

Note of last Fire Services Management Committee meeting

Title:	Fire Services Management Committee
Date:	Monday 11 March 2019
Venue:	Chartwell Room, 1st Floor, Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Chair's Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and to Brighton ahead of LGA Fire Conference.

2 Corporate Governance Inspection proposals

Outlined in the presentation are three pillars of the methodology that underpins the proposals as they are developed.

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Governance

Sue Warren outlined the triggers that could lead to an inspection of the authority, which included:

1. Where there is evidence of financial inefficiency;
2. Where there is a cause of concern regarding the management of the workforce, including the health, safety and wellbeing of staff;
3. Where there is concern about the legitimacy and / or associated practices regarding activity where the service receives a financial benefit
4. Where there is perceived inappropriate oversight and scrutiny being provided by the fire and rescue authority to the chief fire officer /chief executive officer;
5. Where the fire and rescue service has received one or more pillar graded judgments of inadequate following an inspection; or
6. If, during an inspection evidence has been gathered about an issue which is a cause of concern.

Sue Warren summarised the next steps in the consultation, including a pilot with a Fire and Rescue Authority.

Members made the following points:

- They is a desire to ensure that all Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) are treated the same, along with Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners and combined authority mayors. If it would be impossible to carry out governance reviews of their activities then the proposals need to be reconsidered.
- The training members of FRAs received was a crucial issue in governance and consideration needed to be given to looking at how well the leadership of the FRA performed as against the performance of the whole membership.

- Where could an FRA go if it did not find these inspections fair?

Sue Warren responded

- The process has been very transparent and there has been legal advice regarding inspecting Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCCs) but the issues arising from this were being clarified, and if PFCCs were not subject to governance inspections then HMICFRS would consider how it proceeded.

Decision

Members noted the presentation.

3 Comprehensive Spending Review

Charles Loft introduced the report and then invited members to feedback on the meetings they have had on the spending review with the Home Office.

Members responded with the points:

- The meetings had gone well. FSMC and the NFCC needed to work closely together to respond around the themes being developed for the CSR submission.
- The Home Office was focused on increases in productivity and the submission would need to show how the funding settlement for FRAs increased productivity.

Charles responded by pointing out that the Home Office still feels they are room for efficient savings despite what stakeholders have said.

Roy Wilsher agreed that as the Director of Fire and resilience in the Home Office had considerable experience of previous spending review submissions productivity and efficiency would be an important part of the process.

Decision

Members noted the verbal update.

4 NFCC update (verbal update)

Roy Wilsher gave an update of the work of Central Programme Office and the wider National Fire Chiefs Council work, noting that in future there would be regular written updates from the NFCC for FSMC.

Decision

Members noted the verbal update.

5 Building Safety update

Mark Norris gave an update on the work that has been done around Building Safety, including cladding and the Joint Inspection Team. Mark informed members that the policy lines on sprinklers and automatic fire suppression systems have gone through the LGA Leadership Board and Executive and are now agreed LGA policy.

Members made the following comments

- What progress had been made in remediating social housing blocks
- Fire suppression is as important as sprinklers and should be included in policy lines.
- The lack of progress in remediating private high-rise buildings was of concern.

- Fire doors still need replacing but there is a discussion on what should be the industry standard.

Mark updated on progress with remediating social housing blocks noting that there have been complex legal discussions in some social housing due to PFI contracts. As a result work has been delayed although plans were in place to do the work.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

An update will come to Lead Members and FSMC on the future regulatory framework.

7 Workforce paper

Jess Norman went through the final conference program for the 2019 LGA Fire Conference.

The chair thanked Jess Norman and the conference team for their hard work.

Decision

Members noted the update.

8 Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper

Gill Gittins and Clair Alcock highlighted the main industrial relations and pension issues at present, including firefighter pay and an update on legal cases.

Members made the following comments:

- The Home Office discussions had been in greater depth and further work would be undertaken to strengthen the business case to reflect those informal discussions.
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Decision

Members noted the update

9 Minutes of the previous meeting

Members noted the minutes, and that Cllr Edwards had been present at the meeting in January.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chairman	Ms Fiona Twycross AM	Greater London Authority
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Nick Chard	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Members	Cllr Eric Carter	Telford and Wrekin Council
	Cllr Les Byrom CBE	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr John Edwards	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Judith Hughes	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr John Robinson JP	County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority
Apologies	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Mark Healey MBE	Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority
	Roger Hirst	Essex County Council
	Cllr Nikki Hennessy	Lancashire County Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		