

Fire Commission

Agenda

Friday 10 December 2010
10.45

Bevin Hall (Ground Floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Fire Commission
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for visitors

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Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.

LG Group Fire Commission 10 December 2010

There will be a meeting of the **LG Group Fire Commission at 10.45am on Friday 10 December 2010 in Bevin Hall (Ground Floor)**, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Group Meetings

Conservative Group (Bevin Hall) (Ground floor)
Labour Group (Smith Square Room 1) (Ground Floor)
Lib Dem Group (Smith Square Room 2) (Ground Floor)
Independent Group (Meeting Room 2) (2nd Floor)

Tea and coffee will be provided in Political Group Meetings from 9.45am.

Lunch will be provided following the meeting.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Labour: Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative: Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: angela.page@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: evelyn.mark@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Location

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

Contact

Paul Johnston (Tel: 020 7664 3031; e-mail: paul.johnston@local.gov.uk)

Hotels: The LG Group has negotiated preferential rates with two hotels close to Local Government House – the **Novotel** (Tel: 020 7793 1010), which is just across Lambeth Bridge, and the **Riverbank Park Plaza** (Tel: 020 7958 8000), which is along the Albert Embankment. When making a booking, please quote the LGA and ask for the government rate.

http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/gbriver?s_cid=se.bmm2175

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1785-novotel-london-waterloo/index/shtml>

LG Group Fire Commission 2010/11

04.10.10

Fire Commission

All Fire Authorities in full or corporate membership of the Association have the right to representation and voting on this Commission in accordance with Article 10 (and Schedule 1) of the LG Group Constitution, Standing Orders and Political Conventions.

Additional members from fire authorities appointed as necessary by the political groups to ensure political balance as provided by Article 9.3.

Nominating Body	Authority	Member	Party
Combined Fire Authorities	Avon	Peter Abraham	Con
"	Bedfordshire & Luton	Sian Timoney	Lab
"	Royal Berkshire	Paul Bryant	Con
"	Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	David Rowlands	Con
"	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	Roy Pegram	Con
"	Cheshire	David Topping	Con
"	Cleveland	Jean O'Donnell	Lab
"	Derbyshire	David Wilson	Con
"	Devon & Somerset	Mark Healey	Con
"	Dorset	Chris Bulteel	Con
"	Durham & Darlington	Gordon Tennant	Lab
"	East Sussex	Ted Kemble	Con
"	Essex	Anthony Hedley	Con
"	Hampshire	Royston Smith	Con
"	Hereford & Worcester	Peter Jones CBE	Con
"	Humberside	Brian Jefferies	Lib/Dem
"	Kent and Medway	Bryan Cope	Con
"	Lancashire	David O'Toole	Con
"	Leicestershire	Peter Roffey	Con
"	North Yorkshire	John Fort	Con
"	Nottinghamshire & City of Nottingham	Darrell Pulk	Lab
"	Shropshire & Wrekin	Stuart West	Con
"	Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire	Len Bloomer	Con
"	Wiltshire & Swindon	Robert Hall	Con
County Councils	Cumbria	Gary Strong	Con
"	Gloucestershire	Will Windsor-Clive	Con

“	Hertfordshire	Keith Emsall	Con
“	Lincolnshire	Peter Robinson	Con
“	Norfolk	Harry Humphrey	Con
“	Northamptonshire	Andre Gonzalez de Savage	Con
“	Northumberland	Alan Thompson	Lib/Dem
“	Oxfordshire	Judith Heathcoat	Con
“	Suffolk	Rae Leighton	Con
“	Surrey	Kay Hammond	Con
“	Warwickshire	Richard Hobbs	Con
“	West Sussex	Peter Evans	Con
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority		Brian Coleman	Con
“		Maurice Heaster	Con
“		Tony Arbour	Con
“		David Cartwright	Con
“		Navin Shah	Lab
“		Colin Aherne	Lab
“		Terry Stacy	Lib/Dem
“		Simon Walsh	Mayoral Appointee
Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Authorities	Greater Manchester	Paul Shannon	Lib/Dem
“	“	John Bell	Con
“	“	Jack Walton	Con
“	Merseyside	Tony Newman	Lab
“	“	Jimmy Mahon	Lab
“	South Yorkshire	James Andrews	Lab
“	“	Paul Lakin	Lab
“	Tyne & Wear	Tom Wright	Lab
“	“	Nick Forbes	Lab
“	West Midlands	David Hinton	Lab
“		Neil Eustace	Lib/Dem
“	“	John Alden	Con
“	West Yorkshire	David Ridgway	Lib/Dem
“	“	Peter Harrand	Con
“	“	Andrea McKenna	Lab
Unitary	Isle of Wight	Barry Abraham	Con
Welsh Fire Authorities	Mid & West Wales Fire	<i>Vacany</i>	
	North Wales Fire	Sharon Frobisher	Con
	South Wales Fire	Anthony Ernest	Con
Balancing Members			
Conservative (5)			
	Buckinghamshire CC	Steven Adams	
	Cornwall FRA	Lance Kennedy	
	Essex FA	Ann Holland	

