing carbon impact, minimising waste, diverting waste from landfill and reducing energy.

Pensions – Merseyside Pension Fund and Camden Pension Fund

The LGA's main pension provider, Merseyside Pension Fund, has a policy of responsible investment. The policy has three components: exercise of voting rights; engagement with companies on environmental, social and governance issues & collaboration with like-minded investors. The Fund is active in the work of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum whose work covers a range of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility issues, and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change.

Some employees belong to the Camden Pension Fund, who like all pensions funds, are bound by the law relating to Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy. The Fund believes that 'robust' engagement with companies is a better approach than placing restrictions on particular types of investment. It also believes that companies conforming to high ethical and social standards will produce shareholder returns that are at least comparable to those produced by other companies.

COVID-19 compliance and enforcement and wider update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper updates the Board on COVID-19 compliance and enforcement activity the team have been supporting since the previous Board meeting (as well as on wider COVID-19 work by the team) and accompanies a presentation from Birmingham City Council's Interim Assistant Director of Regulation and Enforcement, Paul Lankester.

Recommendation

That members of the Board note and comment on the update.

Action

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

Contact officer: Ellie Greenwood
Position: Senior Policy Adviser
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COVID-19 compliance and enforcement and wider update

Background

1. This paper updates the Board on COVID-19 compliance and enforcement activity the team have been supporting since the previous Board meeting, as well as on wider COVID-19 work by the team.
2. The team has been engaged in ongoing work around COVID-19 compliance and enforcement since the summer, with particularly intensive work since September as new regulations have been introduced, amended and - this week – replaced with a return to regulations mirroring the original business closure regulations in March.
3. The extent of this work has significantly impacted team capacity to focus on other areas of work, including modern slavery and resilience work. The team will review progress on wider aspects of the Board's work plan at the end of the year to assess the extent to which COVID-19 work could further delay planned activity, and what scope there is to address this.

Issues

4. Our recent work has focused on influencing the development, interpretation and enforcement of regulations being used for COVID-19 compliance and enforcement; highlighting to Government the challenges councils are experiencing on the ground, and supporting councils in their work on this.
5. From the outset of businesses reopening in summer, we have been working with councils and the Government to strengthen the tools councils have to help ensure local businesses and premises are COVID secure. Inevitably, given the speed with which policy approaches and legislation have had to be developed, there have been some issues with the regulations councils have been working to enforce and we have been encouraging Government to share draft policy and regulations with the LGA and councils so we can identify issues before regulations are made.
6. The initial approach coming out of the first lockdown was that key requirements (for example, around collecting contact details of customers) were set out in guidance, rather than legislation, with the focus on using the Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 (HSWA) to require businesses to operate in a COVID secure way.
7. The LGA and councils highlighted challenges around using HSWA to take action linked to COVID-19, with the Health and Safety Executive expressing the view that prohibition notices could not be used, and improvement notices having a long lead in period were not suitable when quick changes are required to prevent the risk of the virus spreading in premises. We also emphasised the need for key requirements to be set out in legislation, rather than non-binding guidance.

12 November 2020

8. As an alternative to HSWA, some councils have also used powers available to them under the Licensing Act and Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director (Regulation and Enforcement) in Birmingham City Council's Neighbourhoods Directorate will be attending the Board meeting to talk about the enforcement work the council has undertaken.
9. The Government, led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), has gone to significant efforts to engage with councils on compliance and enforcement issues and has responded positively to the suggestions from councils. As Board members will be aware, a series of regulations were introduced over the summer putting into law the requirements on businesses to take steps to make their businesses and premises COVID-secure, with particular obligations on hospitality premises. Councils were given COVID-specific powers to close businesses through the use of directions issued under the 'no 3 regulations', which give councils powers to close businesses and stop events from happening where there is a serious and imminent threat to public health, following consultation with the director of public health and notification to the Secretary of State.
10. More recently the Government has accepted the need, as put forward by the LGA and councils, for councils to have further powers to issue improvement notices requiring businesses to take rapid steps to implement COVID-secure measures and, where these are not immediately complied with, issue closure notices more quickly than through the no 3 direction powers. These are powers that councils environmental health and trading standards officers are experienced in using, and which can provide a more powerful incentive for business to comply with than the fixed penalty notices currently available under the COVID-secure regulations.
11. One area where the LGA played a role in influencing policy was in relation to the high-profile announcement of the COVID marshals scheme. The final outcome, with flexibility for councils to spend the funding in a way that best suited their areas – for example through backfilling enforcement roles, supporting overtime, recruiting marshals or stewards – was very similar to a proposal the LGA had previously made to MHCLG for additional enforcement funding. **Board members may find it interesting to hear how Birmingham intend to use the funding they have received from the COVID-marshals fund.**
12. Alongside ongoing policy development, we have also been seeking to provide support to frontline officers. We recently held a webinar for more than 100 council officers and plan to hold a further session later this month. Additionally, following a discussion we convened with officers from councils in tier 3 areas, we developed a [short guidance note](#) for councils on the interpretation of the key issues within the tier 3 regulations, in particular.

12 November 2020

13. With the new national lockdown now in force, the focus has now returned to business closures, and we are engaging with the Office for Product Safety and Standards (which provides guidance and templates to councils on the regulations) on a number of queries relating to the interpretation of the regulations.
14. We are also supporting the development of the approach to supporting local residents to self-isolate, with councils responsible for investigating any complaints about employers refusing to allow workers to self-isolate and triaging any cases where individuals may need support (or equally may need to be referred to the police if they are willfully refusing to self-isolate despite being advised to be NHS Test and Trace).

Wider COVID-19 activity

15. Alongside intensive work on compliance and enforcement, members of the team are continuing to support other aspects of COVID-19 work.

Clinically extremely vulnerable people

16. With the introduction of the second lockdown, the Government has issued new guidance to people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) to COVID-19. While the new guidance does not reintroduce the full shielding programme, the CEV cohort is being advised not to go to work if they cannot work from home, or visit shops or pharmacies, and to contact their local council if they need basic support or assistance with accessing food. County and unitary councils have received funding equivalent to £14.60 per head of CEV population in their area for the 28-day period up to 2 December to support this activity.
17. Members of the team have been supporting the LGA's work on CEV people and shielding since March, and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

Test, trace and outbreak management

18. The work to assist councils in providing support to CEV people is part of a wider LGA workstream on testing, tracing and outbreak management. Since the last Board meeting the LGA has continued to highlight issues related to test and trace, in particular the speed with which the details of people who need to be traced are passed to local authorities where the national system has been unable to contact those people. More broadly the LGA has also been raising issues with the quality and flow of data from central to local government related to local outbreak management.
19. With the introduction of a second lockdown the LGA is seeking to shape the development of the test and trace system once the national restrictions are lifted in December, so the benefits of having councils involved in the test and trace system are maximised. This includes looking to share the learning from the mass testing pilots being conducted in Liverpool and in a small number of other areas in the North West.

