

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Thursday, 20 January 2022
11.00 am

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

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

Safer & Stronger Communities Board
20 January 2022

There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 20 January 2022** via Microsoft Teams.

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: LABGP@lga.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.

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The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgassc

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2021/2022

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Mohan Iyengar (Vice Chairman)	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Cllr Eric Allen	Sutton London Borough Council
Cllr Bill Borrett	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Lewis Cocking	Broxbourne Borough Council
Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
Cllr Lois Samuel	West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Arnold Saunders	Salford City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Graeme Coombes	Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Paul Findlow	Cheshire East Council
Cllr James Gartside	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair)	Enfield Council
Cllr Asher Craig	Bristol City Council
Cllr Alan Rhodes	Bassetlaw District Council
Mayor Damien Egan	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Jeanie Bell	St Helens Council
Cllr James Beckles	Newham London Borough Council
Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Islington London Borough Council
Cllr Margaret Mullane	Barking and Dagenham London Borough
Cllr Clive Johnson	Medway Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Heather Kidd (Deputy Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Kris Brown	Liverpool City Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Deputy Chair)	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Nicola Dillon Jones	North Kesteven District Council
Cllr Karen Lucioni	Isle of Wight Council
Cllr Paul Hilliard	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Agenda

Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Thursday 20 January 2022

11.00 am

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 24 March 2022, 11.00 am, Smith Square
3&4, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ, TBC

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Note of the last Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Title:	Safer and Stronger Communities Board
Date and time:	Tuesday 9 November 2021
Location:	Beecham Room, 7 th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Welcome, Apologies & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Jeanie Bell and Cllr Alan Rhodes with Cllr Margaret Mullane and Cllr Clive Jonson in attendance as substitution.

Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Lewis Cocking, who informed the Board he was Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, and Cllr Arnold Saunders who is a Chaplin at a Care home in Salford and his wife is a Primary School Teacher.

2 Notes of previous meeting

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board agreed the notes of the last Board meeting, held on Tuesday 21 September 2021 and requested a small change to the action for item 3 - *Officers to explore the scope and benefit of the National Community Safety Board.*

3 LGA Business Plan Update

The Chair introduced the report which set out that in October 2019 the LGA Board approved a new 3-year business plan, built around the United Nations sustainable development goals. In 2020, one additional priority – narrowing inequalities and protecting communities was added, bringing the total to seven.

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser informed the Board that this report was broadly to note as the LGA Business Plan had been approved by the LGA Board in September. However, there were a number of priorities within the business plan that related to the Board's business. In particular, places to live and work and narrowing inequalities and protecting communities.

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Following the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Given the priority of recent discussions around climate change in Glasgow at COP26, should sustainability and climate action be higher up the list of priorities? The Chair responded that the LGA Business Plan had been approved and agreed a few weeks ago and this point would be fed back to the LGA to consider.
- Members asked if there was a success-based criteria that these priorities were being measured against. The Chair replied that the LGA Business Plan was regularly reviewed to ensure that it was fit for purpose and that all Boards Chairs feedback on whether they are meeting the set priorities outlined for the year. Mark added that officers regularly report and feedback to the Senior Management Team and LGA Board.

Decision:

That the Safer and 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:

- Officers to feedback comments made by members.

4 Update Paper

The Chair introduced the item which outlined the issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Mark Norris highlighted the following key points:

- Spending review update – there were no significantly new updates in the review that would be of particular interest to the Board.
- A submission had been cleared by Lead Members on a recent consultation as part of a wider review on giving PCC's greater powers of competence. The Chair added that it was a challenge to co-ordinate a response without a formal meeting and thanked Lead Members for their time and input.

Following the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- The taxi and private hire vehicle licencing webinar had had over 500 attendees with Baroness Vere in attendance. The Minister had said it was unlikely there would be a taxi reform Bill imminently and highlighted that she was disappointed that more local authorities weren't using NR3 facilities and at the lack of support given by the police to licensing teams, which she would feedback to the Home Office. The Chair responded that regarding NR3 it was important to encourage licensing authorities to use the database; officers confirmed a letter on behalf of lead members had recently been circulated.
- Members commented that the while the temporary pavement licensing was well received by businesses, licensing officers had highlighted that the cost of £100 was insufficient to cover the cost of administration and enforcement and this needed to be reviewed. The Chair agreed and mentioned that this particular issued had been raised with Government a number of times.
- Members thanked the Local Government Association's Coastal Special Interest Group and officers for responding to the consultation on jet skis and recreational water vehicles on behalf of the Board. The Board was advised that this review was in danger of making a similar mistake to the Maritime and

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Coastguard Agency review of beach safety in regards to ownership and oversight. The majority of recreation would take place beyond the foreshore, which would leave councils with no powers to enforce despite them being suggested as the solution.

Decision:

Members of the Board noted the update.

5 Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

The Chair introduced a presentation by Detective Chief Constable Maggie Blyth, the new National Policing lead for Violence against Women and Girls.

Rachel Phelps, Adviser informed the Board that Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth had been appointed as the new National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead for violence against women and girls in September. Following the tragic murder of Sarah Everard the government re-opened the VAWG 2021-2024 Strategy, in which the LGA resubmitted additional points raised from the subsequent Board meeting. The consultation received over 180,000 responses to help shape the strategy, which was recently published in July 2021. There were several updates in the consultation, more specifically to do with the National Policing role and the Detective Chief Constable coming into post from October onwards.

The Chair invited Maggie Blyth to present her discussion to the Board.

DCC Blyth thanked the Board for inviting her to the meeting and introduced herself as the newly appointed Deputy Chief Constable to the National Police Chief Council. Maggie said that she was pleased to be appointed to the role at such a watershed moment with the recent tragic events that had taken place over the last few months.