	Royal Berkshire FA	Angus Ross	
	Wiltshire & Swindon FA	Mike Bawden	
Labour (13)			
	Cheshire FA	John Joyce	
	Cleveland FA	Brenda Forster	
	Gtr Manchester FRA	Fred Walker	
	Merseyside FRA	Dave Hanratty	
	Merseyside FRA	Les Byrom	
	Durham & Darlington FRA	Jane Brown	
Liberal Democrat (14)			
	Dorset CC	David Milsted	
	Essex CC	Tom Smith-Hughes	
	Gloucestershire CC	Jeremy Hilton	
	Hampshire FRA	Roger Price	
	Merseyside FRA	Eddie Clein	
	North Yorkshire FRA	Caroline Seymour	
	Nottingham & City of Nottingham FRA	Alex Foster	
Independent (7)			
	Wiltshire FA	Christopher Newbury	

Agenda

LG Group Fire Commission

10.45, Friday 10 December 2010

Bevin Hall (Ground Floor), Local Government House

For discussion

	Item	Page
1.	Address from the Fire Minister – the future for local fire services The Commission will be addressed by Communities and Local Government Under Secretary of State, Bob Neill MP. There will then be an opportunity to put questions to the Minister on priority issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spending Review- Fire Futures- FiReControl- National Functions	11
2.	Meeting the spending cut challenge – delivering services, delivering savings. Discussion to include the outcomes of the spending review and where to look for efficiencies.	17
3.	The Fire Industry Association The Commission will be addressed by Graham Ellicott, Fire Industry Association	23

For information / noting

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4.	Report from the Fire Services Management Committee	27
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Date of Next Meeting: Friday 11 February 2011, 11.00, Local Government House

Item 1

The future for local fire services

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

The Commission will be addressed by Communities and Local Government Under Secretary of State, Bob Neill MP. There will then be an opportunity to put questions to the Minister on priority issues for Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to receive the presentation from the Minister and comment upon any areas of interest.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer: Caroline Green
Position: Senior Policy Consultant, LGA
Phone no: 020 7664 3359
E-mail: caroline.green@local.gov.uk

The future for local fire and rescue services

Background

1. This paper gives an update on recent developments in priority areas of the Fire Services Management Committee's and Fire Commission's work to inform the discussion with the Minister.

Spending Review

2. As part of the Spending Review published on 20 October, the Government announced that the formula grant to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) will be reduced by 25% over the four year spending review period and that the cuts will be back-loaded to 2013-14 and 2014-15. At the time of writing, the Local Government Finance Settlement has not yet been published, so we do not know how these reductions will affect budgets at individual FRA level.
3. The back-loading of the reductions is something that the LGA argued for and will be important in giving FRAs time to implement the significant changes that will be required to deliver reductions. However our response to the Spending Review highlighted that the scale of the cuts mean there will inevitably be implications for delivery of frontline fire services.
4. Following the spending review the LGA has been lobbying for urgent clarity about the level of cuts to allow FRAs to begin to plan reductions and to ensure that FRAs are granted the powers they need to respond to spend cuts whilst protecting front line services. In particular, we have been lobbying to ensure that a General Power of Competence will apply to all FRAs to allow more flexibility over charging and trading.