12 November 2020

20. Alongside that work, the LGA has been involved with councils, MHCLG and the Department of Work and Pensions in the development of the payment system to enable people on low incomes to self-isolate if they have come into contact with someone who is COVID positive. The system went live in mid-October.

Funeral attendance and the Health Protection Regulations 2020

21. On 28 September 2020, the updated [Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Self Isolation\) \(England\) Regulations 2020 \(the Regulations\)](#) came into force. Under these Regulations, there are notable exemptions to the legal requirement to self-isolate, including an exemption which allows individuals testing positive for coronavirus, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, to attend the funeral of a close family member [see section 2(3)(b)(v)].
22. Alongside the Regulations, the Government produced [COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#) (funeral guidance) on 23 October 2020. The updated funeral guidance strongly recommends that people with symptoms of COVID-19, and those required to self-isolate, should not attend and are encouraged to participate virtually. If they do attend in person, there are several minimum safety requirements that mourners must adhere to, including: maintaining social distancing; wearing surgical grade Type IIR face masks, properly fitted; and advising other mourners that they are in the self-isolation period.
23. There was a four-week delay between the publication of the Regulations and releasing updated funeral guidance, which led to considerable uncertainty for the sector. Several councils communicated their concerns about their ability to provide funeral services, due to the potential health and safety risk having COVID-19 positive people in attendance poses to council staff and other mourners where the funeral is held at a council cemetery or crematorium.
24. Councils are beginning to implement local responses to mitigate the risks and to protect staff. The LGA is aware that some of these measures are, however, in contravention of the Regulations. Officers have been lobbying the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for greater clarity regarding the practical and financial implications for councils and funeral directors to meet their legal obligations under the new Regulations.

Financial implications

25. This work is being undertaken from within existing staff budgets and resources, but as noted above, this is impacting on the teams' ability to undertake other activity. With some areas of work escalating due to the new lockdown, the LGA's senior

12 November 2020

management team are currently reviewing resourcing to identify areas where additional support may be required.

Next steps

26. We will continue to engage with councils and relevant Government departments on the issues set out in this paper.

27. With increased awareness of the important role that local regulatory services play in their communities, we also want to make the case for work to strengthen the resilience of these services. COVID-19 has highlighted the challenges in this area, while the forthcoming impact of the end of the EU transition period risks further increasing the pressures on some councils. As the Board will recall, we developed a [submission](#) to the spending review with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and we will continue to look for opportunities to highlight this.

Building Safety update

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report updates members 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/s

Officers to incorporate members' views in the LGA's ongoing building safety related work.

Contact officer: Charles Loft
Position: Senior Adviser
Phone no: 020 7665 3874
Email: Charles.loft@local.gov.uk

Building Safety update

Summary of events since the previous meeting

1. Since the Board's last meeting the LGA has continued to work with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Home Office to support building safety reform and the remediation of dangerous buildings. The Joint Inspection Team has continued inspections. The [Building Safety Bill](#) has been subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by the Housing Communities and Local Government Select Committee (HCLG). The [Fire Safety Bill](#) has passed its committee stage in the Lords and the officer-level task and finish group looking at the timing of the Bill's commencement has advised ministers. The LGA has responded to a [consultation](#) on measures to be included in secondary legislation under the Fire Safety Order, including the implementation of recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

Remediation

Progress

2. [MHCLG statistics](#) show that the pace of remediation of high-rise residential buildings with aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding continues to be slow – 52% of ACM-clad buildings have had the ACM removed (although not all of these have had work completed). At the end of April 2019 remediation was complete in 22 per cent of buildings, now it is 41 per cent. Of the 189 buildings that had completed work by the end of last month, 22 finished in September. This is an improvement on recent months, reflecting both the increased pressure from the Minister and the resumption of work that had stopped as a result of Covid-19.
3. The Joint Inspection team is now conducting two inspections a month. Its work is continuing under the current lockdown.
4. A number of case conferences have been held with councils in London that have blocks which are yet to begin remediation. There have also been two London cladding summits. The focus has been on meeting the Minister's target that all remediation work should begin by the end of the year.
5. Of the 155 social sector residential blocks with ACM 84 have completed work, 64 have begun work and 7 have yet to begin. In the private sector 47 have completed, 80 have begun and 80 have yet to begin. In addition, 41 Student blocks have completed with 9 underway and 4 yet to begin.

6. These figures are placed in a very worrying context by the early data on non-ACM remediation. MHCLG has now begun publishing statistics on [applications to the non-ACM remediation fund](#). The headline figures are that 2,784 buildings have registered for the fund. While many of these buildings may turn out to be ineligible because they are under 18 metres in height or for other reasons, it is worth contemplating that having remediated fewer than 200 ACM buildings in three years or so, this could represent over 30 years' work at the current rate of progress (the comparison is unfair, but illustrative).

Updated NFCC guidance on simultaneous evacuation

7. On 1 October the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) launched updated [guidance on simultaneous evacuation](#), which:
- 7.1. advises consultation with residents and leaseholders to explore cost/benefit options.
 - 7.2. emphasises the need to consider the installation of common fire alarms where measures are now, or are likely to be in place for the longer term.
 - 7.3. provides a clear distinction between waking watch and evacuation management as separate roles.
 - 7.4. emphasises that residents can carry out waking watches and/or evacuation management duties so long as they are appropriately trained.
 - 7.5. It also provides new definitions:
 - 7.5.1. Short-term: the time required to formulate a longer-term remediation plan, as soon as practically possible and no longer than 12 months; and
 - 7.5.2. Temporary: non-permanent measures implemented to mitigate an unacceptable risk in a building, as an interim measure, adopted for the safety of residents while works to rectify the identified fire safety failings are carried out.

