

Meeting: Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Date: Thursday 22 September 2022

SSCB overview and policy priorities: 2022-23

Purpose of report

For direction.

Summary

This paper provides an overview of the issues the board has focused on in recent years, alongside proposals for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board's (SSCB) work programme for 2022/23. The proposals are based on corporate LGA priorities and proposals 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.

Recommendation/s

The board agree the priorities and work programme, subject to any agreed amendments.

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SSCB overview and policy priorities: 2022-23

Background

1. At the first meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB), members are asked to consider the policy priorities for the work programme for the coming year.
2. This paper provides an overview of the current status of the key issues that the Board's work programme has focused on in recent years, along with the proposed high-level priorities for each of the key thematic work areas for the Board for 2022/23. The work programme takes account of feedback and suggestions provided by Board members at the meeting in June 2022.
3. The LGA's 2019-22 business plan previously set out a range of cross-cutting priorities with the work programmes of individual board should contribute to:
 - Funding for local government
 - Adult social care, health and wellbeing
 - Narrowing inequalities and protecting communities
 - Children, education and schools
 - Places to live and work
 - Strong local democracy
 - Sustainability and climate action
 - Supporting councils.
4. The business plan is currently being updated and at the current time, it is not clear what the new priorities will be or where safer communities work will fit within them. We therefore plan on the basis of the broad headings of work which came under the narrowing inequalities and protecting communities/places to live and work headings in the previous plan:
 - Councils lead the way in shaping communities where people feel safe
 - Councils continue to play a leading role in the design and delivery of blue light and other services that help protect local government
 - Councils support strong communities through risk-based business friendly regulatory services.
5. It is proposed that the SSCB work programme should focus on the following six areas of activity:
 - Counter-terrorism, counter-extremism and cohesion
 - Community safety

- Blue light services, civil resilience and water safety
 - Regulatory services and licensing
 - Crematoria, funerals, coroners and registrars
 - Voluntary and community sector (VCS).
6. There are two proposed changes to last year's priorities, with the addition of the VCS and removal of building safety work. The VCS is an existing area of LGA policy work which it has been agreed corporately best fits within the remit of the SSCB. Conversely, although the team will continue to lead work on building safety, having undertaken this since the Grenfell Fire, it has been proposed to lead members that responsibility for this work will in future be overseen at board level by the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board and Fire Services Management Committee, with day to day responsibility lying with the LGA's Grenfell Working Group.
7. The following sections of this report summarise current issues in these six areas of activity, and propose suggested areas of work for 2022/23, building on the discussion with the board in June 2022.

Counter-terrorism, counter-extremism and cohesion

8. This strand of the Board's work covers counter-terrorism, including councils' role in delivering elements of the national CONTEST strategy – principally Prevent (stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism) and Protect (ensuring infrastructure and public places are less vulnerable to attack) – alongside wider efforts to tackle extremism, and build community cohesion and resilience. These can be particularly sensitive areas of work, and present a range of cross-cutting issues for local government.
9. The last few years have seen a number of different extremism and cohesion challenges coming to the fore and we expect that the anticipated economic downturn and cost of living pressures will provide further opportunities for extremists to exploit. Much of our work to support councils in response to and anticipation of future extremism and cohesion issues has been coordinated in partnership with the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE); a local authority network that enables the development of guidance, support and sharing of good practice in countering extremism across councils in England and Wales. The LGA has been funding the SIGCE's work since autumn 2020, and has agreed to continue to fund the network's work programme until March 2023, comprising a series of events, workshops, supporting the SIGCE's online Knowledge Hub portal, and the development of a number of resources.
10. In the counter-terrorism space, an independent review of Prevent has been ongoing since 2019. The outcomes, and government response, were originally anticipated last year, however we expect to see their publication this year. This

is likely to have implications for councils in terms of future delivery of the Prevent duty.