Fire Futures

5. The Fire Futures review was initiated by the Fire Minister to consider how the Fire and Rescue Service may need to evolve over the coming years. The work has been structured around 4 workstreams:
 - 5.1 *the role of the fire and rescue service and how it might be better delivered*
 - 5.2 *efficiency, effectiveness and productivity*
 - 5.3 *localism and accountability*
 - 5.4 *national interest*
6. These themes were the subject of discussion at the Commission meeting in September, following which the LGA submitted written views on the emerging

Item 1

themes, with a second iteration picking up on issues raised in a series of workshops. We have also submitted views on a large number of documents have emerged from the workstreams through participation in the review steering group. Further to discussion at the FSMC meeting in November, the Chairman wrote to the Minister to highlight the importance of ensuring that the conclusions from the Fire Futures exercise fully support FRAs ability to deliver the reductions identified in the spending review. A copy of this letter is **annexed** to this report

FiReControl

7. There is continuing uncertainty over the future of the FiReControl project. In November, Government informed the contractors EADS that they are in breach of their contract to deliver the project. EADS were given a short period of time to resolve outstanding issues and a decision on the future of the project is expected shortly.
8. Following the FSMC meeting in November, the FSMC Chairman wrote to the Minister to urge him to make this decision as soon as possible to allow FRAs to plan for the future. He reiterated the LGA's view that no Fire and Rescue Service should be asked to cut over to the system until it delivers full functionality. Even if revised timescales are agreed, given the project's track record, there is no confidence that new deadlines will be met or that the project will result in a satisfactory system.

National Functions

9. The LGA and CFOA have been developing proposals for how the sector can take responsibility for the delivery of a number national level activities, including supporting and promoting industry-wide standards and good practice, providing capacity to support weaker services, and clarifying future technological requirements and investment. We are arguing that this sector-led model should be the cornerstone of the government's approach to national functions. The LGA and CFOA will be meeting with the Minister early in the New Year to discuss the sector's proposals in further detail.

Mr Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

29th November 2010

Dear Minister,

Fire Futures

The LGA's Fire Service Management Committee considered the draft report of the Fire Futures review at our meeting on 15th November and I am writing to share the outcomes of that discussion with you.

The Committee discussed the draft report in the context of the outcomes of the spending review and your letter to Fire and Rescue Authorities following announcement that Formula Grant to Fire Authorities would be reduced by 25%. Your letter highlighted seven areas in which savings could be achieved. I agree that we need to explore the potential for efficiencies available and recommend that the areas you identified should guide further work and provide a focus for the Fire Futures project. I am keen to work with you to develop further evidence and best practice examples of how the sector can achieve the savings required whilst limiting impact on frontline services.

The Committee recognised that a significant amount of work has taken place within a short space of time to explore the wide range of issues covered by the Fire Futures project. We are grateful to those who led the different workstrands, to all those who contributed and for the support your department has given the project. The authors of the report raise a number of interesting points which are a valuable contribution to the debate. However, given the range of issues and views expressed, the short timescales involved are not in a position to endorse the report in whole or in part.

The LGA stands by the views submitted in evidence to the review and in the meetings of the Project Board. In addition, I would like to highlight some key areas which it will be important to progress to assist FRAs in responding to the challenges we face and identifying the savings that the spending review outcome will require of us.

/cont'd

/cont'd...2

29th November 2010

Mr Bob Neill MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Communities and Local Government

Firstly, I urge you to ensure that the power of general competence is granted to all FRAs, including the combined and metropolitan authorities and London. This power is essential to empower FRAs to act in the interests of their communities, to deliver services in the most efficient way and generate new income streams from charging and trading to support excellent services.

The report discusses in some depth the potential for combining services or functions either between Fire Authorities or with other emergency services, with options ranging from co-responding to the creation of new Community Protection Authorities. Decisions about such arrangements should be entirely a matter for FRAs in consultation with their communities. FRAs are best placed to ensure that democratic accountability of services is maintained. It would be helpful however, if your department were willing to explore further the option of allowing differential precepting between authorities considering amalgamation of services, at least in a transition phase, as the need to agree a single precept is thought to be a discouraging factor in considering amalgamations. We would be happy to discuss this in further detail.

Finally, as you are aware, the LGA and CFOA have been developing proposals for how the sector can take responsibility for the delivery of a number national level activities, including supporting and promoting industry-wide standards and good practice, providing capacity to support weaker services, and clarifying future technological requirements and investment. Our jointly agreed approach offers a sector-led approach to national functions and we believe should be the cornerstone of the government's approach. We look forward to sharing our proposals with you and you officials in more detail and hope that this work will be taken into account when you consider the outcomes of the Fire Futures.