Waking watch data

8. On 16 October MHCLG published [data on waking watch costs](#). The key point made is that alarm costs are lower than waking watch costs. A case study is cited in which 'three Waking Watch quotes received all exceeded the cost of installing a wired alarm system within 6 weeks and a wireless alarm system within 7 weeks'. Table One is reproduced below:

Table 1: Average monthly Waking Watch costs per building and per dwelling, England

Mean monthly Waking Watch cost	England	London	Rest of England
Per building	£17,897	£20,443	£15,279
Per dwelling	£331	£499	£179

Median monthly Waking Watch cost	England	London	Rest of England
Per building	£11,361	£15,641	£10,929
Per dwelling	£137	£256	£116

9. While this report is welcome, it is not yet clear whether it has resulted in any appreciable benefits for residents, for example through residents persuading landlords, or landlords deciding for themselves, to take the most cost-effective approach to interim measures.
10. There has been no discernible progress in addressing the plight of leaseholders who are unable to obtain EWS1 forms, nor has there been any word from Government on any further assistance to leaseholders whose buildings do not qualify for the Building Safety Fund.

Fire Protection Board

11. As members will recall, the Home Office has established the Fire Protection Board, membership of which includes the LGA and the National Fire Chiefs Council.
12. The Board is now overseeing a wider programme of reviewing the risk in non-ACM clad buildings over 18m. This work is currently on target to be complete by the end of 2021

Public Accounts Committee Report

13. The Public Accounts Committee [reported](#) on the progress of remediation at the end of September. The LGA submitted written evidence.
14. The committee has recommended that MHCLG should:
- 14.1. within six months:
- a) be working with the new Building Safety Regulator, begin vigorous enforcement action against any building owners whose remediation projects are not on track to complete by the end of 2021; and
 - b) begin publishing monthly updates of projected completion dates for all remaining high-rise buildings with ACM cladding, to increase transparency of progress without identifying individual buildings.
- 14.2. within three months:
- a) publish its impact assessment of the safety risks and financial impacts on private leaseholders and social landlords (including knock-on impacts on house building and maintenance of existing stock) arising from only funding a fraction of the estimated costs of replacing non-ACM cladding from high-rise blocks; and

12 November 2020

- b) write to the Committee, outlining its assessment of the risks to public money of committing all £1 billion of the Building Safety Fund by the end of March 2021, and how it will monitor and mitigate these risks.
- 14.3. working with the Care Quality Commission and local authorities, should make it a priority for its forthcoming data collection exercise to identify any care homes below 18 metres which have dangerous cladding. The Department should write to the Committee by the end of 2020 setting out progress on this and on its wider data collection.
- 14.4. write to the Committee within three months, setting out what specific steps it will take to provide greater transparency for residents throughout the application and remediation process, and how it will ensure that building owners meet a standard of service in communication with residents.
- 14.5. ensure that cross-sector work to resolve issues with the External Wall Fire Review process progress at pace. As part of this cross-sector work, the Department must ensure that professionals can acquire indemnity insurance, and leaseholders are not facing escalating insurance premiums. The Department should write to the Committee within three months setting out its assurance that these processes are operating effectively.
- 14.6. within the next three months, assess the capacity of specialist fire safety skills within the sector and set out what the impact is on delivery of its timetables for the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding. It should include in this assessment options to tackle the skills shortage so that this does not become a barrier to remediation work continuing at pace
15. The LGA's [response](#) to the report urged the Government to act on its recommendations without delay

Reform

Fire Safety Bill

16. The Fire Safety Bill has now passed its committee stage in the Lords. The Bill clarifies that external wall systems (EWS, cladding) and front door fire doors are covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO). Among the consequences of this are that responsible persons (RPs) under the FSO must include EWS and fire doors in fire risk assessments (FRAs) and the fire service can potentially take enforcement action where the EWS is unsafe.
17. Once the Bill commences, RPs will need to review their FRAs. During the passage of this Bill through Parliament it has become clear that there is likely to be a significant shortage of assessors to carry out these reviews, because many of those qualified to conduct normal fire risk assessments do not have the specialist skills necessary to include the external wall system in a risk assessment and because insurers are reluctant to provide Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) cover for this sort of work.

18. The potential consequences of this are:

- 18.1 responsible persons (including councils) may be unable to fulfil their obligations under the Bill.
- 18.2 a demand/supply imbalance drives up the cost of assessments, adding to the burden on the housing revenue account and/or the taxpayer.
- 18.3 if owners with sufficient resources pay the higher cost to get all their buildings assessed irrespective of the risk to residents, high risk buildings with less well-off owners will be left at the back of the queue – and that queue could last for years.
- 18.4 delays in obtaining FRAs could compound the problems caused by the inability of residents to obtain EWS1 forms and the consequent effects of this on mortgage applications – even in buildings that have safe cladding systems.

19 The Government has recognised that this problem exists and established a task and finish group to look at how best to commence the Bill. The LGA laid an amendment reflecting the advice that Group gave to ministers at the committee stage of the Bill. Although the government has not accepted the amendment (because it contained the requirement to provide an Approved Code of Practice which in turn would require a consultation process that would delay the Bill), it has promised to meet Lord Porter to discuss the issue and has said it is listening to the LGA's concerns.

20 It is hoped that the Government will concede the need for statutory guidance through an approach that does not delay the Bill. However, a number of unknowns remain:

- 20.1 The number of buildings likely to fall into different categories of risk.
- 20.2 The number of assessors available to undertake the work (this is further complicated by the question of whether any assessors can undertake the work and whether some may be able to work with surveyors who can assess EWS).
- 20.3 Whether insurers will be more willing to provide PII in future.
- 20.4 Exactly how much control any form of guidance can give us over the order in which buildings are assessed.
- 20.5 How much use the FRS will make of the new powers and what effect this will have on the speed of remediation

21 As the LGA's proposal of the amendment made clear 'a balance will have to be struck between commencing the Bill as soon as possible, so that the fire service can use its powers, and assessing the disparity between the number of fire risk assessments that will need be reviewed and the capacity of the fire risk assessment industry to do so. Parliament needs to make this judgement'.

12 November 2020

Fire Safety Consultation

22 The LGA responded to the Government's consultation on proposals to:

22.1 strengthen the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and improve compliance.

22.2 implement the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Report recommendations that require a change in law to place new requirements on building owners or managers of multi-occupied residential buildings, mostly high rise buildings.

22.3 strengthen the regulatory framework for how building control bodies consult with Fire and Rescue Authorities and the handover of fire safety information.