DCC Blyth highlighted that policing at a national level needed to work across departments, and the importance of a local level set of relationships as well as national relationships. She explained that there are a number of things she wanted to put into place but that she was also keen to listen to communities and what the public are saying. The starting point within policing would have to be to regain trust and confidence with the public across England and Wales.

DCC Blyth continued that she had a strong background of over 30 years in public protection and community safety within a range of different setting, focusing on protecting the most vulnerable, reducing harm and reducing violence within communities. Over the next few weeks, she would be implementing a strategic plan for all the 43 police forces across the country and would be co-ordinating activity to address violence against women and girls. The plan would focus on three core objectives;

- the relentless pursuit of perpetrators, something the police to do more and well;
- all of the work (including with councils) to prevent VAWG and create safer spaces and
- trust and confidence; focusing on the conduct and standard of behaviour of police officers and gaining trust back from the public.

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She had recently written to various stakeholders over the last few days to listen and engage around the plans moving forward. There was also a strong focus on building consistency across the 43 forces and how they could work with Police and Crime Commissioners to build that consistency over time. Moving into 2022, DCC Blyth hoped to have a clear National Plan including what policing needed to achieve to drive the outcomes of local plans.

Following the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Members commented that some survivors had no recourse to public funds, with this in mind how were the police taking on the work of supporting survivors from perpetrators? Maggie responded that she hoped her role would enable her to work with other stakeholders and sectors to continue to put pressure on areas that needed change.
- Members referenced the importance of working with pre-schools, health visitors and midwifery with a lot of domestic abuse starting during pregnancy. There are many known families that won't engage with services early, was there scope to look at funding for prevent and early intervention? Maggie agreed with the comments made and said that policing would not be able to arrest its way out of violence against women and girls. It was important to look at understanding prevention, overseeing how boys were growing up and the support women and adults had with young children.
- Members raised that there was a relatively new cases emerging of spiking with injections, and creating a lot of apprehension among women not wanting to go out. As this was fairly new phenomenon, was this something high on the radar and would there be any advice and guidance published for councils and police forces? Maggie replied that this was fairly new and information was patchy across the UK. The numbers were still relatively small and she would urge women and girls to report cases.
- Members commented that smart phones and social media contributed to an epidemic of violence against women and girls, allowing men and boys to feel entitled to make sexual suggestions that once would have never been acceptable. The Chair agreed and added that it was important to recognise that a whole generation of young men were being exposed to sexual relations in the form of violent pornography online, which needs to be recognised within prevention. Maggie replied that was a very live on-going issue. The digital threat posed a new developing area of crime with a lot to be done especially around educating boys and girls on online harms and acceptable behaviour.
- Members raised that contact with agencies was particularly difficult in certain areas that were more rural and remote. Maggie replied that she supported working with partnerships at a local level and would continue to do so through existing statutory partnerships and PCCs.
- Would prevention cover the training of police officers, given low conviction rates in relation to sexual assault and victims feeling they had not been supported especially during the early stages. Maggie replied that training was one part of policing and the wider criminal justice system and at a local level it was vital to look at how policing was part of a bigger whole system response to violence against women and girls.

Decision:

That members of the Board note the Violence against Women and Girls report.

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It was suggested that the item be brought back to the Board to consider future progress.

Action:

- Officers to include VWAG at a future Board meeting.

6 Counter-extremism Update

The Chair introduced the item which gave an update on national counter-terrorism and counter-extremism policy, and the work undertaken to support councils. The report also provided a detailed overview of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE), which formed a significant part of the LGA's support offer, as requested by members at the Board meeting on 21 September.

Rachel Duke, Adviser informed the Board that the tragic events in Southend had raised a number of questions and concerns about counter-terrorism and counter-extremism, and about the safety of those in public office.

Rachel highlighted the following key points in the report:

- The Independent review of Prevent by William Shawcross, announced in 2019 was underway and due to report shortly, with findings and a government response expected in the coming months.
- The Government's Counter-Extremism Strategy, focusing on those who fall below the counter terrorism level but cause harm to local areas, was originally published in October 2015 and expired last year. The strategy comprised of four strands - countering extremist ideology, building a partnership with those opposed to extremism, disrupting extremists and building more cohesive communities but there has been little clarity on the future direction of the strategy and recently there had been reports in the media that the Building a Stronger Britain programme had closed.
- The government funded Counter-extremism Community Co-ordinator posts had been repurposed for wider community issues and we are waiting to see if funding for the posts would be retained beyond March.

Rachel commented that the government had seemed to be shifting its focus from the prevention focus space to tackling issues where they had already crossed the threshold of criminal activity i.e hate crime and civil disorder and raised concerns that this would lead to gaps at national policy level. The LGA was continuing to make the case for a comprehensive approach to countering extremism and investing in prevention remain important.

Rachel outlined that the report highlights issues which the LGA believe will continue to be an ongoing problem for some time to come. A particular concern was around the online space; an Online Safety Bill was published this year, and the Board is feeding into the LGA response, which is being led by another Board. The LGA has also published a call for evidence on abuse and intimidation of councils.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- There was a discussion about whether members should be obliged to publicly disclose their personal addresses, e.g on election material, council websites or via declarations of interests. While many members felt that individuals should not have to

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do so, some Board members felt that councillors should retain the choice publish their address if they wished to do so. It was agreed however that there was a need for consistency of advice to members, and that it was not helpful for some monitoring officers to say that personal addresses must be public when their counterparts in other authorities say that they are not: the LGA should look into this, as well as whether an opt in system rather than an opt out would be preferable.

- Concern was raised that gaps will be left if the Home Office does not lead the way in building community resilience, and that resources are needed at a time when hate crime and extremism are rising. Long term soft intelligence happened over a long time; without the resources to build that locally there is a risk of a lack of intelligence to respond when issues occur.
- The link between radicalisation and the anti-vaxxer movement was noted.
- There was concern that with MPs better protected in future, councillors could become an easier target. Social media companies were criticised for responding more slowly to online threats to councillors compared to threats to MPs.
- Members called for swift action from the LGA rather than a lengthy call for evidence.