Kind regards



Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA
Chairman, LGA Fire Services Management Committee

Meeting the spending cut challenge – delivering services, delivering savings

Purpose of report

For discussion / direction.

Summary

This paper provides a summary of the Spending Review announcement in relation to the Fire and Rescue Service, and areas identified by the Fire Minister in which potential savings can be made by Fire and Rescue authorities. The paper invites views from the Commission on the scope for achieving reductions in spending through these means and examples of work already undertaken by FRAs to deliver efficiencies.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

1. discuss the scope for achieving reductions in spending through the seven areas identified by the Fire Minister (paragraph 5);
2. highlight any work already undertaken, or examples from FRAs which could assist the sector in delivering spending cuts.

Action

LGA officers will work with Member and officer leads on each theme to develop evidence and examples of spending reductions to be presented at the Annual LG Group Fire Conference in March.

Contact officer: Caroline Green
Position: Senior Policy Consultant, LGA
Phone no: 020 7664 3359
E-mail: caroline.green@local.gov.uk

Meeting the spending cut challenge – delivering services, delivering savings

Spending Review announcement headlines

1. As part of the Spending Review published on 20 October, Government announced that:
 - 1.1 Formula grant to Fire and Recue Authorities will be reduced by 25% over the four year spending review period
 - 1.2 The cuts will be back-loaded to 2013-14 and 2014-15
 - 1.3 In total, this means a reduction of £250m from formula grant funding of approximately £1bn; individual allocations to FRAs are yet to be confirmed.

LGA response to announcement:

2. In responding to the Spending Review announcement, the LGA highlighted that Fire and Rescue Authorities have already demonstrated a strong record on efficiencies, having delivered £185m from 2004-08 and are on course to deliver another £110m from 2008-11.
3. The back-loading of the reductions is something that the LGA argued for in our submission to the Spending Review and will be important in identifying further savings. However, the scale of the cuts mean there will inevitably be implications for delivery of frontline fire services.
4. In our further submission to the Fire Futures review, the LG Group has emphasised that the review should be focused on helping FRAs to reduce costs and identify savings by 2013-14 and should avoid imposing further costs on Fire and Rescue Services, for example by changing governance arrangements.

Delivering the savings

5. In his letter to FRAs following the spending review, the Fire Minister Bob Neill identified seven areas in which potential savings could be made, as follows:
 - 5.1 Flexible staffing arrangements
 - 5.2 Improved sickness management
 - 5.3 Pay restraint and recruitment freezes
 - 5.4 Shared services / back office functions
 - 5.5 Improved procurement
 - 5.6 Sharing Chief Officers and other senior staff

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5.7 Voluntary Amalgamations between Fire and Rescue Authorities

6. These issues were discussed at the FSMC meeting in November and it was agreed that there is merit in exploring the potential for reductions in spending that could be achieved in each of these areas. The Committee agreed that they should be subject to further discussion by the Commission and that a lead Member and officer should be identified to lead further work on each of these themes with a view to reporting findings at a series of workshops at the Annual Fire Conference in March.

Existing information / planned activity relating to areas identified to deliver savings

7. To inform discussion, the following section of the report gives an overview of information and work in progress or planned in relation to areas identified by government to deliver savings.

Flexible staffing arrangements

8. Savings have already been achieved in a number of FRSs from flexible staffing. For example, Greater Manchester achieved £1.2 million annual savings by introduction of flexible duty patterns enabling a better match of firefighter availability to risk and demand.
9. In our submission to the Fire Futures review, the LG Group identified areas in which they could work with FRAs to develop practical advice and guidance on breaking down barriers to staff flexibility and ways of joining up workforces across local authority boundaries and different parts of the public sector.

Improved sickness management

10. The Audit Commission found that in 2007/08, fire services lost an average of 7.7 shifts/days per wholetime firefighter to sickness. This equates to approximately 5 per cent of working time. This is down from 9.7 shifts in 2001/02 and compares with the current local government average of 11 days (approximately 4 per cent of working time) lost to sickness per year.¹ The report estimated that a cost saving of over £10 million could be achieved if sickness levels were reduced to 6.5 shifts / days.
11. In November 2009, the LGA produced guidance to Fire and Rescue Services on uniformed ill-health retirements designed to assist FRAs in managing those medical incapacity and long term sickness.

