

Board Work Programme 2015/16

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Following the discussion of priorities at the last Board meeting, this paper sets out the work programme for the Board over 2015/16.

Recommendation

Lead Members are asked to consider and comment on the balance and prioritisation of activity in the work programme.

Action

Officers to amend the work programme in light of Lead Members' comments.

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Board Work Programme

Background

1. At its meeting in September the Board considered its priorities for 2015/16 and agreed six overarching themes:

- 1.1. Regulation;
- 1.2. Blue light services collaboration;
- 1.3. Public Protection;
- 1.4. Policing and Community Safety;
- 1.5. Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion; and
- 1.6. Crematoria and coroners.

During the discussion members also raised a number of additional issues to be considered for inclusion in the Board's work including the social value local authorities provide and the impact their work has on the cost pressures faced by other public services, making the case for locally set licensing fees and charges, tackling modern slavery, addressing the increase in violent and knife crime and the costs of coroners' services.

2. These additional issues have been incorporated into the work programme for the Board set out below. As Fire Services Management Committee agreed a work programme at its meeting on 25 September which details the work it will be undertaking to increase collaboration with the other emergency services and health, the table does not include the detail of work being undertaken on blue light services collaboration.

Work Programme

Theme	Project	Outcomes	Timescales
Regulation	LGA review of Trading Standards to inform discussions about the future delivery of the service.	The review informs the LGA's response to the review of trading standards being conducted by BIS and BRDO.	Workshop held in October. Report to December Board.
	Build the evidence base for the localisation of licensing fees and use this to make the case for locally set fees.	Make the case to the Home Office to implement the provisions in the PRSRA 2011 allowing locally set fees.	CIPFA commissioned to survey councils – report expected in December. Updated guide on fee-setting for councils by December.
	Take forward our proposals in Rewiring Licensing to reform the licensing process including working with Cornwall.	Councils are able to implement the changes proposed in Rewiring Licensing.	Ongoing.
	Make the case for the	The government brings	Ongoing.

	reform of taxi and PHV licensing.	in legislation to reform taxi and PHV licensing.	
	Continue to support councils around licensing.	Councils are better placed to implement effective licensing regulation.	Taxi and PHV licensing event in October. Home Office/LGA tax workshop in November. Updated e-learning module for councillors by December. Roll-out of E-CINS database for scrap metal licensing over 2016. Annual licensing conference February 2016. New Licensing Act 2003 handbook for councillors by February 2016.
	Continue to support councils around gambling licensing.	Support councils to implement locally appropriate gambling regulation.	Support the LGA Selector Panel's consideration of Newham's SCA application - November 2015. Disseminate the findings of LGA sponsored gambling research led by Westminster and Manchester – Spring 2016.
	Open for Business vision for regulatory services.	Councils are better placed to support the growth agenda and the case for better regulation as against deregulation is made to BIS and BRDO.	Enterprise Bill amendments tabled at Committee stage in October/November on primary authority fees. Free member conference on supportive regulation scheduled for January 2016.
	Investigatory Powers Bill.	Councils retain the ability to access communications data.	Draft Bill published in November.

Public Protection	Support the National FGM Centre established with Barnardo's.	Councils' response to FGM cases reported to them is strengthened and cultural practices around FGM change.	Joint conference on mandatory reporting in October. Develop plans for financial sustainability of the Centre.
	Domestic abuse and VAWG.	Influence the refreshed VAWG Strategy and DCLG review of domestic abuse services so they support locally determined packages to assist victims. Provide councils with examples of good practice of pooling budgets and joint commissioning of services.	The draft VAWG strategy has been commented on and views submitted to the DCLG review of domestic abuse services. Some examples have been gathered, with further examples gathered to enable case studies to be published in Spring 2016.
	Child Sexual Exploitation and modern slavery.	Councils are supported in tackling CSE and modern slavery through best practice guidance and events.	Taxi and PHV licensing event in October. Home Office/LGA taxi workshop in November. Best practice guidance to be produced in Spring 2016.
	Improve the public protection response from councils.	Explore how councils can better identify common issues and features across public protection cases and the role of community safety partnerships in this.	Paper produced for early summer 2016.
	Respond to the Victim's Code consultation.	Councils are able to provide proportionate and targeted support to victims of crime.	MoJ working with four trial councils to consider the impact of the Victim's Code on councils.
Policing and Community Safety	Continue to support police and crime panels.	Panels are able to effectively scrutinise and influence police and crime commissioners.	e-training package for panel members available in December. Event for panel members and officers in February 2016.
	Cyber and cyber facilitated crime.	Councils are supported with best practice	Currently developing proposals for guidance

		guidance to prevent and tackle cybercrime across a range of areas.	and best practice. Expected Spring 2016. The LGA's Productivity team will be holding an event on reducing councils' exposure to cyber attacks in Spring 2016.
	Violent and knife crime.	Councils are able to address increases in violent and knife crime.	Currently developing proposals to assist councils. Expected Spring 2016.
	Support the Psychoactive Substances Bill, and participate in Home Office preparations for implementation of the legislation in 2016.	Councils are provided with the powers they need to be able to address the sale of new psychoactive substances, and are well placed to use them once they are available.	The Bill is expected to get Royal Assent at the end of 2015, with implementation in the Spring.
	Hold three regional seminars on dealing with extreme weather events for senior figures in councils.	Councils are better placed to respond to extreme weather events.	Workshops booked for February 2016.
Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion	Make the case for councils to receive the funding they need to address Prevent, counter extremism and promote integration.	Government makes funding available for councils to deliver counter-terrorism and counter-extremism work.	The matter has been raised with the Security Minister and OSCT and further representations will be made.
	Support councils implement the new Prevent duty through a support package that compliments support from the Home Office and DCLG.	Councils in non-priority areas are assisted in implementing the duty.	Elements of a programme are under development. Expected Spring 2016.
	Support councils in responding to the Counter Extremism strategy and influence implementation of new provisions in the Extremism Bill.	Councils are better placed to counter extremist activity in their communities and smoothly implement the Extremism Community Trigger.	A report on the Strategy will be brought to the December Board, and the Bill is expected before the end of the Year.
	Engage with Louise Casey's review of opportunities and integration.	Influence the recommendations and conclusion of the interim and final reports, and	Casey review discussed at the December Board meeting.

		the design of the Cohesive Communities Programme.	Interim review report expected early in 2016.
Crematoria and coroners	Produce guidance for councillors on scrutinising the provision of funeral services.	Local authority cremation practice for infant and fetal remains addresses the issues raised in the review of the Emstrey crematoria in Shropshire.	April 2016.
	Respond to the MoJ and CLG reviews of coroners' services, infant and fetal remains cremation and provision of crematoria facilities.	Influence the conclusions of the three reviews to ensure that the cost pressures associated with providing these services are not increased.	Dates for the reviews have yet to be announced – though we have already provided comments to CLG on issues related to crematoria facilities.
	Respond to media stories on cost of funerals and the increase in public health funerals.	Explain the cost pressures behind the increase in the cost of local authority funerals.	Ongoing.
	With the Community Wellbeing Portfolio respond if necessary to proposals to transfer social fund funeral grants to local authorities.	Ensure that there is not a transfer of costs from DWP to local authorities.	Respond to any proposals from DWP.

Next steps

3. Lead Members are asked to:

- 3.1. Consider and comment on the balance and prioritisation of activity in the work programme.

Financial Implications

4. None.