Chairman’s report

**Purpose of report**

For noting.

**Summary**

This paper summarises the meetings and events that the Fire Services Management Committee Chairman has attended since the Committee’s last meeting.

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| **Recommendation**  Members are asked to note the content of this report.  **Action**  Officers will take action as directed by members. |

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**Chairman’s report**

1. This paper provides information on the meetings and engagements that the Chairman of the Fire Services Management Committee has attended on behalf of member fire and rescue authorities.
2. On 29 January I spoke to the senior officers in the current cohort on the **Executive Leadership Programme**, setting out the role of the LGA, some of the challenges facing the sector and how we can work together so that these can be addressed.
3. On 30 January I attended **the Fire Service College Management Board**, to discuss a number of issues, including the emergency services academy, the development of a business strategy and received an update from the Customer Advisory Board.
4. I led the latest series of the **Fire Leadership Academies** which took place on 12-13 February and set out the leadership challenges and opportunities facing the sector. I presented the importance of member/officer relations and how to create a more open and transparent culture of leadership. The Leadership Academy was attended by a range of councillors with responsibility for fire and rescue services, drawn from county, metropolitan and combined authorities.
5. On 26 February I made the closing address at a **Future Fire and Rescue Services Event,** organised by Policy Knowledge and attended by delegates from the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, British Red Cross and also the Fire Brigades Union (FBU). The event looked in-depth at a number of key issues following Sir Ken Knight’s review in 2013. I addressedmembers of the Fire and Rescue Service Community on a number of key issues including, the need for services to be innovative, plugging the financial gap and the importance of education in fire prevention to make longer term savings.
6. I attended the **LGA Annual Parliamentary Reception** on the evening of 26 February, which was hosted by LGA Vice-President Steve Reed MP and saw councillors from across the country join MP’s and Peers to discuss current and future challenges of public service delivery. A number of Communities and Local Government Ministers attended the reception including Eric Pickles, Secretary of State Communities and Local Government and Brandon Lewis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Communities and Local Government.
7. I am continuing my **visits to FRAs** round the country and have scheduled in visits to Warwickshire and Lincolnshire in April/May.