¹ Audit Commission "Rising to the challenge" Dec 2008

Pay restraint and recruitment freezes

12. Scope for achieving significant savings through pay restraint is limited as no pay increase was awarded in the current year, and there is no cost of living rise, or incremental pay increases for the fire services.
13. Informal feedback from some FRAs suggests that recruitment freezes are already in place, but further work is needed to collate information on recruitment levels.

Shared services / back office functions / improved procurement / Sharing Chief Officers and other senior staff

14. These issues are being addressed through the LG Group's Productivity work programme which aims to support authorities in delivering savings. Workstreams relevant to areas identified as delivering savings for the FRS include:
 - 14.1 Procurement, capital and shared assets
 - 14.2 Shared services across areas, tiers and partnerships

Voluntary Amalgamations between Fire and Rescue Authorities

15. Work is already underway on LGA guidance for members on mergers between FRAs. It is proposed that this is included for discussion at the next FSMC meeting in January and that the guidance is launched at the LGA annual Fire Conference in March.

Conclusions and next steps

16. Subject to discussion and the Commission's views, LGA officers will work with Members and advisors to develop evidence and examples of spending reductions to be presented at the Annual Fire Conference in March.

Item 3

Fire Industry Association

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The Fire Industry Association is a not-for-profit trade association with the aim of promoting the professional status of the UK fire safety industry.

Graham Ellicott, the Association's Chief Executive, will attend to detail the Association's activities and current views on Fire Futures. Graham will also give a presentation covering the problem of false alarms from Fire Detection and Alarm Systems.

Recommendation

Members are asked to receive the presentation from the Fire Industry Association and comment upon any areas of interest.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer: Graham Ellicott
Position: Chief Executive, Fire Industry Association
Phone no: 020 3166 5002
E-mail: gellcott@fia.uk.com

Fire Industry Association

Background

1. Formed in April 2007 following a merger between the Fire Extinguishing Trade Association and the British Fire Protection Systems Association, the Fire Industry Association (FIA) is a not-for-profit trade association with the aim of promoting the professional status of the UK fire safety industry.
2. The Association lists its core values as being to:
 - 2.1 Demonstrate and promote the highest ethical standards
 - 2.2 Always strive for the highest affective standards of fire safety
 - 2.3 Be recognised as the experts in providing solutions to fire protection problems
 - 2.4 Provide an open, transparent and equal forum for members regardless of size
 - 2.5 Demonstrate speed and an ability to get things done.
3. The Association's Chief Executive, Graham Ellicott, will be attending the meeting to inform Commission Members of the Association's current activities, as well as to share the Association's current views on the Government's Fire Futures project, and to present on the problem of false alarms from Fire Detection and Alarm Systems.

Fire Futures

4. One significant strand of the Fire Futures project proposals would see Fire and Rescue Services able to raise further revenue through charging and trading.
5. The FIA has expressed concern on both of these, and the presentation on this item will expand on these concerns. Of note is the Association's view that Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) should be able to trade provided the playing field is level, and that the market will be unfairly distorted if, for example, FRS trading companies are able to use FRS branding and the trade members are not allowed the same branding.
6. The Association also contends that increased charging from Fire and Rescue Services brings risks that must be managed. For example, were FRSs to charge for false alarms, though this could reduce calls, it might encourage people to switch off fire alarms, leading to increased fire risk. Again, the presentation on this item will expand on this.

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Conclusion and next steps

7. The Fire Futures project is covered separately on this agenda. Members are asked to comment on any points arising from the report and from the presentation from the Fire Industry Association.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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**.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	Fire Commission
Date and time:	Friday 24 September 2010, 11.00
Venue:	The Westminster Suite (8 th floor), Local Government House