11. Legislation on a new Protect duty was announced as part of the Queen's speech in May 2022, which aims to introduce new security requirements for certain public locations and venues to ensure preparedness for and protection from terrorist attacks. This follows a consultation in 2021 on the scope of the duty, which the LGA fed into. We expect further details on the duty in the coming months, but it is likely to have a number of implications for councils beyond their existing role in the safety and security space; as owners and operators of venues in their own right; as employers of large organisations; and potentially a wider role in enforcing compliance. A pilot running with local authorities in the North East on security measures in Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs), although separate from the Protect duty, could also inform the development of its delivery model. We will continue to feed in sector views on the development of the duty, and monitor the progress of the PALs pilot.
12. Alongside the above, we are also expecting a refresh of the government's overarching CONTEST strategy and will look to feed into its review.
13. Dame Sara Khan was appointed as Independent Reviewer of Social Cohesion and Resilience last year, whose remit includes exploring the experiences of those targeted by extremists and other divisive actors; understanding the role of local authorities and public bodies in promoting cohesion and countering extremism; and supporting local communities and civil society to challenge extremism, develop community resilience and promote cohesion. The LGA responded to Dame Sara's call for evidence earlier this year, which is expected to inform recommendations to government. We will continue to work with Dame Sara's team, and reflect sector views as necessary, as the outcomes of this work are developed.
14. A refreshed hate crime action plan was anticipated last year but as yet has not been published. The current plan was published in 2016, with a further update in 2018 and covers the themes of prevention, responding to hate crime, increasing reporting, improving support to victims and building understanding. We will continue to work with officials to ensure sector views are fed into any further development and dissemination of a new hate crime plan or strategy.
15. In May 2021 the Government released a draft Online Safety Bill. The Bill covers a range of online harms, with a focus on illegal content and content that is harmful to children and proposes establishing a new regulatory framework for technology companies to impose a legal duty of care to improve the safety of their users. As the Bill continues its passage through the parliamentary process, we will continue to contribute to the LGA's lobbying activity.

Community safety

16. Our community workstream, incorporates a wide range of community safety issues including anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls and wider serious violence and crime issues, including modern slavery and organised crime. This is an always busy workstream, with several pieces of related legislation brought to Parliament in recent years.
17. The [Government's Levelling Up White Paper](#) identified a key milestone of reducing homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime, focused on the worst-affected areas, by 2030. The White Paper outlined some wider funding commitments including, an expected additional round of Safer Streets funding, with bids focused on the prevention of neighbourhood crimes like burglary, robbery and vehicle theft, anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls as its primary objectives. Community safety partnerships have been able to bid into subsequent funds, in collaboration with Police and Crime Commissioners, and are expected to be able to bid into the future funding rounds.
18. The Government also made a commitment to publish a new plan for anti-social behaviour and quality of life issues. [The Beating Crime Plan](#) set out that the Government wants to ensure that the flexible measures and powers available to local areas under the [Anti-social Behaviour \(ASB\), Crime and Policing Act 2014](#), including the community trigger, are being used swiftly and properly to stop those who cause the persistent anti-social behaviour that blights neighbourhoods. The LGA is a member of the Home Office's anti-social behaviour advisory board and will continue to engage with Government and partners on the forthcoming ASB plan.
19. The Levelling Up White Paper also announced that police in England and Wales will have the same powers to deal with noise complaints as are already available in Scotland. Legislation is expected to be brought forward when parliamentary time allows, but the provisions may have an impact on how councils currently investigate these complaints.
20. In terms of the wider community safety landscape, councils will be anticipating the Government's proposed in-depth review of Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales, initially announced in [Part 2 of the Police and Crime Commissioner Review](#). The LGA hosted a set of workshops with local government officers to gather their initial views on a potential review, and there was widespread agreement that local government would be keen to engage and for the LGA to make the case for investment and support for Community Safety Partnerships. The review is expected to be published in the Autumn 2022, but a date is still to be confirmed.
21. Councils will also be involved in the new drug partnerships, proposed in the Government's [10 Year Drug Strategy](#) which aims to prevent nearly 1,000 deaths, close over 2,000 county lines and contribute to preventing three-quarters

of a million crimes by the end of 2024-25. Areas have been asked to identify a senior responsible officer, and [guidance](#) has been issued to local areas on effective partnerships.