Decision:

That members of the Board note the counter-extremism update.

Action:

- Officers to raise that the advice of monitoring officers needs to be consistent across all authorities and review the options of opt in or opt out addresses.

7 Disruption to fuel supplies

The Chair introduced the item which updated the Board on our work to understand how councils, Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) and local areas dealt with the disruption to fuel supplies which impacted some areas earlier this Autumn.

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Adviser informed the Board that although some areas across the UK faced fuel shortages due to a lack of HGV drivers, the issue was uneven with certain areas facing much more disruption than others. There had been suggestions, particularly from the care sector, that the government should evoke formal powers for local fuel plans, enabling local areas to designate fuel to priority access fuel stations.

Ellie continued that there was a lack of clarity on the interim steps local areas are expected to take in the absence of formal powers being evoked. Fuel stations took a very mixed approach to handling the issue, with some introducing voluntary efforts to prioritise key workers; however, these were inconsistent. The LGA had agreed to have joint discussions with social care providers, LRFs and councils to share best practice and feedback on lessons learnt. The Department for Levelling-Up and Housing and Communities (DLUHC) had agreed to debrief with local areas to work together to achieve the same objectives.

Following the discussion, Members made the following comments:

- Members noted that there were national fuel plans but queried whether there were there any local fuel plans and if so, how would this be implemented? Ellie responded that there were local fuel plans in which each LRF would have a list of designated filling stations to prioritise access for critical workers,

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but that these powers were not something that local areas would unilaterally be allowed to evoke.

- Members highlighted that within some local authorities they were following the National Emergency Plan for Fuel (NEP-F) advice and had already set aside unleaded and diesel fuel for the winter period, as well as keeping tanks at a high level through to spring.
- A high level of cars queueing up and blocking access caused road safety issues with little to no control. The public were accessing information on fuel availability via various platforms of social media, which quite often was wrong.
- Many people were purchasing more fuel than they needed and some resorted to filling up petrol in containers and bottles which were not fit for purpose.
- Some Members raised concerns that there wasn't a fuel shortage but rather mass panic that was hyped up by the media. The Chair recognised that issues did not affect all areas across the country but noted that the paper had talked about disruption to fuel supply, rather than fuel shortages, and that it was important for the LGA to have discussions with social care colleagues and LRFs about issues that impacted key services and councils' reputations.

Decision:

Members of the Board noted and agreed the next steps as set out at paragraph 20.

Actions:

- Officers to enquire and feedback on HGV driver shortage response to the Board.
- Officers to feedback discussions with RED to the Board.

8 Building Safety Update

Charles Loft, Senior Adviser introduced the report which updated members on the key developments around building safety work not covered in the previous paper.

Charles highlighted the following key brief points:

- The Fire Safety Act was due to commence from October but was now delayed until April.
- The Building Safety Bill had completed its journey through the committee stage in the House of Commons.
- There was a recent fire incident within a housing association block in Tower Hamlets that had to be evacuated due to concerns about how it would respond if it suffered a significant fire. In response the LGA has written to councils to inform and remind them of the importance of ensuring they know how their high-rise buildings were constructed; what has been done since they were built and their current conditions.

Following the discussion, Members made the following comment:

- Members raised that the new Secretary of State had echoed what the LGA had been saying - that leaseholders should not have to foot the bill for cladding removal - although some leaseholders have had already paid for costs incurred. Charles responded that the Secretary of State comments broadly fell in line with what the LGA had been saying about leaseholders being penalised for something that was not their fault, and that there are concerns in government about how this would impact the housing market.

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Decision:

Members of the Board noted and agreed the proposal in paragraph 9.

8.a) Confidential: Building Safety Funding

Charles Loft introduced the report which detailed officers' concerns about the funding of fire safety and building safety and suggested possible responses.

Charles highlighted key concerns within the report.

Following the brief discussion, Members made no comments.

Decision:

Members of the Board noted the report.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 20 January 2022

Appendix A – Attendance

Position	Authority	
Chair	Cllr Nesil Caliskan	London Borough of Enfield
Vice Chairman	Cllr Mohan Iyengar	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Deputy Chair	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Deputy Chair	Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Committee Member	Cllr Eric Allen	London Borough of Sutton
	Cllr Bill Borrett	Norfolk County Council
	Cllr Lewis Cocking	Broxbourne Borough Council
	Cllr Julia Lepoidevin	Coventry City Council
	Cllr Lois Samuel	West Devon Borough Council
	Cllr Arnold Saunders	Salford City Council
	Cllr Asher Craig	Bristol City Council
	Mayor Damien Egan	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr James Beckles	Newham London Borough Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Jon Ball	Ealing Council
	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Substitutes	Cllr Jeanie Bell	St Helens Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Bassetlaw District Council
Substitutes	Cllr James Gartside	

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Cllr Graeme Coombes
Cllr Paul Findlow
Cllr Kaya Comer-
Schwartz
Cllr Margaret Mullane
Cllr Clive Johnson
Cllr Kris Brown
Cllr Nicola Dillon Jones
Cllr Karen Lucioni
Cllr Paul Hilliard

In attendance

DCC Maggie Blyth

National Police Lead for VAWG

LGA Officers

Mark Norris
Ellie Greenwood
Lucy Ellender
Charles Loft
Rachel Duke
Rachel Phelps
Rachel Aldridge
Jade Hall
Francis Saukila
Megan Edwards
Joe Difford
Tahmina Akther

Modern slavery update

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report outlines the LGA's recent activity in relation to tackling modern slavery, accompanying an update to the Board from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM.

