

26 January 2018

## **Fire Services Management Committee update and outside bodies paper**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The report outlines issues of interest to the Committee not covered under the other items on the agenda.

### **Recommendation**

Fire Services Management Committee members are asked to note the report.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Lucy Ellender  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3321  
**E-mail:** [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)

26 January 2018

## **Fire Services Management Committee update and outside bodies paper**

### **Parliament**

#### **Reshuffle**

1. Nick Hurd MP remains as the Fire Minister following the recent Cabinet reshuffle. The new Labour Shadow Fire Minister is Karen Lee MP. Karen Lee represents Lincoln and has previously served as a councillor on Lincoln City Council. She has been invited to speak at the Fire Conference.

#### **Autumn Budget**

2. In November the LGA responded to the autumn budget, in relation to fire we particularly responded around Grenfell and pay.
3. We said that the Government needs to provide funding those councils that are removing and replacing cladding on the 45 council tower blocks, and any other essential fire safety measures that are deemed necessary to ensure residents are safe going forward. However we welcomed the additional £28 million of funding to help support the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and the affected communities.
4. On fire service pay we said that it is disappointing that the Government has not recognised the issue of rewarding fire employees, to reflect the positive impact that the broader work of fire and rescue services (FRSs) in collaborating with health and other partners could have. We will continue to call on the Government to provide sufficient funding to deliver the best outcomes for fire and rescue services, their communities, partners and employees.
5. The LGA's on-the-day briefing can be found on our website:  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/LGA%20On%20the%20Day%20briefing%20Autumn%20Budget%202017.pdf>.

#### **Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement**

6. The LGA also responded to the provisional finance settlement earlier on this month. This included a section on fire finance outlining the pressures facing the sector. We argued that the referendum cap on the fire and rescue service precept should be removed, additional funding should be made available to enable the FRS to drive transformation and that the capital funding issues faced by some services needed to be addressed.
7. The full response can be found on our website:  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%202018-19%20Provisional%20Local%20Government%20Finance%20Settlement%20-%20response.pdf>.

26 January 2018

## **Outside Bodies**

### **HMICFRS Consultation and External Reference Group**

8. HMICFRS are currently consulting on their proposed inspection programme. The consultation has been circulated to members via email and the LGA is planning to respond.
9. The consultation is particularly seeking responses to the following questions:
  - 9.1. What do you think of the proposed approach to FRS inspection that HMICFRS proposes to conduct in 2018/19? How could this be improved?
  - 9.2. Do you agree that an integrated inspection of fire and rescue services' effectiveness and efficiency, and how they look after their people, is better than separate thematic inspections?
  - 9.3. Are there any other areas of fire and rescue services' activity that should be included in the integrated inspections?
  - 9.4. Does the [draft inspection methodology](#) include the right questions to gather evidence for a rounded assessment of fire and rescue services? How could this be improved?
  - 9.5. How else could HMICFRS adapt the way in which it acquires information to take full account of the circumstances of fire and rescue services and of risks to public safety?
  - 9.6. What, if any, new or emerging problems for fire and rescue services should HMICFRS take into account in its inspections?
  - 9.7. What else should HMICFRS consider doing to make its fire and rescue service assessments as fair as they can be?
10. The LGA's primary concerns have always been that the inspection process does not become overly burdensome on fire and rescue services. We are keen that the methodology and the inspection process looks at the statutory responsibilities of the fire and rescue service.
11. The HMICFRS External Reference Group has been involved in conversations around the judgement criteria for good as well as feeding into the methodology to date.

### **Professional Standards Body**

12. Dave Curry handed over the PSB Project Executive role to Rod Hammerton in December. The meeting of the professional standards body project board scheduled for that month was cancelled and has been rearranged to the 5 March. We understand the business case due to be discussed at that meeting may be re-written for the re-arranged meeting.

26 January 2018

### **JESIP Interoperability Board – Cllr Nick Chard**

13. At the last JESIP Interoperability Board a number of key issues were discussed including Joint Organisational Learning (JOL), the JESIP assurance process and the newly commissioned film the programme will be producing. Further information can be found in **Appendix A**.