22. The serious violence duty, as outlined in the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022](#), is expected to commence from January 2023. This is dependent upon whether the Parliamentary timetable allows for the necessary statutory instrument to be passed in Autumn, but the expectation is for the duty to commence within the coming months. The LGA has attended the first Ministerial Oversight Group for the duty and will continue to provide feedback and engage on behalf of local authorities. We have held a number of workshops with local government officers to help shape the Government's statutory guidance, which is expected to be published in the Autumn 2022. The funding for the serious violence duty is still to be announced.
23. Councils continue to deliver the Part 4 [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) statutory duty to commission domestic abuse accommodation-based support and services for victims. The third year of new burdens funding (2023 – 2024) is still to be announced, and many councils will need to make funding decisions about the longevity of services in the coming months. The LGA will continue to hold best practice workshops with local authorities and press for the year three funding announcement to be made as soon as possible. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has also received the first data monitoring form on how the first year of funding has been allocated and spent. The Ministerial Oversight Group, of which the LGA is a member, will consider the results of the data monitoring form and will continue to share best practice.
24. The [draft Victims Bill](#) has completed its pre-legislative scrutiny stages and the Justice Committee is expected to publish its report and recommendations in the coming weeks. Following this, the Government will issue their response and there may be some amendments to the draft Bill as a result. The draft Bill will be introduced into Parliament and begin the process of Parliamentary scrutiny. Of most interest to councils is the proposed statutory duty for councils, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), and Integrated Care Boards, to collaborate on victim support services. We have highlighted the importance of this forthcoming duty aligning with the domestic abuse duty and the serious violence duty, in addition to any proposed reforms identified by the Community Safety Partnership Review.
25. On modern slavery, our work has been split between promoting awareness and understanding of modern slavery in councils, and supporting councils to strengthen and coordinate their work on this; and lobbying government to ensure councils are sufficiently resourced to support victims of modern slavery. We will shortly complete an overhaul and update of the council guidance on modern slavery which we originally developed with the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, with whom we work closely; this will be supported by a maturity matrix sending out how councils can develop their work on this issue.

26. The Queen's Speech announced that the Government would bring forward a Modern Slavery Bill. This is expected to bring councils within the scope of the existing requirement to produce a transparency in supply chains (TISC) statement setting out the measures organisations have taken to tackle modern slavery risks in their supply chains. It is also due to clarify in domestic law the support victims of modern slavery are entitled to, something that the LGA will need to take a close interest in. Councils have never received dedicated funding to support victims of modern slavery, and there can be challenges in providing support through already stretched services such as housing and social care, sometimes leading to criticism of councils by anti-trafficking organisations.
27. The LGA's new guidance aims to set out best practice work on modern slavery in all council services, as well as highlighting the importance of coordinating work on this issue given that it cuts across different council services.

Blue light services, civil resilience and water safety

28. On civil resilience matters, in previous years the LGA's work has centred on developing councillor guidance and training materials outlining the role of elected members in preparing for and responding to emergencies. We have also contributed to the Government's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, as well as the combined consultation on the new national resilience strategy and post-implementation review (PIR) of the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA).
29. Given the commitments made in the CCA PIR, we expect the new resilience strategy (originally due out in July) to cover issues including the accountability and assurance of multi-agency resilience activity at the local level. It will also focus on the role of Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) and LRF chairs, following recent concern that the Government is tasking LRFs with activity that extends beyond the responsibilities set out in the CCA and accompanying guidance, and Government pilots of funding LRFs directly to bolster their capacity. We do not expect the CCA will be amended for several years, with officials previously stating that the Government will initially focus on piloting new approaches, before making any legislative changes, to implement the strategy.
30. The Levelling Up White Paper set out an ambition to empower local leaders and communities and ensure all combined authorities have a clear role for them in local resilience, and we therefore anticipate that one area of focus will be democratic accountability in resilience issues, an issue that the LGA made clear should be a priority in our response to the resilience strategy consultation. Following two councillor roundtables we held to contribute to work on resilience, we have recently commissioned a series of case studies of member engagement in resilience work.
31. We also expect the resilience strategy to consider societal resilience, an issue that many resilience partners are focusing on. The LGA has supported the National Consortium for Societal Resilience, a group of LRFs, VCS partners and

academics looking at the steps that can be taken to build community resilience in the context of preparing for and responding to emergencies.