Recommendation/s

The Board is asked to agree the LGA's ongoing work on modern slavery, and to support completion of the modern slavery survey by as many councils as possible.

Action/s

Officers to progress the LGA's work on modern slavery as directed.

Contact officer:	Ellie Greenwood
Position:	Senior Adviser
Phone no:	07795 413660
Email:	ellie.greenwood@local.gov.uk

Modern slavery update

Background

1. The SSC Board and team have worked closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner since the first Commissioner originally attended a Board meeting in January 2017. The current Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM last attended the Board in September 2019 and will be attending the meeting to provide an update on her work and reflections on the role of local government.
2. This paper provides an overview of the LGA's work on modern slavery, alongside that of the Commissioner and her office (OIASC).

Issues

LGA work on modern slavery

3. As longer serving Board members will recall, following the meeting between the previous Commissioner and SSCB in January 2017, officers worked closely with the OIASC to develop the first [guidance for councils on modern slavery](#). Publication in December 2017 was supported by regional workshops for councillors and officers providing an introduction to the issue of modern day slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) and an overview of the role of councils in tackling it. Broadly, that role can be summarised as:
 - 3.1. Identifying and referring victims of MSHT into the national referral mechanism (NRM), the framework for identifying and supporting victims in the UK.
 - 3.2. Supporting victims through local support frameworks, particularly for child victims through normal safeguarding processes, but also potentially through housing support and under the Care Act.
 - 3.3. Disrupting modern slavery through community safety /regulatory work and in conjunction with local partners.
 - 3.4. Seeking to eradicate MSHT from local government supply chains through procurement and due diligence processes.
4. Following our early work to develop guidance and raise awareness, LGA work on modern slavery throughout the rest of 2018 and 2019 focused on the following:
 - 4.1. Outlining how councils can support disruption activity, including holding a specific disruption conference and the development of [council guidance on hand car washes](#), a high risk sector for a spectrum of labour exploitation including slavery. We

- also produced [guidance on modern slavery for councils to target at landlords](#), recognising the close link between modern slavery and housing issues.
- 4.2. The development of guidance focusing specifically on the [individual role that councillors can play](#) in ensuring their councils are playing a proactive role in tackling slavery.
 - 4.3. Setting up an [LGA transparency in supply chains statements \(TISC\) portal](#) to raise awareness and encourage voluntary submissions of modern slavery transparency statements. Starting off with 35 councils the portal now boasts 170 councils who have made a voluntary submission. Practical guidance to [encourage councils to undertake Modern Slavery due diligence](#) in their supply chains and help councils produce their own TISC statements is periodically updated. Subsequent guidance and briefing notes focusing on our supply chains in high risk areas have been developed focusing on [adult social care](#) and the [construction industry](#). During this period the LGA commissioned research, undertaken by the University of Greenwich, [to gauge the level of activity and standard of local authority transparency statements](#).
 - 4.4. Building relationships with a range of partner organisations active in tackling modern slavery including the third sector (eg, the Human Trafficking Foundation, Hope for Justice and many other charities), the Home Office and others.
 - 4.5. Supporting the development of the much delayed statutory guidance on the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which was eventually published in spring 2020.
5. Prior to the first pandemic lockdown in March 2020, we had identified two key areas of focus for future activity: firstly, highlighting some of the pressure points for councils in relation to MSHT and how these could be addressed, and secondly, undertaking further work to raise awareness of MSHT, including a second round of awareness raising workshops. Although this work has been significantly delayed by the redeployment of staff resources to support the response to COVID-19, we have now begun to focus on these issues.
 6. In our recent [submission to the Home Office's consultation on a new modern slavery strategy](#), we highlighted concerns about pressures on councils in relation to support for victims of modern slavery and set out our view that the Government should ensure there is a clear, and funded, framework for providing locally led support, with expectations of support set out in domestic legislation. Although the NRM provides tailored support for recognised victims of modern slavery, there is an increasing focus on the support that can be provided within existing local support frameworks both during and after a victim's period in the NRM process; particularly given the increasing number of UK nationals being referred into the NRM. UK victims accounted for the greatest number of [NRM referrals in 2020](#), at 34% of the 10,613 victims referred. Reflecting the growth in child criminal exploitation through county lines, almost half of referrals (47%) related to the exploitation of children.

7. While many victims are indeed entitled to support from councils and other local partners, in practice there can be challenges associated with providing timely and appropriate support because demands are falling on services that are already extremely stretched, including housing support, children's services and adult social care.
8. One particular, and acknowledged, pressure point is around the provision of local authority accommodation to adult victims of MSHT. When the original LGA-IASC guidance was published in 2017, there was a general assumption that victims going through the NRM process would be housed in accommodation provided under the victim care contract by The Salvation Army and its network of sub-contractors. Increasingly, however, The Salvation Army is setting out its view that, unless there are specific reasons not to, victims should be housed in local authority housing if they are entitled to this. The Government has recently updated the homelessness code of guidance to make clear that victims of modern slavery are entitled to priority status. We have therefore been working to develop specific guidance for local authority housing teams, including accompanying case studies, to highlight these obligations and how councils can seek to effectively meet them despite the significant pressure on local authority accommodation services. This is due to be published, supported by a webinar, in early March.
9. We are also proposing to update the original LGA-IASC guidance to more accurately reflect current trends, expectations and good practice, which as noted above have moved on since the guidance was first published. Although plans to repeat our original regional workshops seem likely to be restricted by Covid and the change in conference practices arising from it, we will look to support the launch of new guidance in spring/summer 2022 with a set of awareness raising activities, building on successful modern slavery webinars we felt in July and November last year.
10. To support our work on modern slavery, we have been working with colleagues in the LGA research team to survey councils on their work on modern slavery. This has proved challenging because modern slavery is an issue that cuts across multiple council services, and therefore does not lend itself to the type of concise survey that achieves a higher response rate. We are currently seeking to improve the response rate to the survey to enable us to develop a better understanding of council activity on this issue and would welcome the Board's support in raising awareness of the value in completing the survey.
11. Alongside issues relating to victim support and awareness raising, work to support councils on tackling the risk of MSHT occurring in their supply chains continues to be a key focus of work, led by colleagues in the LGA's commissioning team (part of the LGA's productivity programme) ahead of an expected change in the law mandating TISC statements by public bodies as well as private businesses. As part of this work, the LGA periodically reviews the quality of local authority TISC statements through commissioned

research undertaken by the University of Greenwich – [the latest of which can be found here.](#)