### **Local Government Association**

#### **LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition**

14. The latest version of the draft programme for the LGA's Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition will be circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
15. When we send the agenda to members we will have provisionally allocated members chairing responsibilities for some of the sessions. If you are not attending the fire conference or if you would like to request a different workshop session please let us know.

#### **Support to members of areas affected by contested PCC takeovers**

16. The LGA has held two meetings for the FRAs affected by contested PCC takeovers, one via telephone and one in person. The meetings were an opportunity to discuss the process for the independent assessment of the business case. There were a number of concerns raised at both meetings about both the business cases and the independent assessment. It was clear that there was a local strength of feeling against the changes to governance in each of the local areas.
17. The LGA has maintained that the independent assessment is best made by a panel of experts to fully examine all aspects of efficiency, effectiveness, economy and public safety within the business cases. It is important that all aspects are thoroughly scrutinized.
18. The LGA will continue to support the affected FRAs.

#### **LGA Annual Conference – 3-5 July 2018**

19. The LGA's Annual Conference will be taking place in Birmingham in July. This year we are seeking innovative practice to showcase in our innovation zone, including practice from fire and rescue authorities. You can apply by emailing [innovation@local.gov.uk](mailto:innovation@local.gov.uk) by **26 January 2018**, with a brief paragraph outlining your project, and similar paragraphs on:
  - 20.1. how innovative and ground breaking it has been
  - 20.2. the difference it has made
  - 20.3. how it is addressing challenging and difficult issues
  - 20.4. its relevance to other councils

26 January 2018

20. FRAs are asked to provide the most comprehensive summary possible, so that the submission can be fully considered as we can only assess the details that have been provided in your submission.

26 January 2018

## **Appendix A**

### **JESIP Meeting report.**

Nick Chard

#### **JOINT ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING (JOL)**

Joint Organisational Learning is about ensuring that the emergency responder agencies can capture learning that may impact on the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) and/or national Capabilities

#### **NEW AND ENHANCED FUNCTIONALITY**

The enhanced functionality of JOL Online (building on the previous JOL database that had been created in 2015) provides emergency responder agencies with many more facilities including the ability to identify where their respective lessons fit within any of the National Risks and where lessons or notable practice are input from anywhere in the UK.

#### **WHY IS JOL REQUIRED?**

A significant challenge in the past for both emergency services and wider responders has been the ability to identify issues when working with other agencies.

#### **HOW DOES JOL ONLINE WORK?**

JOL Online is a unique but simple way to capture lessons identified that may impact on multi-agency working and allows us to continually improve what we do.

All debriefs should have interoperability as a core theme and any lessons identified are captured in line with JOL Guidance and inputted onto JOL Online. JOL Online is hosted on ResilienceDirect. It is a Cabinet Office secure system at official-sensitive in line with government security classifications and is the national repository for interoperability, national resilience lessons and notable practice across the UK.

#### **WHO CAN ACCESS JOL ONLINE?**

Access to JOL Online is accessible to all Category 1 and 2 responders as well as many additional sponsored organisations.

#### **JOL ONLINE – THE FUTURE**

JOL Online and its supporting governance structures now provides emergency responder agencies with a clear and standardised national process for learning.

JESIP and our stakeholders will continue to work with emergency responder agencies to increase awareness and use of JOL Online.

Resources to support JOL Online can be accessed via the JESIP website  
[www.jesip.org.uk](http://www.jesip.org.uk).

#### **ASSURANCE**

The JESIP team spent the first 8 months of 2017 undertaking assurance visits with the Police, Fire and Ambulance services across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During this period they managed to visit all but 5 services.

26 January 2018

The purpose of the visits was to act as a critical friend to services and provide an independent view of how far services had progressed with embedding JESIP models and principles into their business as usual activity.

There has been good progress made by services with most services now having M/ETHANE written into their local policies and procedures.

### **PROMOTION**

The JESIP Group will commission a film to provide an awareness of JESIP to all responders, specifically the application of the models and principles.

The film will be shot in chapters with each one covering a specific element of the incident life cycle and will be produced in a documentary style.

Note.

M/ETHANE stands for:

**M**ajor Incident Declared

**E**xact location

**T**ype of Incident

**H**azards

**A**ccess

**N**umber and type of casualties

**E**mergency services present and required