23 The response was circulated to the Board's lead members, other relevant lead members and the Grenfell Task and Finish Group for comment and approval before submission.

Building Safety Bill

24 The Building Safety Bill has been subjected to pre-legislative scrutiny by the HCLG select committee. The Minister gave evidence to the committee on 19 October and touched on most of the areas where the LGA has expressed concern.

25 The Minister said there were still some complex issues to be ironed out before the Building Safety Bill was introduced to Parliament in relation to cost recovery from leaseholders, who would have to meet some costs of remediation.

26 The LGA had raised the cost of the work implied by the Building Safety Bill to leaseholders in evidence it submitted to the committee.

27 Lord Greenhalgh told the inquiry that the Government wanted to protect leaseholders where possible, but there had always been an expectation that some costs would fall on leaseholders. The challenge was how to make that affordable. One committee member asked for reassurance that the Bill would not be introduced to Parliament until the Government had found a solution to protect leaseholders. Lord Greenhalgh said the Bill would not have an easy passage through Parliament without that, so its endeavour was to achieve that before the Bill's introduction.

28 In July 2020, alongside the launch of the Building Safety Bill, which included proposals to allow leaseholders to be charged for building safety costs (see Annex to this paper), the Government appointed Michael Wade to work with leaseholders, and the finance and insurance industries to test and recommend funding solutions to protect leaseholders from unaffordable costs of fixing historic defects, ensuring that the burden does not fall on tax payers and develop proposals to address insurance issues around building safety. Mr Wade has worked in the insurance industry since 1975 culminating in

12 November 2020

his appointment in 2013 as the Crown Representative for Insurance at the Cabinet Office to advise the UK Government on insurance and reinsurance risks.

- 29 The LGA representatives on the Joint Regulators Group have been expecting to hear from Mr Wade at its last two meetings, but have been told the work is still at the scoping stage. Mr Wade told the HCLG committee's pre-legislative inquiry that this work was still at a very early stage: its remit was to look at these costs, unblock the finance arrests and ensure the costs to leaseholders were affordable. He was working closely with the Treasury and external advisors.
- 30 The Minister acknowledged that the planning white paper called into question the operation of Gateway One of the new regime for new buildings and held out the possibility that this could be preserved in the new planning regime. However, he downplayed concerns that Permitted Development has undermined building safety, a subject Fire Services Management Committee recently raised in a letter to him.
- 31 Lord Greenhalgh indicated he did not want to see the scope widened too quickly and does not appear to have referred to the fact that a simple 18m+ definition of height brings many safe buildings into scope. Hopefully the Committee will appreciate this point in its report. He felt it would be appropriate to put on the face of the Bill those factors which the regulator would be asked to consider when expanding the scope of the legislation in future.
- 32 The Minister said it would take all of next year for the Bill to pass through the House, and a further year would have to be allowed for the system to bed down. He went on to say that five years was a reasonable period to allow a new regulatory system to bed in before independent review. However, he was open to the idea of parliamentary scrutiny in the meantime.
- 33 The Minister and his officials were questioned on the competencies of building managers, the system for regulating them and the possible reluctance of insurers to insure them.
- 34 The Minister said that the fire safety and building safety regimes would not always overlap completely and accountability would not always fall on the same person. He believed that a culture of transparency was the most important thing in avoiding confusion for residents.
- 35 The Committee's report is expected before the end of November.
- 36 The LGA has been invited to join a Charges Legislation Cross Cutting Working Group by MHCLG. We have yet to see the terms of reference, but this Group is understood to

12 November 2020

be looking at our concerns over how the charging and cost-recovery mechanisms in the Bill will work.

- 37 Officers are monitoring the pace with which the Health and Safety Executive is introducing some elements of the new system.

Improvement activity

- 38 Officers have assisted in the arrangements of a round table for council chief executives on the requirements of the new regime and hope to continue this work.
- 39 Officers are working on advice to councillors to assist in advising constituents with cladding issues.

Implications for Wales

- 40 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

- 41 Although the LGA has set up the Joint Inspection Team, the cost of doing so is being 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

- 42 Officers to continue to support the sector's work to keep residents safe and reform the buildings safety system, as directed by members.

Update on Maritime and Coastguard Agency Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides an overview of the independent review into beach safety carried out for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). It explores the key recommendations of the review and potential implications for local authorities.

Recommendation

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are asked to note this paper and provide any further feedback.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed.

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Update on Maritime and Coastguard Agency Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety

Background

1. The [Review of the Legal Responsibilities for Beach Safety](#), carried out by the law firm DWF and commissioned by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) was published on 2 November. The review was commissioned in response to the tragic drowning of seven men in two separate incidents at Camber Sands beach in Rother District Council in the summer of 2016.
2. The view of the Coroner investigating the incidents was that there was a complex patchwork of legal responsibilities and asked for these to be reviewed to bring greater clarity around who is legally responsible for beach safety.
3. Working with the LGA's Coastal Special Interest Group we fed in a formal LGA submission to the review and Dominic Watkins, Head of Regulatory at DWF the author of the review presented key findings [at the March Safer Stronger Communities Board meeting](#).
4. As the Coroner and other stakeholders who fed into the review including local authorities and the RLNI indicated, the issue of legal responsibility for beach safety is a complex one. Fundamental questions such as what the definition of a beach is, who may owe duties, and what those duties are, all required unpicking as part of the review.
5. However, the focus of this paper is on the recommendations coming out the review and the potential impact of these on local authorities. The recommendations fall into three broad categories: legal duties; coast and lifeguarding; and broader engagement which are summarised below.

Legal duties

6. The focus of the report is on addressing the regulatory gap in relation to responsibilities for beach safety. The report found that at present no one is likely to be legally responsible for ensuring the safety of people swimming in the sea.
7. A number of options for addressing this gap are explored in the report, including the extension of byelaws and extending existing legislation, for example the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA).
8. However the key recommendation is for a new legislative framework to be created which places a duty on the owner or occupier of the Shore (defined as the 'dry bit' of the beach) to ensure that those using the Shore for access to the Foreshore or Sea (defined as the 'sometimes wet' bit between the high and low tide mark and the 'always wet' bit

12 November 2020

respectively) are protected from foreseeable risks to their health and safety. This would include a specific duty to risk assess.