32. On fire, the Government's recent white paper on reforming the fire service, including a greater role for executive leaders such as Mayors, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners or county leaders in the fire service, will form a key part of the work of the Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) over the coming year. The FSMC meets on 23 September to agree its priorities for the forthcoming year and it is likely that the White Paper priorities of people, professionalism and governance will continue to be key themes for the FSMC.
33. The White Paper also contained proposals around entry requirements, and minimum standards, the creation of a Fire College, the introduction of a new oath, and a statutory Code of Ethics for the sector, amongst others. The FSMC responded to the White Paper consultation on behalf of the LGA. It is expected that the Government will respond in the Autumn. The potential impact on Police and Crime Panels will be of particular interest to the Board, with the possible expansion of their remit to include fire.
34. It is expected that there will also continue to be a particular focus on equality, diversity and inclusion by the FSMC, following His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service's (HMICFRS) inspection results that have found instances of poor practice within the sector, including two services that they say have got "toxic cultures". The third tranche of inspection will be published later this year or early next, as well as another expected State of Fire Report from the Chief Inspectorate.
35. The wildfires over the Summer once again highlighted the real-life impact of climate change and associated extreme weather events on the fire and rescue service. This incorporates not only wildfires but also flooding, winter storms and coastal erosion.
36. Industrial relations within the sector will continue to be a key issue, against the backdrop of the cost of living crisis, which might have an impact on the number of incidents that the service attends as well as the possibility of extreme weather events such as flooding.
37. On water safety, we are waiting on the publication of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's review into the responsibility for beach safety. We will respond to the review when it is published, working alongside the LGA's coastal special interest group. Additionally, we will continue to support the annual world drowning prevention day campaign and continue to highlight the importance of water safety knowledge.

Regulatory services and licensing

38. In licensing, we have a number of long standing policy asks which have risen up the agenda again in recent months.

39. Our submission to the currently delayed Gambling Act Review White Paper focused on our call for greater powers for councils to be able to approve, or reject, applications for local premises, as well as raising concerns about the aim to permit gambling premises. With a number of board members in previous years raising concern about gambling related harm, we have also previously focused on this issue, developing [guidance on taking a whole council approach to tackling gambling related harms](#) which we will shortly be updating.
40. On taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) licensing, the LGA has for many years called for a comprehensive reform Bill to modernise outdated legislation which hasn't kept pace with developments in the taxi and PHV market. Although the government is in theory committed to introducing a reform bill when Parliamentary time allows, there has to date been no indication that this is likely to happen. In recent years we have seen some improvements to the existing framework through changes including statutory safeguarding standards for drivers; consultation on best practice guidance; and a successful private members' Bill which mandated use of a database the LGA had set up to enabling cross-boundary sharing of licence revocations and refusals. We are now expecting that the planned Transport Bill may include provisions on national minimum standards, national enforcement powers and a national licensing database, although we have some concern that these piecemeal changes may make it less likely that the Government will introduce wholesale reform. Of immediate concern is the fact that the Levelling Up White Paper contained a proposal to consult on transferring control of taxi and PHV licensing to both combined authorities and upper-tier authorities, something SSCB indicated it was firmly opposed to. We will continue to engage with officials at the Department for Transport on their plans for bringing forward this consultation.
41. In recent years, an area of focus has been pavement licensing, following the Government's introduction of a temporary pavement licensing regime to promote outdoor hospitality during Covid. The Government subsequently announced that it intended to make the new approach permanent, and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill includes provisions to do so. The LGA has worked closely with officials at the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure the Bill includes provisions which increase the licence fee cap, have a longer consultation and determination period, and strengthen enforcement powers for licensing authorities, following feedback from councils about issues with the temporary regime. The Bill will be before the Bill Committee shortly after Parliament returns from recess and we will be engaging with this Bill as it completes its parliamentary stages.
42. On alcohol licensing, our long standing asks are for a public health objective and localised licensing fees. Covid boosted the case for a public health objective, and this is something LGA officials have recently discussed with DLUHC and Department of Health and Social Care officials; we continue to lobby the Home Office on this pending confirmation of Ministerial appointments. We are also anticipating that the Home Office will review the Section 182 guidance which

accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 in the coming months. Through this work, we will make the case for localised licensing fees to tackle the fee deficit licensing authorities incur through administering the Licensing Act.