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Membership of the LG Group Fire Commission and meeting dates 2010 / 11</p> <p>Members noted the Commission membership and the proposed dates for Commission meetings in 2010 / 11.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded Members that some of the political groups had a number of Commission balancing places still to be filled.</p>	
2	<p>Report from the Fire Services Management Committee</p> <p>The Chairman informed Members of the discussions held at the Fire Services Management Committee held on 10 September 2010. These discussions included items on FiReControl, Fire Futures and the future of national functions.</p>	
3	<p>FiReControl</p> <p>Roger Hargreaves, Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) updated the Commission on progress with the FiReControl project, noting that Ministers were increasingly frustrated with EADS' performance. Roger added that the Government was keen to shortly resolve the future of the project, so as to be able to offer certainty to Fire and Rescue Services and to the taxpayer.</p> <p>Roger said that CLG's focus was on ensuring that FiReControl progressed as planned, but added that, in the event that the current project should fail, the Government would take swift and decisive steps to ensure that Fire and Rescue Services continued to have sufficient resilience capacity. FiReControl had already achieved some notable positive outcomes, and it</p>	

was important, in the event that FiReControl did not proceed, that these positive outcomes be incorporated in to any future project.

Members said that it was vital that the future of the project be decided quickly and asked whether the Government would continue to meet costs incurred by Fire and Rescue Services as a result of the delay to the project. Roger confirmed that CLG would continue to meet those costs.

Members said that the quality of the equipment provided to date by EADS was of concern. Members added that EADS had suggested a counter-proposal on the future of the project which would see ownership of FiReControl transferred to EADS. Roger responded that CLG had not seen any such proposals.

Decision

Members noted the update.

Members agreed that correspondence from CLG to CFOA be circulated.

Action

Officers to circulate correspondence from CLG to CFOA.

Paul Johnston

4 LG Group Fire Futures draft submission

The Chairman noted that the Commission had convened to consider the LG Group submission as set out within the agenda, but added that all Fire and Rescue Authorities were welcome to submit their own submissions to Government on Fire Futures.

The Committee received updates on the project from Max Hood, Brian Robinson and Cllr Paul Shannon, three of the four Fire Futures workstream leads.

Officers said that, of particular note in the draft submission, was the need for the power of general competence to be granted to all Fire and Rescue Authorities, and the incorporation of the Group's proposals for place based budgeting within the submission.

Some Members said that the proposal within the submission for

a single service provider for some or all emergency services was currently unnecessary.

Members noted that some of the issues raised within the separate workstreams were cross-cutting, and suggested that the project would need to take a similarly cross-cutting approach to avoid repetition and duplication across workstreams.

Members said that the project represented a great opportunity to re-examine the interaction between Government and Fire and Rescue Authorities and that the project should lead to greater local decision-making responsibilities.

Decision

Members noted the draft submission and the next steps for the Fire Futures project.

Action

Officers to draft the Fire Services Management Committee's submission to Government on Fire Futures, and to clear the submission with Lead Members of the Fire Services Management Committee.

Helen Murray

5 Legislative Changes to Fire Safety in Rented Accommodation

The Commission received a presentation from Cllr Mark Healey, Chairman, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority.

Copies of the presentation are available via www.local.gov.uk

Decision

Members agreed that the Chairman write to Adrian Sanders MP to express the Commission's support for the Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill.

Members agreed that FRAs lobby in support of the Bill.

Action

Officers to prepare draft correspondence for the Chairman to express support for the Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill.

Paul Johnston

Officers to circulate a draft letter template to FRAs for use in lobbying activity supporting Mr Sanders' Bill.

**Clive Harris /
Greg Taylor**

6 Retained Duty System project update

The Committee received a presentation from Cllr Kay Hammond on the Retained Duty System project. Cllr Hammond noted that there was still an opportunity for Fire and Rescue Services to contribute toward the project, and that work was currently being undertaken to ensure that the results of separate work undertaken by CFOA and previously by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were fed into the LG Group piece of work.

Cllr Hammond said that a Members' seminar on the project would be held on 23 November, and that the project should be finalised in time for the LG Group Fire Conference in early 2011.

Members welcomed the project, noting that it corresponded well with the Government's policy of the Big Society.