9. The report suggests that for many duty holders it will be a question of making sure that an existing risk assessment is suitable and sufficient, and then provided that they are implementing the control measures in that risk assessment, no further action would be required.
10. As owners and managers of beaches a new legal duty would have implications for coastal local authorities. In practice many local authorities have voluntarily put in place measures to control risks, despite there not being a clear legal duty to do so. However, there is a risk that putting this on a statutory footing could create an additional regulatory burden for those authorities that own and manage beaches.
11. The report sets out some key principles for what a new legislative framework must do which are a useful starting point but would need to be worked through in more detail. These are:
 - 11.1 Create sensible sustainable definitions, particularly of the areas of land;
 - 11.2 Apply both to the Foreshore and the Sea;
 - 11.3 Be clear about who it applies to, what they are required to do and how they should collaborate;
 - 11.4 Be risk based, the primary duty being to risk assess and to act upon it;
 - 11.5 Not create disproportionate and unsustainable duties – basing it on risk assessment processes is likely to be the most proportionate approach;
 - 11.6 Recognise that everyone knows and understands that there is a risk of drowning when you enter the Sea;
 - 11.7 Create an enforcement regime; and
 - 11.8 Be supported by clear and effective guidance

Key issues

12. Whilst clarity within a legal framework is welcome, a new duty would need to be carefully defined to strike an appropriate balance between the acceptance of risk by individuals making use of and swimming at beaches and a duty on those encouraging people to the coast to ensure they are protected.
13. Whilst there are no clear statistics about the number of people who safely enjoy the sea every year, we do know that millions of people visit beaches every year and the percentage of those who come to harm is very low. However, figures from the [Water Incident Database \(WAID\)](#) show that 52 people accidentally drowned in the sea 2019, the [RLNI reported](#) saving 220 lives and aiding 9,379 people in the same year, which suggests that the number of coastal drownings could have been very substantially higher.
14. Clarity is also needed on who the duty holder would be where complex arrangements are in place. On most amenity beaches (like Blackpool or Bournemouth where facilities are provided for visitors) there are likely to be several different duty holders as the Shore and the Foreshore will have different owners, or occupiers, or both. For example while around 55 per cent of the Foreshore is owned by the Crown Estate, the area is then often leased to other occupiers – as it was at Camber Sands where Rother District

12 November 2020

Council were responsible, or there are management agreements in place. This relationship can be complicated further by a sequence of sub-agreements, such as Chichester District Council's agreement with West Sussex County Council to manage the Foreshore at Pagham which is now part of a RSPB's managed nature reserve.

15. There is potential for confusion unless there is a clear expectation that duty holders need to work together to assess risk and provide as well as maintain any mitigations.
16. Whilst the creation of an enforcement regime is highlighted there is no detail in the report about how this would work or indeed who would be the regulator and fund the regime. This needs careful consideration and if there was to be a role for local authorities, the significant costs this would bring would need to be fully resourced.
17. There are also inevitable questions about how any new duties would be resourced especially in the context of increasing financial pressures as a result of the pandemic, not only for local authorities but also for landowners like the National Trust. There may also be unintended consequences with extending the law for example if a risk assessment identifies significant risk and remediation measures are costly, a duty holder may simply chose to restrict access to beaches in order to seek to limit the costs and liabilities they are exposed to form the public using the beach.
18. Guidance will be vital to provide clear instruction on how a good risk assessment should be undertaken in this area and provide clarity on what is expected of stakeholders at the beach. In particular, it could offer clarity on duties, responsibilities and the best way to maintain safety.
19. The MCA has indicated that the National Water Safety Forum (NWSF) will be leading a consultation exercise to consider the reviews recommendations such as the viability of legislation. We will work with the Coastal SIG to develop a response to the consultation and inform the development of any future legislation.
20. In response to the report's recommendation for updated and consolidated guidance for managing beach safety the MCA has [recently published guidance](#) for coastal landowners.

Coast and lifeguarding

21. The report also calls for further clarity of the HM Coastguard's duties. Compared to the other emergency services, the duties of the HM Coastguard are set out in almost no detail and in a way that offers little clarity.
22. In the Coastguard Act 1925 HM Coastguard is described simply as 'a coast watching force'. However, in practice the HM Coastguard is the emergency service that has responsibility for search and rescue (SAR) in the sea.
23. A recommendation is made for a review of the Coastguard Act and for the duty to updated and made fit for purpose as well as more closely reflecting what the HM

12 November 2020

Coastguard actually does. The report suggests the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 would act as a useful framework for how clear duties could be drafted.

24. As part of the review of the Coastguard Act the report suggests that consideration be given to who is responsible for the provision and/or funding of lifeguarding given the budgetary constraints of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and other volunteer lifeguards. The report recommends that consideration should be given to the centralisation of the funding, delivery, or both of beach lifeguarding.
25. This is in response to a seeming over reliance on the charity of the RNLI and other volunteers for lifeguarding in the UK. The RNLI is under no legal duty to provide lifeguards and therefore could at any time withdraw the service, if it chose to.
26. Central government funding for lifeguarding services would be welcome however the implications of centralised delivery of these services would need to be explored further.

Broader engagement

27. The third area the report considers is the need for a more coordinated approach to beach safety. Whilst there are a number of stakeholders identified as having a role in beach safety including landowners, local and national government, schools and community groups and charities there is a lack of co-ordination and consistency across these groups in terms of how they address this issue.
28. The report recommends that one national body is designated to lead and co-ordinate work on beach safety. The Fire and Rescue Service is used as an example for how a more collaborative approach could work in practice. Fire and rescue services have a statutory duty under the [Fire and Rescue National Framework](#) to complete an integrated risk management plan—a community risk assessment—taking into account risks identified through Local Resilience Forums and any other local risk analyses as appropriate.
29. Councils have already recognised the value of a collaborative approach as shown by the growth of local Water Safety Partnerships. We will be working to update our [water safety toolkit](#) to ensure that it includes examples of effective partnership working at the coast.

Implications for Wales

30. The report was commissioned by the MCA which is an executive agency of the United Kingdom and the reports recommendations apply to Wales as well as England.

Financial Implications

31. We will work with member authorities and the MCA to identify financial implications of any new legislative framework and inform the new burdens process to ensure that this work does not create excessive new responsibilities for local authorities and that any new burdens it does create are fully funded.
32. Any work by the LGA will be carried out using existing resources.

Next steps

33. The National Water Safety Forum which leads on drowning prevention will be leading a consultation exercise to consider the reviews recommendations such as the viability of legislation, and funding options for beach lifeguarding. We will work with the Coastal SIG to develop a response to the consultation.