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner priorities and activity

12. Dame Sara Thornton DBM QPE, previously Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the first chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, has been Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner since summer 2019. In September that year, she attended the SSCB and set out the following four strategic priorities for the period 2019-2021 - progress on these was set out in the [Commissioner's annual report for 2020-2021](#):

- 12.1. **Improving victim care and support**, including increasing the quality of victim support and improving the support to child victims.
- 12.2. **Supporting law enforcement and prosecution**, in particular increasing prosecutions and protecting victims of trafficking.
- 12.3. **Focusing on prevention**, specifically working with the private sector and raising public awareness, as well as encouraging the role of the public sector.
- 12.4. **Getting value from research and innovation**, for example defining the scale of the problem and defining research priorities.

13. In terms of the interface with local authorities, the Commissioner has been particularly interested in the following issues:

- 13.1. Devolving decision making in relation to suspected child victims of MSHT. The Commissioner has been a strong champion of enabling local safeguarding leads already working closely with suspected child victims of MSHT to reach decisions on their cases, rather than these being considered by the national Single Competent Authority. A pilot to test out devolved decision making with a small group of councils was launched in 2021; early evidence suggests that it is having significant benefits in reducing the time taken for NRM decisions to be taken.
- 13.2. Improving local authority housing support to victims. With stable accommodation an important component of a victim's recovery, the Commissioner has been keen to improve local housing support for victims of modern slavery, while recognising the challenges councils are facing in terms of housing supply. The OIASC worked closely with the Government to strengthen the homelessness code of guidance and has also encouraged the development of reciprocal arrangements between councils to provide accommodation for victims.

- 13.3. Encouraging local authorities to review their supply chains for MSHT. The Commissioner has also championed the development of good quality transparency in supply chains statements by councils and other public bodies, as part of a wider piece of work to strengthen the effectiveness of existing requirements on modern slavery statements.
14. Alongside these areas, the Commissioner has also been working to promote a public health approach to modern slavery, as is increasingly seen in relation to serious violence, an area with clear overlaps with MSHT in terms of child criminal exploitation in particular. The OIASC has worked with the University of Sheffield and Public Health England to produce [research, guidance and an outline framework on a public health approach](#). As with other public health approaches, this is based upon taking a societal level approach, drawing on data to understand current trends, and seeking to prevent MSHT from happening in the first place, as well as appropriately designing and tailoring services to meet need. Other areas of interest for the Commissioner include better understanding instances of re-trafficking of victims of MSHT and promoting the ability for recovering victims to work to help support their recovery.
15. A major area of focus for the Commissioner in recent months has been the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill, which includes a number of proposed changes impacting victims of modern slavery. Many of these changes are of concern to organisations working with victims, as well as the Commissioner, with an [overall concern that the Bill conflates immigration and modern slavery issues in a way that is unhelpful to victims and risks unintended consequences](#). Although the Bill is not one that the LGA is active on, as we do not usually comment on issues linked to immigration, we are aware of the concerns and are following discussions on this.

Possible areas of discussion with the Commissioner

16. The Commissioner's three-year appointment ends in the coming months, and the meeting is a useful opportunity to hear her reflections on progress in tackling modern slavery in the UK. The Board may be interested to seek an independent perspective on the following issues:
- 16.1. The progress that councils are making in responding to this issue, and where the Commissioner feels most focus is required.
- 16.2. What ambitions the Commissioner has for the Home Office's new modern slavery strategy and future of the evolving NRM framework.
- 16.3. The parallels between the adoption of a public health approach to tackling modern slavery and to serious violence, and what can be learnt from work on serious violence.
- 16.4. Where councillors individually have been able to have the most impact on work to tackle modern slavery.

Implications for Wales

17. We are keeping colleagues in the WLGA aware of our work to undertake a survey and develop updated guidance. The LGA research team has offered to run our modern slavery survey in Wales if desired.

Financial Implications

18. None: the LGA's activity on modern slavery is undertaken within existing budgets.

Next steps

19. Officers will continue to progress planned work on modern slavery subject to any further direction from the Board.

Document is Restricted

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/s:

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

Action/s:

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

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Update Paper

National resilience strategy

1. The Government has published a [response](#) to the call for evidence on the new national resilience strategy. The LGA submitted evidence to the consultation, including the review of the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) and held a workshop with councillors to discuss relevant issues. The Government has concluded from the evidence submitted to the review that the CCA has served the responder community well but recognises that there is a need to strengthen information sharing agreements and update guidance on the Act. It notes that respondents recognised funding as a key issue and that significant input was received on the issue of including elected figures in resilience, although it is silent on how this will be addressed in future. Officers are due to catch up with officials from the Resilience and Emergencies Division in DLUHC on the next stages in the review shortly.
2. In December, the LGA also convened a group of councillors to provide input to the independent review of the Civil Contingencies Act being led by the National Preparedness Commission. The independent review is due to report shortly.

COVID-19 Plan B

3. Officers have been working with councils, LGA colleagues and government officials to monitor the implementation of plan B measures on vaccine certification, which were introduced in December. Councils are responsible for enforcing the requirement for vaccine certification at major events and premises such as nightclubs, alongside the requirement for most indoor venues to ensure customers and visitors are aware of the need to wear face masks. On 6 January, we hosted a webinar for around 400 delegates to discuss the implementation of the vaccine certification; evidence suggests this is going smoothly in both night time venues and events such as football games.

