

Report from the Fire Services Management Committee

1. The Fire Services Management Committee met on 15 November 2010 at Local Government House to discuss a number of issues, which Members may feel can also be usefully raised with the Minister at the Commission meeting. These issues included:

Spending Review – impact on Fire and Rescue Service

2. Members agreed that the Spending Review settlement was tough on Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), but noted that the back-loading of spending cuts was helpful in allowing FRAs greater time to shape the future of service provision. Members also commented that there were a number of areas in which FRAs could reduce spending, including, for example, increased use of charging and trading and increased staffing flexibility.
3. Members agreed that the LG Group should have a role in promoting and sharing best practice among Fire and Rescue Services in identifying and realising savings, as detailed in item 2 of this agenda.

Fire Futures

4. Members said that there was an element of disappointment in how the Government's Fire Futures project has proceeded to date, but emphasised the need for continued LG Group involvement.
5. Committee Members agreed that the key points for the LG Group to make were: the importance of the General Power of Competence for all FRAs; and exploration of differential precepting and the role this could play in facilitating mergers of FRAs; and a restatement of the LG Group / CFOA position on national functions.
6. Members may wish to emphasise these points with the Minister at the Commission meeting.

FiReControl

7. Members agreed, in light of the increased uncertainty over the viability of the FiReControl project, that Fire and Rescue Authorities should pursue contingency arrangements in the event of FiReControl not being pursued.

Item 4

Pensions – input to Independent Public Services Pensions Commission

8. Members agreed that a cross-party group be formed to put together a FSMC position to contribute to the wider LG Group submission to the Independent Public Services Pensions Commission. The group met on 30 November 2010, and those Members present at the meeting may wish to inform the Commission of discussions held.

Date of next meeting

9. The next meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee will take place on **Monday 24 January 2011 at 11am** in **Local Government House**.