34. Officers to note any feedback from SSC Board Members and take forward any future work, as directed.

12 November 2020

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 members of the Board note and comment on the update.

Action

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

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Update Paper

Serious Violence Reduction Orders consultation

1. The LGA has submitted a response to the Government's [consultation](#) on Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs), a proposed new court order to target known knife and offensive weapon carriers. The proposed Serious Violence Reduction Orders would give the police personalised powers to target those already convicted of certain knife offences – giving them the automatic right to search those who pose the greatest risk. These searches could take place without suspicion so that these known criminals could be stopped at any time.
2. The LGA has also published a [case studies document](#) on 'Taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime'. The document contains case studies on councils working in partnership to deliver early interventions which help to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in serious violent crime.

MHCLG workshops on domestic abuse accommodation support and services

3. The LGA jointly hosted a second series of workshops with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss the new statutory duty proposed in the Domestic Abuse Bill, which will be placed on Tier 1 local authorities, to commission domestic abuse accommodation support and services. Officers working in housing, domestic abuse services and community safety joined the workshop sessions to share their views on the duty and discussed what the challenges and opportunities would be locally. There were also discussions about how the new [£6 million Building Capacity Fund](#) could be used leading up to the new statutory duty coming into place to help councils prepare for the work.

MHCLG consultation on allocation methods for the associated New Burdens Funding

4. The Ministry of House, Communities and Local Government has also launched a [consultation](#) on the Government's proposals for the allocation of new burdens funding to support the delivery of the new duty. Our LGA response to the consultation will be made available shortly. The deadline for responses is 13 November 2020.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

5. Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Nesil Caliskan, chaired an LGA webinar on 'Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic', attended by over 280 delegates. Our keynote speaker was Dame Vera Baird, the Victims Commissioner for England and Wales, who highlighted the

12 November 2020

importance of improving the community trigger process. We also had speakers from the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and local government representatives. A recording of the session and the presentations are [available here](#).

6. The LGA continues its work with the Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour Advisory Board and we have commissioned a series of local government best practice case studies on tackling anti-social behaviour, which will be available in early 2021.

Police and Crime Panels Workshop

7. Councillor Katrina Wood, Vice-Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, chaired a Police and Crime Panels workshop session in September. This workshop provided an opportunity to share best practice, reflect on the changes to panels and procedures during COVID-19, and look ahead to the forthcoming PCC elections. We had speakers from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, the Home Office and the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

The Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism

8. Since 2017, we have been working closely with the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE); a local authority led network chaired by Leeds and Luton Councils which seeks to provide support, and develop and share good practice in countering extremism across councils in England and Wales. It has achieved considerable successes in supporting councils, and wider partners, in their work to counter extremism and respond to the many new extremism challenges councils have been facing.
9. Central government funding for the SIGCE came to an end in January 2020 and we recently received notice that it will not be renewed pending further decisions about national counter-extremism policy direction. In recognition of the challenges that extremism and cohesion issues continue to pose for local authorities, we have recently agreed to sustain the network until at least March 2021, and have developed a work programme with SIGCE colleagues for the next 6 months. This includes providing support for councils through a series of ongoing topical roundtables, thematic webinars, training, facilitation of an online Knowledge Hub, development of a number of case studies; bespoke support to councils facing specific current extremism challenges; reconvening regional elected member networks in the North of England and East of England; and continuing with the work of SIGCE working groups focussing on Far-Right extremism and Faith-based extremism respectively.

Law Commission consultation on hate crime legislation

10. The Law Commission recently published a [consultation on proposals to reform hate crime laws](#). This comes in response to a number of concerns about how hate crime laws work in practice, with laws regarded by some as complex, spread across different statutes and using multiple overlapping legal mechanisms.

11. The Law Commission's proposals to improve hate crime laws include:

11.1 Adding sex or gender to the protected characteristics under hate crime legislation.

11.2 Establishing criteria for deciding whether any additional characteristics should be recognised in hate crime laws, and consulting further on a range of other characteristics, notably "age."

11.3 Extending the protections of aggravated offences and stirring up hatred offences to cover all current protected characteristics, but also any characteristics added in the future (including sex or gender), to ensure all characteristics are protected equally.

11.4 Reformulating the offences of stirring up hatred to focus on deliberate incitement of hatred, providing greater protection for freedom of speech where no intent to incite hatred can be proven.

11.5 Expanding the offence of racist chanting at football matches to cover homophobic chanting, and other forms of behaviour, such as gestures and throwing missiles at players.

CIEH Local Authority Workforce Survey

12. In October the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) launched a workforce survey aiming to find out more about the state of the environmental health workforce in local authorities. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional pressure on already stretched services, it has also highlighted the vital and wide-ranging role that environmental health practitioners play in keeping our communities safe and presented a real opportunity to make the case for more funding and resources. The data collected as part of this survey will be a vital part of making that case to central government.

Taxi licence register

13. In October, the Department for Transport wrote to council licensing leads to encourage them to sign up to the National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3). [The LGA commissioned NR3](#) in 2018 and it provides a mechanism for licensing authorities to check if an applicant has had a licensed revoked or an application for one refused elsewhere. We were pleased that the use of NR3 was one of a range of measures to protect passengers that was included in new Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards published by the Government over the summer. We hope this will prompt more councils to sign up and start to use the register over the next few months.

Metal and Waste Crime Week of Action

14. The rising price of metal has led to an increase in metal crime with thieves targeting railway and telecommunication networks, churches, vehicles and isolated locations causing disruption and significant costs to businesses. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) led a metal crime week of action between 12th and 16th October 2020. During the week of action, the police - jointly with councils and other enforcement agencies - visited over 500 scrap metal dealers sites, stopped over 1,000 mobile collectors and made 29 arrests as well as shutting down illegal and unlicensed sites.

Modern slavery

15. The Home Office has published an [evaluation of modern slavery Local Authority Pathway pilots](#) which took place in Birmingham, Derby, Croydon, Leeds, Nottingham and Redbridge. The pilots aimed to test new approaches to identify best practice in supporting victims to transition out of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) support and link up with local services. The report highlights best practice and what an effective transition looks like for victims and highlights key recommendations to improve the transition of victims into local services, which may be useful to other authorities.
16. The Home Office has also launched a competed grant process for funding to support a pilot of devolved decision making for child victims of modern slavery. The funding available, and the support provided by the Home Office, will enable local authorities to develop appropriate processes that enable decisions about potential child victims of modern slavery to be taken at a local level by appropriate multi-agency partners, rather than being referred to the national Single Competent Authority for a decision. Devolved decision making for child victims has been championed by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton.