Action

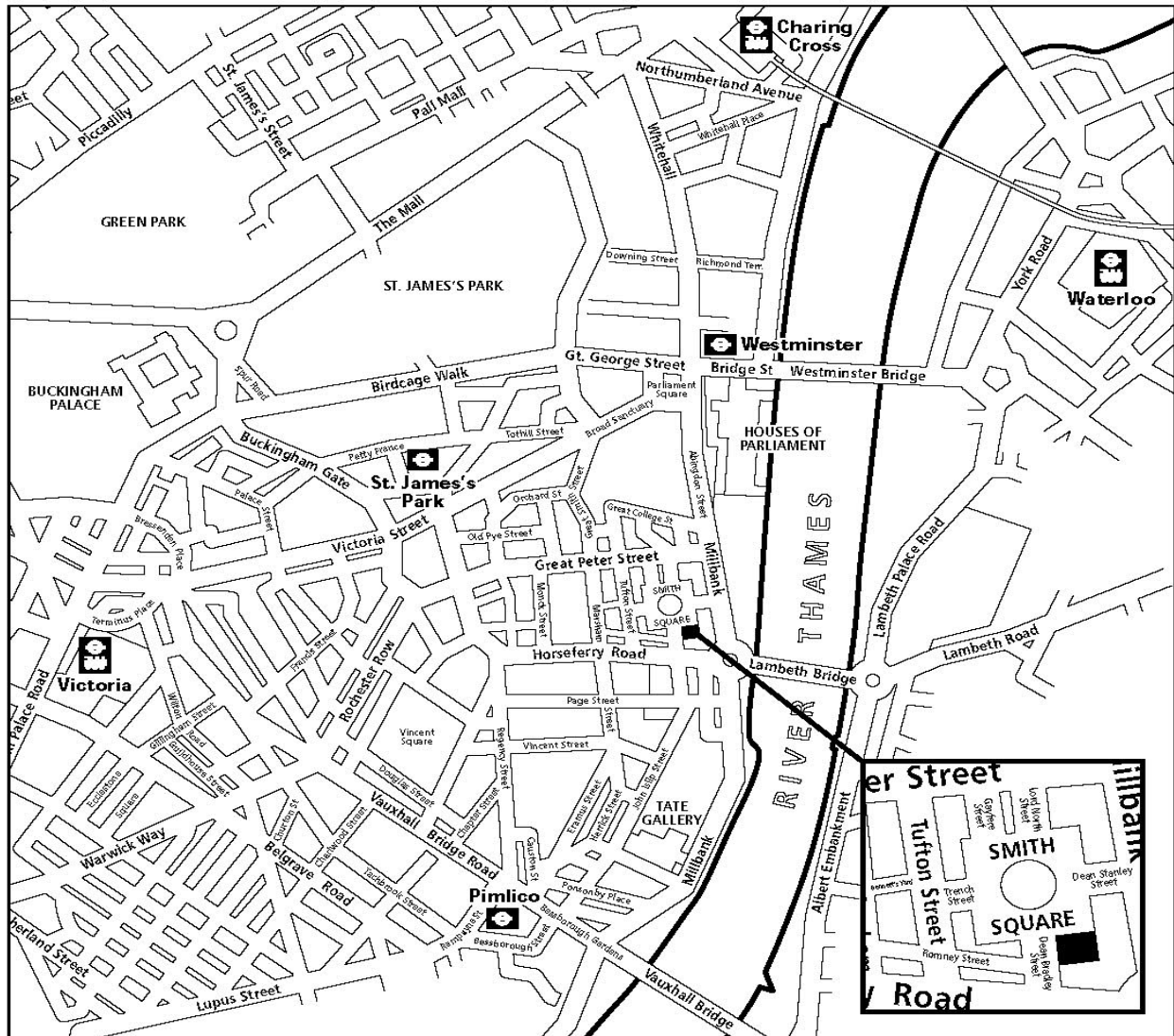
Officers to support arrangements for the Members' seminar on 23 November.

**Helen Murray /
Lucy Ellender**

7 Note of the last meeting

The note of the Fire Services Forum held on 18 June 2010 was agreed as a correct record.

LGA Location Map



Local Government Association

Local Government House
 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ
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 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@lga.gov.uk
 Website: www.lga.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are; **Victoria** and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines); **Westminster** (District, Circle and Jubilee Lines); and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line), all about 10 minutes walk away. Buses **3** and **87** travel along **Millbank**, and the **507** between Victoria and Waterloo goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

Bus routes - Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**
3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

Bus routes - Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria
C10 Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria
88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster-
 Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling Facilities

Cycle racks are available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone. For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car Parks

Abingdon Street Car Park
 Great College Street
Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street