

Meeting: Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Date: 22 September 2022

Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2022/23: Terms of Reference, Membership and Board Champions

Purpose of report

For information and approval.

Summary

This report sets out how the Safer and Stronger Communities Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to note the Board's membership, agree its Terms of Reference, member champions and Equalities Advocate for the 2022/23 year.

Recommendations

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

- i. agrees its Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**);
- ii. formally notes the membership for 2022/23 (**Appendix B**);
- iii. notes the dates of the future meetings (**Appendix C**);
- iv. reviews and notes the member champions role description (**Appendix D**); and
- v. nominate members for the champions roles set out in paragraph 17.

Action

Any actions will be undertaken, as directed by Members.

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Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

2022/23 Terms of reference and membership

3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's Terms of Reference, Membership and future meetings dates are set out at **Appendixes A, B and C** respectively for agreement and noting.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board Lead Members

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
5. The Lead Members for 2022/23 are:
 - 5.1 Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Chair
 - 5.2 Cllr Lewis Cocking, Vice-Chairman
 - 5.3 Cllr Heather Kidd, Deputy Chair
 - 5.4 Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair

The Safer and Stronger Communities team

6. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with policy colleagues and a designated Member Services Officer being those who you are likely to have regular contact with.

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7. The Safer and Stronger Communities team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities, and also a number of other issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA media team and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on community safety issues in the media; directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.
8. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance of each engagement.
9. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

Communications and Events

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. The team arranges regular conferences (currently in webinar format), with the following sessions currently planned and are others likely to be scheduled over the course of the year:
 - 11.1 27 September 2022 – Police and Crime Panel webinar
 - 11.2 18 October 2022 – Modern slavery webinar
 - 11.3 8 February 2023 – Annual Licensing conference
 - 11.4 6-8 March 2023 – Annual Fire conference
12. Alongside this, the team arranges training and learning events in partnership with the LGA's improvement team. Current planned events are as follows:
 - 12.1 18 October/14 December 2022, 1 February/15 March 2023 – Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE) practitioner roundtables
 - 12.2 19-20 October – Licensing Leadership Essentials
 - 12.3 9-10 November – Fire Leadership Essentials
13. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, monthly e-bulletins, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board outside body appointments

14. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities. Appointments should as far as possible be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA; as an LGA representative. Members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.
15. At the current time, there are no standing outside body appointments for the Board to appoint to, although some individual champion roles may include participation in task and finish pieces of work or one-off meetings.
16. In the event that a Board member is required to represent the LGA on an outside body, officers will liaise with lead members to ensure a nominee from the Board is identified. In these circumstances, Members appointed to represent the LGA on an outside body are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

Member Champions

17. For 2022/2023 the following member champion roles have been submitted to lead members for approval. Political groups are asked to agree their nominations for these roles in their pre-meetings:

- 17.1 Domestic abuse/Violence Against Women and Girls
- 17.2 Licensing and regulatory services
- 17.3 Modern slavery
- 17.4 Water safety
- 17.5 Anti-social behaviour
- 17.6 Civil resilience

18. A role description for member champions is set out at **Appendix D**.

19. As the Board's work programme develops through the year, there will of course be scope to bring in members to specific aspects of this as required and to create new champion roles if needed as work progresses.

Financial Implications

20. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.