43. Councillor licensing training has been a priority following a House of Lords select committee report that was critical of the operation and decisions of some licensing committees and called for a more consistent approach (as well as to merge planning and licensing committees, although the Government rejected this). During the previous Board cycle, LGA officers worked on a package of measures to support officers with the process of inducting new members onto licensing committees. We plan on launching our new licensing e-learning module and our licensing scenario videos in the coming weeks, as well as running two licensing leadership essentials courses in this Board cycle.
44. The LGA has been warning for several years of the risks to wider regulatory services capacity (specifically environmental health and trading standards) arising from cuts to local government funding. The prominent role these services played during Covid helped highlight this within Government, although disappointingly the recommendations of the its task and finish group on regulatory services (including for dedicated apprenticeship funding) were not taken forward. LGA and other survey data continues to highlight the challenges in recruiting skilled professionals, as well as the limited pipeline of officers coming through. We are continuing to engage with the LGA workforce team and relevant professional bodies to highlight the risks of this issue and need for central funding, as well as to identify what steps councils can take to try to mitigate the issues themselves. We have recently developed a councillor handbook on public protection, and also plan on producing guidance on lessons learnt on bringing regulatory services into a unitary authority or shared service, and on the different enforcement structures in regulatory services.

Crematoria, funerals, coroners and registrars

45. The work around crematoria, funerals, coroners and registrars has been mainly dominated by responding to media inquiries and providing support to coroners managers and registrars when necessary.
46. In July 2022 the Law Commission responded to their consultation on overhauling weddings law. The consultation took place during Winter 2020, and the Board responded to the consultation, working with the National Panel for Registrars. The submission stated that the board wanted to universal civil marriage but failing that the Board were supportive of the proposals around universal civil preliminaries. The Board expressed concerns regarding the use of the test of “dignity” for a wedding venue, and objected to its inclusion. In responding to the consultation the Law Commission is not supporting universal civil preliminaries and has continued to say that wedding venues should be “safe and dignified”. We will continue to work with the National Panel for Registrars to respond to engage in this work further.

47. Research into the of the provision of Public Health Funerals was last conducted by the LGA in 2011. The issue of public health funerals has been picked up by the media in the past, with criticisms of councils' practices. This is an issue it would be helpful to revisit to gain a greater picture of the impact of the pandemic etc on public health funeral provision.

Voluntary and community sector

48. From the September 2022 Board cycle, the SSCB will provide the strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in the promotion of stronger and more inclusive communities through improving strategic relationships with the voluntary sector and community groups – in line with LGA priorities. Successful partnerships between councils and their local voluntary and community sector (the "VCS") are the bedrock of successful places. Voluntary and community sector organisations not only deliver key local public services, but they also strengthen community cohesion and increase civic participation.
49. We have prioritised three policy areas to focus on for the financial year 2022/23. The first is improving strategic relationships between councils and their local VCS, the second is supporting councils to embed more innovative community engagement practices, and the third is addressing funding and resources pressures faced by local VCS and council partners. The research and evidence gathered through these workstreams will be used shape the LGA's position on the community spaces and relationship strategy currently being developed by DHLUC as well as other relevant community-based policy.

Proposal

50. A proposed work programme is set out in the table at annex one.
51. Board members' views on the proposed programme, and any gaps, would be very welcome.
52. Alongside the proposals in the work programme, the team will continue to support other core areas of work, detailed below.

Legislation and parliamentary work

53. There are a number of pieces of legislation relevant to the Board's priorities which the team will brief on, including the Victim's Bill, expected Modern Slavery Bill, Protect Duty Bill, elements of the Transport, Levelling Up and Regeneration and Public Order Bills, as well as the Kept Animals Bill and Digital Markets, Competition and Consumer Bill.
54. We will continue our engagement with relevant select committee inquiries as they are announced and with All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) who are active on safer communities issues.

Conferences, events and media

55. Since the transition to virtual events, the team has put on a wide programme of webinars, covering domestic abuse issues, county lines, anti-social behaviour and the community trigger, GRT engagement, modern slavery, police and crime panels and fire service issues. We have a number of other webinars being planned for the coming months and are also planning in-person safer community safety, licensing and fire events at the end of 2022/early 2023.
56. The team will continue its work with the media team to produce a wide variety of media content, reflecting both our key lobbying objectives and the newsworthy issues council's protective services deal with.