Drink spiking

4. On Wednesday 19th January, Cllr Jeanie Bell, one of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Licensing Champions, is providing oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee's inquiry on drink spiking. Cllr Bell will provide an overview of the role of licensing committees in regulating the night-time economy and promoting safeguarding, as well as sharing examples of councils demonstrating best practice. We have also submitted written evidence to this inquiry.

Licensing

5. Officers are developing new training materials to support councils and councillors with the operation of licensing committees:

- 5.1 **E-learning module:** We are refreshing our e-learning module to focus on licensing more specifically and cover the basics of what a licensing committee is, as well as detailing what a councillor's role as a committee member entails.
- 5.2 **Online videos:** This will be complemented by a series of online videos which will cover different licensing scenarios and encourage members to think about how they would approach each scenario, before being given advice on key points they should have considered. Officers have gone out to procurement for a supplier to deliver the videos.
- 5.3 **Leadership essentials:** We will be running our licensing leadership essentials course in Warwick from Thursday 10 March – Friday 11 March 2022. The course will focus on good quality decision making at licensing committee and how a good licensing committee is run. Attendees will be able to compare how their committee operates with other authorities and share ideas with other councillors.
6. We are holding our annual licensing conference virtually on the mornings of Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9 February 2022. The conference will provide an opportunity to examine the government's plans and expectations for licensing as well as exploring the challenges facing licensing authorities, highlighting innovative work being undertaken by councils and their partners and discussing how we can build on best practice. Cllr Bell is chairing the conference on Tuesday 8th February and Cllr Woodbridge is chairing the conference on Wednesday 9th February.

Taxi licensing legislation

7. The Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (Safeguarding and Road Safety Bill) is due to complete its stages in the House of Commons on Friday 21st January, before passing into the House of Lords for further scrutiny.
8. This Bill makes provision for councils to share information on recent adverse licensing history – specifically refusals, suspensions or revocations of licences - on a database such as NR3 and would require councils to check that database before reaching a licensing decision. We are expecting this Bill to complete its parliamentary stages and become law. Additionally, the MP who is responsible for the Bill, Peter Gibson MP, is speaking at the LGA's Annual Licensing Conference in February.
9. The Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Bill is due to have its Second Reading in the Commons on the 14th January. This Bill aims to ensure all disabled passengers receive appropriate assistance and are not charged extra or refused carriage when using taxis and private hire vehicles. Given where this Bill is in the parliamentary timetable, it is unlikely it will complete its stages and become law.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill - domestic abuse reporting and child abuse sentences

10. The LGA has briefed Peers during the Report Stage debates for the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Amendments have been agreed on Harpers Law (mandatory life sentences for those who kill an emergency worker in the course of their duty), data-sharing protocols, and the extension of the serious violence duty to include domestic abuse and sexual offences. The Bill continues in Report Stage until 17 January 2022 and will then proceed to Third Reading.
11. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have announced that as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, [anyone who causes or allows the death of a child or vulnerable adult in their care will face up to life imprisonment – rather than the current 14-year maximum](#). In addition, offences of causing or allowing serious physical harm to a child, and cruelty to a person under 16, will also incur tougher maximum penalties – increasing from 10 to 14 years respectively.
12. The Government also plans to add [new measures](#) to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which aim to improve support for victims of domestic abuse and improve the safety of women and girls. Under the changes, victims of domestic abuse will be allowed more time to report incidents of common assault or battery against them. Currently, prosecutions must commence within six months of the offence. This requirement will be moved to six months from the date the incident is formally reported to the police, with an overall time limit of two years from the offence to bring a prosecution. The Government also plans to introduce amendments to the Bill which will make taking non-consensual pictures of breastfeeding a specific offence.

Offensive Weapons Homicide Review

13. The Government has published draft statutory guidance on Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews. The new reviews are being considered as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

Drug strategy

14. The Government has announced an investment of £780 million in drug treatment to break the cycle of addiction as part of a 10-year drugs strategy. The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) said that all local authorities in England will receive new money for drug treatment and recovery over the next three years.

Rehabilitating offenders

15. The [Ministry of Justice has published a Prisons Strategy White Paper](#), which includes reforms to rehabilitate offenders and ultimately cut crime and keep streets safe. It

includes a new drive to get offenders into work, introducing a new job-matching service that pairs offenders up with vacancies in the community on release and dedicated employment advisors in prisons to help offenders find work.

Violence against Women and Girls

16. The National Police Chiefs' Councils has [published](#) a new framework launched in England and Wales, which sets out action required from every police force designed to make all women and girls safer. The framework has been developed under the leadership of the new National Police Coordinator for VAWG, Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth and informed by experts in policing, government and the VAWG sector.

Domestic abuse

17. Domestic abuse-related crimes represent a higher percentage of all crimes in December than the rest of the year. The [LGA joined forces with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs to urge people to look out for common signs of domestic abuse this Christmas](#). As well as a community effort to spot the signs of domestic abuse and report concerns, we are calling for greater investment in early intervention and prevention schemes that helps stop it from occurring in the first place.

Protect duty

18. In February 2021 the Government published a consultation on outline proposals for a new Protect duty, aimed at helping to protect public venues and spaces from terrorist attacks. There are likely to be a number of implications for local authorities from the introduction of a new duty - as owners and operators of venues; as employers of large organisations; and potentially in supporting its introduction with local partners and/or enforcing compliance. The Home Officials [presented to the Board on the proposals](#) and the [LGA submitted a response to the consultation](#) in July 2021.
19. The Government has now published [its response to the consultation](#), which summarises the feedback received. This noted that the majority of respondents believed that those responsible for publicly accessible locations should take appropriate and proportionate measures to protect the public from attacks; that venue capacity should determine when the duty applies (with different requirements for larger and smaller venues/organisations); that there was a need for accountability and clear roles and responsibilities; and that half of respondents were in favour of an inspectorate.
20. The Government's response concludes that taking measures to ensure an appropriate and consistent approach to protective security and preparedness at

public places is a reasonable ask, and that a partnership response to counter-terrorism beyond the security services and emergency services is key.