12 November 2020

17. All social care authorities in the UK are able to apply to take part in the pilot, and the deadline to apply is 14 December. It is intended that the pilots should commence in January 2021.
18. Finally, the Home Office has also published its 2020 [annual report](#) into modern slavery in the UK. The report summarises recent work under the headings of pursue, prevent, protect, victim identification and support and international activity, and includes a number of case studies of work throughout the year.

Cyber security

19. The LGA's improvement directorate has been running a [Cyber Security](#) Programme since 2018, funded by the National Cyber Security Programme (NCSP) through the Cabinet Office, and which is now in its final year of its initial three-year agreement. The aim of the programme is to improve the cyber security of English Local Authorities, with the desired strategic outcome being that local government networks and services will be as secure as possible from the moment of their first implementation, and that the public will be able to use local government digital services with confidence, trusting that their information is safe.
20. The LGA works collaboratively with representatives from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), SOLACE, SOCITM – the society for innovation, technology and modernisation, the NHS, the Cabinet Office and the local government community. The programme uses a sector-led approach to improvement to deliver sustainable cultural change within councils that both directly improves cyber security and indirectly leads to members and officers viewing it with increased importance.
21. Following a recent large-scale cyber-attack on a London Borough, the LGA has also been providing some initial technical guidance to council IT colleagues, containing some important advice and actions to take and signposting the following:
 - 21.1 An article in First magazine written by Councillor Neil Prior on [managing cyber security risks](#), which includes tips on what action individuals can take, and also gives general advice on the type of questions councillors should be asking officers.
 - 21.2 NCSC's [suite of guidance on their website](#) including [mitigating malware and ransomware](#), [incident management](#), and [10 steps to cyber security](#).
 - 21.3 The NCSC's [free Early Warning Service](#).
22. For further advice or support, the LGA's cyber security team can be contacted on cybersecurity@local.gov.uk.

National FGM Centre

23. The National FGM Centre is a partnership between the LGA and Barnardo's. It was established to improve the social care response to cases of FGM and, since 2017, to breast ironing/flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief (CALFB). The Centre's approach to improving social work has focussed on four key elements including embedding specialist social workers, the provision of training and professional development, the creation of a knowledge hub and community engagement.
24. The Centre's Advisory Group was held on 26 October where members discussed the current situation of the National FGM Centre. The current model costs approximately £1.2 million per year to run. The Centre initially received funding in 2015 from the DfE's Children's Social Care Innovation Fund, with further funding being granted in 2017 on a tapered basis, reducing year on year. Funding was due to end in March 2020 on the agreed approach that the Centre would be self-sustaining by 2020. Due to COVID-19, the DfE agreed to extend the funding of the Centre to June 2020, and since then the Centre has been supported through other funding, however this is due to expire at the end of December 2020. Between January to March 2021, the Centre will continue to offer training and consultancy. At the time of writing Barnardo's have not secured alternative funding arrangements and there is thus a significant risk that the Centre will cease to exist in March 2021. The Centre is now looking at options for the future if no new funding from the Government can be secured to continue its work, including working with private funders.
25. More broadly Barnardo's are proposing to establish a BAME Centre of Expertise, which would work in collaboration and partnership with relevant organisations to provide leadership, best practice, training, research, advocacy, consultancy and support. The proposal is therefore that the FGM Centre would come under the Centre of Expertise and retain its distinct focus. Barnardo's aim to establish the new Centre of Expertise during 2021.
26. Barnardo's has also established Boloh, a helpline and webchat facility for Black and Asian children, young people and families affected by COVID-19. The helpline is there to encourage children, young people and families from these communities who have been impacted by COVID-19 to speak about their worries and stresses. It provides therapeutic support, as well as signposting to other organisations who can provide further help.

Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers' Impacts and Outcomes Report

27. The Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers have produced a useful [report](#) and [infographic](#) summarising the impact of trading standards services. Based on

12 November 2020

returns from 95 services covering 106 local authorities, the reports cover a range of impacts and out outcomes including: the numbers of businesses supported; the number of premises visited for test purchasing; estimates on the value of counterfeit products removed from the market and consumer detriment prevented; and the sums seized from defendants as a result of Proceeds of Crime sentences, fines and costs.

Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title: Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Date: Thursday 17 September 2020
Venue: Zoom

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair) opened the meeting and gave short personal introduction as the new Chair of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board.</p> <p>Nesil also welcome the following new members to the Board; Cllr Lois Samuel, Cllr Paul Findow, Mayor Damien Egan, Cllr Jeanie Bell and Cllr Nicola Dillon Jones.</p> <p>The Chair gave a brief reminder of best practice and etiquette in remote meetings. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Security threats in COVID-19 recovery</p> <p>The members of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board received a confidential update from a government security adviser.</p> <p>Decision The members of Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the report.</p>	
3	<p>Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2020-21</p> <p>a) Terms of reference</p> <p>b) Board membership 2020-21</p> <p>c) Outside body appointments 2020-21</p> <p>d) Board meetings for 2020-21</p>	

- e) Board member champions role description (including Equalities Advocate)

The Chair invited Mark Norris (Principal Adviser) to introduce the item and each aspect of the paper.

Mark noted that the Board appoints several Champions who work to support a specific area of policy. All Boards are being asked to appoint an Equalities Advocate. The scope of the role and how each Advocate is appointed still under development, with discussions taking place, but it is proposed for the SSCB that Champions monitor equalities issues in their area and work is collated by the Chair as the lead advocate for equalities. Additional work is ongoing between Political Groups on this issue and will be referenced back to Lead Members.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points;

- A number of members expressed interest in specific areas and champion roles.
- Members considered whether a joint champion role for Grenfell & Building Regulations would link well into other work around the LGA.
- Members proposed a potential role overseeing Governance of Police & Crime Commissioners. Mark explained that the timings of the Review and submission timetable, with consultation needed across SSCB and Fire Services Management Committee. Noted that the Board will need to review the response from the Home Office in due course.
- The creation of a role covering Security and Emergency Planning that could link into the work of the Prevent Champion was put forward. Mark suggested that a role focused on Emergency Planning could be considered at a late date. Security elements would be covered by the Prevent role.
- Questions were raised on the division of Modern Slavery and Serious Violence & County Lines in to separate champion roles. Mark noted that there is some nuance in their definition based on the work plan but acknowledged the two roles will be heavily interlinked so will require cross working.
- Members noted the need to replace Cllr Anita Lower as the Board representative on the FGM Advisory Group. The Chair noted that this is being discussed by Lead Members.
- There was a discussion of the decision to discontinue the Bereavement Services Champion, especially with the anticipated spike in COVID cases. Mark gave an overview of the decision and the changes to the Competition & Markets Authority work plan which has limited the scope of

the role, however it was helpful to have indications of which Board members had an interest in this area. The Chair asked Officers to work to confirm the list of Champions.