Implications for Wales

57. We will work with colleagues at the Welsh LGA to identify areas where our work will be applicable to Wales in terms of non-devolved issues. Where work relates to devolved issues our focus will be on English authorities, with the WLGA leading on work in Wales, but we will share our work with WLGA should they wish to use it as a basis for Welsh specific work of their own.

Financial Implications

58. The work priorities identified for 2022/23 will be delivered within the planned staffing budget, which includes dedicated capacity to support work on cohesion, extremism and Prevent.
59. Additional supporting projects may be commissioned subject to funds being available from a small directorate / team budget.

Equalities implications

60. All board papers are now required to outline the equalities implications of the proposals they put forward, to help embed the equalities approaches the LGA's members are also considering.
61. Officers will therefore consider the equalities aspects of individual elements of the work programme as these are developed. Board members are also encouraged to consider this as an issue they may wish to scrutinise.

Next steps

62. Officers to take forward the work programme as approved by the board, reporting on progress at regular intervals through lead members' meetings and board updates.

Proposed SSCB work programme 2022/23
<i>Counter-terrorism, counter-extremism and cohesion</i>
Continue to lobby Government on the importance of retaining investment in measures to prevent extremism and build resilience
Deliver a programme of support to councils on tackling extremism through the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of roundtables and webinars for practitioners to share emerging challenges and facilitate support • Case studies and guidance on tackling extremism and hate crime to capture good practice • Facilitating academic support to councils on tackling extremism
Provide training for elected members on delivering the Prevent duty, tackling extremism and building cohesion
Lobby around the Online Safety and draft Protect Duty Bills, and the CONTEST strategy and hate crime action plan reviews, to ensure they reflect sector views.
<i>Community safety</i>
Publish updated council guidance and maturity matrix and develop a further round of awareness raising events on modern slavery
Influence the development of the Modern Slavery Bill and help support the implementation of the new modern slavery strategy
Continue to support councils on the implementation of their domestic abuse duty (outlined in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021)
Lobby on the draft Victims Bill as it passes through Parliament, and provide support to local authorities on any proposed new duties.
Support councils with the implementation of the forthcoming serious violence duty and Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews, outlined in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.
Continue to hold best practice sessions on tackling anti-social behaviour, and support 2023 ASB Awareness Week.

Provide good practice case studies on community safety issues, such as VAWG, domestic abuse, serious violence – to help support councils with the forthcoming duties.
Engage with the Home Office and partners on tackling serious and organised crime – continue working with the APCC on any joint work related to the Government’s SOC strategy.
Respond to the Government’s forthcoming Community Safety Partnership review and ensure local government views are fed-in throughout each stage of the process.
Work with the Department for Health and Social Care on the implementation of the 10 year Drug Strategy, and provide support on the implementation of proposed drug partnership arrangements.
Continue engaging with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the Travellers Site Fund – making the case for increased funding to help councils improve current transit sites.
<i>Blue light services and civil resilience</i>
Respond to the Fire Reform White Paper and the outcome of inquiries such as those into the Grenfell Tower fire and the attack at Manchester Arena.
Respond to the publication of the national resilience strategy and help shape future pilots and activities on local resilience work
Support members and officers to strengthen council activity on resilience, including approaches to community resilience
<i>Licensing and regulation</i>
Respond to the Gambling Act Review White Paper and update the LGA’s guidance on gambling harms, working with the APCC on joint local work on this issue.
Continue to make the case for localisation of alcohol licence fees.

Work with the Department for Transport on taxi licensing reform and with DLUHC on pavement licensing provisions in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
Work with the LGA workforce team and professional bodies to make the case for dedicated support to boost regulatory services capacity and the professional pipeline
Support councils by sharing best practice on a range of issues involving fees and charges, structures and reorganisation
Hold two further leadership essentials in licensing courses
<i>Crematoria, coroners and registrars</i>
Respond to press and related media work related to the death management processes including crematoria and registrars' service.
Conduct further research into the provision of public health funerals
<i>Voluntary and community sector</i>
Influence the development of the Community Spaces and Relationship Strategy currently being drafted by DHLUC
Deliver a programme of support for councils to improve community engagement practices and partnership working with the voluntary and community sector