21. However, the response notes the challenges of determining which organisations should be in scope, and what would constitute proportionate security measures, including ensuring there is not an undue burden on organisations, particularly those which are smaller in size or staffed by volunteers, such as places of worship. It also notes that the Government's impact assessment for the duty and its requirements will also assess the question of costs and burdens further, and sets out the importance of providing a range of tools, guidance and support to ensure that the ask of those in scope of the duty is understandable and deliverable.
22. The response commits to using the feedback to shape the Government's thinking in developing draft legislation, which we expect over the coming months.

Law Commission's review of hate crime legislation

23. In September 2020 The Law Commission published a wide-ranging review of hate crime legislation and consultation seeking views on its proposals.
24. In our response to the review we set out councils' concerns about levels of hate crime in their areas; community frustration, both when harmful hate-fuelled activity takes place but does not cross a legal threshold, and with failures to enforce existing laws; welcomed efforts to amend hate crime legislation to remove discrepancies across the current protected characteristics, and supported proposals for misogyny to be recognised under the legislation; and emphasised how legislative approaches to tackling hate crime must be seen alongside wider initiatives to prevent hate incidents and counter extremism, with continued focus and investment in this broader space.
25. The Law Commission has now published [its response to the consultation](#), including a number of recommendations. These include that:
 - 25.1 any decisions to include, or not include further groups in hate crime laws should require demonstrable need, evidence of additional harm, and suitability alongside existing provision
 - 25.2 sex or gender should not be added as a protected characteristic for the purposes of aggravated offences and enhanced sentencing, but Government should undertake a review of the need for a specific offence of public sexual harassment
 - 25.3 age should not be added as a protected characteristic
 - 25.4 sex workers, people experiencing homelessness, philosophical beliefs or alternative subcultures should not be included in hate crime laws
 - 25.5 aggravated offences which currently exist for race and religion should be extended to all other existing characteristics in hate crime laws: sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity

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- 25.6 freedom of expression provisions should be retained in respect of religion and sexual orientation, and extended to gender critical views, cultural practices and discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult or abuse of countries and their governments; and for discussion and criticism of policy relating to immigration, citizenship and asylum
 - 25.7 for offences of stirring up hatred by the use of words or behaviour, an exception should apply for conduct that takes place in a “private conversation” (replacing a dwelling)
 - 25.8 the Government is invited to consider establishing a Commissioner for countering hate crime.
- 26 The Government is now considering its response to the recommendations.

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Building Safety Update

Purpose of report

Decision/discussion

Summary

This report updates members on developments around building safety work.

Recommendation

That members note the paper.

Action/s

Officers to incorporate members' views into our ongoing building safety work.

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Building Safety Update

Fire Protection Board

1. The Fire Protection Board (FPB) was established in 2019 with a task of overseeing the Building Risk Review (BRR). The BRR fulfilled a ministerial commitment to have the fire service inspect or assure every residential building over 18m by the end of 2021. It was always recognised that this was a challenging task, especially in London – and one made more complicated by the inaccurate data available on building locations and numbers.
2. Nevertheless, the fire service completed the task on time, which is a considerable achievement, making an important contribution to resident safety and collecting a significant amount data. The LGA has worked closely with the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Home Office and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to support this work through the FPB.

Secretary of State statement

3. On 11 January, Secretary of State Michael Gove made his long-awaited ‘reset’ [statement](#) on building safety. The statement set out four principles, listed below with the relevant policy decisions:
4. **A proportionate approach to building safety.** This refers to the Government’s belief that some landlords are either getting overly risk-averse fire risk assessments (from assessors who are afraid of being sued) or over-reacting to fire safety defects and imposing waking watches unnecessarily.
5. To prevent this
 - 5.1. the Government has withdrawn its Consolidated Advice Note and the BSI has published [PAS 9980 Fire risk appraisal of external wall construction and cladding of existing blocks of flats](#). The Government expects this to produce less of a pass/fail approach and a more proportionate one. PAS 9980 encourages a risk-based approach to assessing external wall systems rather than a compliance based approach referring to building regulation guidance and the Secretary of State clearly hopes this will promote his view that ‘medium-rise buildings are safe, unless there is clear evidence to the contrary’.
 - 5.2. The Secretary of State threatened to ‘take the power to review the governance of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors’, which he appears to see as supporting a disproportionately risk-averse approach.
 - 5.3. The Secretary of State called for ‘far greater use of sensible mitigations, such as sprinklers and fire alarms, in place of unnecessary and costly remediation work’. Our understanding is that the Building Safety Fund will be adapted to enable its use to pay for such measures, something the LGA has argued for consistently.
 - 5.4. Before Easter an indemnity scheme will be brought in for those conducting surveys on external wall systems. This is expected to encourage a less risk-averse, more

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proportionate approach (our understanding is that the indemnity will apply to those doing EWS1 surveys, NOT to those conducting fire risk assessments under the Fire Safety Order). This seems to be a significant move as the lack of Professional Indemnity Insurance has been a significant issue in recent years, although the failure to cover fire risk assessments may be an issue.