Decisions:

The members of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board:

- a. Agreed the Terms of Reference;
- b. Noted the membership for 2020/21;
- c. Agreed the Board's nominations to outside bodies;
- d. Noted the dates of the future meetings;
- e. Agreed the proposed approach to member champions and that Lead Members finalise the roles for 2020/21 and
- f. Agreed that appointment of the Equalities Advocate for the Board be finalised once the role of the Group Offices in the appointment process had been confirmed.

Action:

Officers to take any action as required.

4 Safer and Stronger Communities Board priorities and work plan for 2020-21

The Chair noted that the proposals presented were built on the 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.

Mark Norris introduced the paper, noting that brief work programmes have been presented with each area of priority, and that additional work may be needed around COVID-19.

In the subsequent discussion the Chair asked for comments in relation to each section of the priorities paper;

Community Safety Issues:

- Regarding Modern Slavery, members suggested that reference should be made to procurement and supply chains in the programme to go to local authorities.
- Members argued that recent events have shown the importance of the relationships between communities and the Police, and that specific work should be focused on this topic.
- The publication of the Maritime & Coastguard Review was highlighted; it was suggested that follow up work on suicide prevention may be helpful.
- Members noted the need for certainty around the role of and funding for COVID Marshals.

Regulatory Services:

- Members noted that following the LGA's call for local authorities to receive powers to sanction premises breaching social distancing this may be an area of focus.

Bereavement services

- Cllr Pennington volunteered to maintain an overview on items around Bereavement Services.

Civil Resilience/Blue Light Services:

- Members recommended that in light of the ongoing COVID crisis, civil and community resilience should be given greater emphasis within the priorities paper as whole.

Decision:

The members of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the Board's priorities and work programme for 2020/21.

Action:

Officers to update the work plan based on feedback.

5 Building Safety Update

The Chair invited Charles Loft (Senior Adviser) to discuss the report, which updates members on the LGA's building safety related work since the last meeting.

Charles raised the following points;

- The Building Safety Bill has been published and is going through pre-legislative scrutiny. Lord Porter will present evidence on behalf of the LGA.
- The Fire Safety Bill (FSB) has passed the Third Reading in the House of Commons. A dedicated Task & Finish Group is addressing the implications for duty holders of the perceived shortage of insured fire risk assessors who are competent to consider external wall systems.
- A consultation has been launched on secondary legislation under the FSB and Building Safety Bill, including implementation of the Phase One findings of Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
- The LGA has continued to facilitate conversations and support MHCLG, local authorities and developers on the issue of remediating cladding. Progress continues to be slow and compounded by Covid-19 and the absence of comprehensive government funding.
- The Public Accounts Committee has reported on the difficulties being faced by leaseholders in selling homes, increasing insurance costs and securing mortgages on clad properties.

In the subsequent discussion the members raised the following points;

- Members raised concerns with the cost of EWS1 Forms for external wall fire safety. Residents are being faced with substantial bills even where cladding is not an issue.
- Members suggested that the £1bn proposed by the Government for remediation work is not sufficient support for leaseholders. Clarification was sought on whether additional funding would overcome the shortage of assessors. Charles explained that while additional funding will be a key part of the answer, the Government is attempting to encourage developers to cover part of the cost. Professional Indemnity Insurance is proving to be a major obstacle, with insurers unwilling to sign-off cladding systems. Charles suggested that in the current climate a Government led scheme might be the most effective solution.

Decision:

The members of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the report.

Action:

Officers to incorporate members' views in the LGA's ongoing building safety related work.

6 Covid-19 Update

The Chair invited Ellie Greenwood (Senior Adviser) to introduce the item which updates on Covid-19 related activity since the previous meeting.

In the subsequent discussion members raised the following points;

- Members sought assurances that data collected in hospitality venues for tracing purposes is being deleted in line with the 21-day retention period stated. Ellie explained that this would be governed in line with the regulations and data protection principles (with the Information Commissioner's Office providing guidance), but added that she was aware Environmental Health Officers have also been monitoring data gathering practices. The Chair suggested that dedicated communications be issued by the LGA to member authorities on this matter.
- It was suggested that given the swift changes to regulatory practices due to COVID, some consideration should be given to changes that might be desirable to retain after the emergency response.
- Questions arose on the role of SSCB and the LGA in chasing the

monies promised to local authorities under the Local Government Income Compensation Scheme. Ellie noted that this would fall under the remit of the Resources Board and the LGA Local Government Finance team, but that it the financial impact of COVID is a key issue for the LGA

Decision:

The Members of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the report and the implications for the Board's 2020-21 work plan.

Action:

Officers to take forward as directed.

7 Update paper

The Chair gave a brief overview of the paper which outlined issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

In the subsequent discussion member raised the following points:

- Cllr Dawson noted he had a meeting to discuss water quality with the Coastal Special Interest Group in his role as Drowning Prevention Champion.
- It was suggested that the Board should closely monitor the use of the Community Trigger, given reports of increasing COVID related Anti-Social Behaviour.

Decision:

That members of Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the update.

Action:

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

8 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair asked the members of the Board to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 12 November 2020

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	Enfield Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Katrina Wood	Buckinghamshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Eric Allen	London Borough of Sutton
	Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
	Cllr Andrew Joy	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Dave Stewart	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Lois Samuel	West Devon Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Mayor Damien Egan	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Farah Hussain	Redbridge London Borough Council
	Cllr Johnson Situ	Southwark Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
LGA Officers	Mark Norris	
	Ellie Greenwood	
	Charles Loft	
	Lucy Ellender	
	Rachel Phelps	
	Rachel Duke	
	Rebecca Johnson	
	Rachael Aldridge	
	Priya Thethi	
	Richard Kember	