- 5.5. The Government will audit EWS1 assessments 'to ensure that expensive remediation is being advised only where it is necessary to remove a threat to life'. To get an idea of the scale of audit required, DLUHC figures from seven major lenders show that between April and September last year an EWS1 form or equivalent was required by lenders for 8 percent of 55,000 mortgage valuations for flats in the UK.
6. **Protect leaseholders.** This part of the speech got the most attention. The key pledge was that no leaseholder in a building over 11m (4 storeys) high will have to pay to fix cladding problems. The LGA has long called for this.
7. As a consequence, the loans scheme for leaseholders in 11-18m blocks, announced last year has been scrapped.
8. While this is welcome news there are a number of caveats:
- 8.1. The announcement does not cover non-cladding fire safety issues. When pressed on this point, the Secretary of State said he would extend the time limit in which leaseholders can sue developers for defective work from the 15 years in the current version of the Building Safety Bill (itself an extension from the seven years in the Defective Premises Act, DPA) to 30 years. The LGA has previously questioned whether this approach will work as the DPA has seen little use in the past.
- 8.2. The number of affected buildings in the 11-18m range is unknown.
- 8.3. The commitment that leaseholders don't have to pay in flats over 11m only applies to 'leaseholders living in their own homes', not to those sub-letting.
- 8.4. It is unclear whether the protection afforded to leaseholders will be extended to social housing providers, although, answering a question from Clive Betts MP, the Secretary of State suggested he wanted to avoid a negative impact on social housing. The LGA's [response](#) to the statement emphasized the injustice of leaving social housing tenants and those on the housing waiting list to pay for the failings of the industry, by allowing costs to fall on the housing revenue account.
- 8.5. Where will the money come from (see below)?
9. Leaseholders will also be helped by
- 9.1. lower insurance premiums which Lord Greenhalgh will work with the Insurance Industry to achieve.
- 9.2. protecting leaseholders against forfeiture and eviction as a result of cladding issues (in statute, we understand).
- 9.3. expanding the waking watch relief fund to cover flats below 18m.

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- 9.4. providing leaseholders with better information on remediation to leaseholders (this will be very welcome).
10. **Polluter pays.** Much attention in the run up to the speech was devoted to a [letter](#) from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury emphasising that there would be no new money from the taxpayer.
11. The Government wants to force developers to pay rather than leaseholders. The Secretary of State has [written](#) to ‘the residential property developer industry’ telling it to come up with some proposals (worth £4bn) by March or the Government will take action. This action will certainly include removing their right to participate in Government schemes such as help to buy and the existing developer levy and tax proposals, but Gove implied it will also include possible legal action and further tax.
12. If this approach fails to produce the requisite funds, the implication appears to be that DLUHC’s budget will bear the cost.
13. **Hold to account those who have put lives at risk.** In addition to the demand that the industry as a whole meets the additional cost of fixing buildings under 18m, the Secretary of State warned: ‘those who sought to profiteer from the consequences of the Grenfell tragedy: we are coming for you. I have established a dedicated team in my Department to expose and pursue those responsible. We will begin by reviewing Government schemes and programmes to ensure that, in accordance with due process, there are commercial consequences for any company that is responsible for this crisis and refusing to help to fix it.’

Going Forward

14. Taken together, the announcement delivers many of the measures the LGA called for in its [position statement on leaseholder costs](#) a year ago: leaseholder protection, including for those in blocks under 18m; resolution of any professional insurance barriers to industry capacity, establishment of a residential building safety equivalent to Flood Re and ‘a task force to take forward legal action against those responsible for the cladding crisis’.
15. Nevertheless there remain concerns over:
- 15.1. The impact on the housing revenue account and on housing associations if the industry fails to deliver more compensatory funding
 - 15.2. The ability of the Government to rectify any refusal by the industry to pay
 - 15.3. The capacity of the industry to deliver remediation
 - 15.4. The continuing supply of new unsafe buildings
 - 15.5. The funding and delivery of the new regulatory system
 - 15.6. The pace of remediation, given that the process of remediating buildings with ACM cladding is still not complete.
 - 15.7. The impact of non-cladding costs on leaseholders if the amendments to the DFA prove ineffective

- 15.8. The continuing lack of firm proposals on some of the pledges made (for example insurance costs)
- 15.9. Continuing delays to the commencement of the Fire Safety Act and uncertainty over the delivery of the Grenfell Tower recommendations (the Act would be commenced 'shortly' the Secretary of State said).
16. We expect that DLUHC will want councils and fire services to step up enforcement action is support of remediation, including on buildings in the 11-18m range. The LGA has invited members to get in touch if they need support and reminded them of the existence of the Joint Inspection Team which exists to support these efforts
17. To support councils and fire services in this work the LGA is engaged on a number of activities previously reported to the Board:
- 17.1. Hosting a document - *Principles for effective regulation of Fire Safety in purpose-built blocks of flats* - drawn up by sector experts led by the LGA and NFCC, to assist council private sector housing enforcement and the fire service to work together to inspect and enforce in relation to dangerous cladding. The text was completed in December last year and the document is in the process of being uploaded onto the LGA website.
- 17.2. Commissioning case studies of joint working. These will be commissioned by the time of the meeting and should be published by the end of March.
- 17.3. Discussing the funding of the Joint Inspection Team next year with DLUHC with a view to significantly expanding it. This is overseen by the JIT Programme Board.
- 17.4. Supporting the provision of a data system to bring together the information on buildings over 18m in a way that supports effective enforcement. LGA and NFCC have made the case to DLUHC for this resource to be developed as a priority and the response has been positive. A report will be going to the Fire Protection Board later this month.
- 17.5. Liaising with DLUHC who are planning to write to councils raising issues about Large Panel System buildings. This work has not progressed since the last report.
- 17.6. Preparing plans for sector led improvement in 2022-3 and delivering existing SLI plans. A Leadership Essentials course aimed at Housing portfolio holders will be delivered at the end of February.

Implications for Wales

18. 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

19. None for LGA.

Next steps

20. Officers to take forward any actions.

