

12 March 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.

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Government

National Fire Framework Consultation

1. Following on from the discussion at the last FSMC meeting the LGA responded to the Home Office's Fire Framework consultation. The full consultation response can be found in **Appendix A**.

Fire Statistics

2. The Government released their latest set of incidents statistics at the start of February. The statistics outline that fire and rescue services (FRSs) attended **566,572 incidents** in the year ending September 2017. Last year the FRS attended 548,899 incidents, meaning that there was an increase of approximately 3 per cent in comparison with the previous year, but a 34 per cent decrease compared with ten years ago (854,371 in 2006/07).
3. There has been a downward trend in incidents for around the last decade, though increases in recent years have mainly been driven by non-fire incidents this year the increase was mainly driven by an increase in fires attended. FRSs attended 170,519 fires in the year ended September 2017, which was a 9 per cent increase on the previous year. FRSs also attended 173,056 non-fire incidents in the year to September 2017.
4. The full set of statistics can be found on the Government's website:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-october-2016-to-september-2017.
5. On 25 January the Government released their statistics into response times to fires attended by the fire service. The release stated that overall response times have gradually increased over the last 20 years though it also stated that between 2015/16 and 2016/17 response times to all types of fires either decreased or remained the same with the exception of "other building" fires. The average response time to primary fires (more serious fires that harm people or cause damage to property) in England in 2016/17 was eight minutes and 44 seconds: a decrease of three seconds since 2015/16 but an increase of 33 seconds since 2011/12.
6. More information is on the Government's website:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/response-times-to-fires-attended-by-fire-and-rescue-services-england-april-2016-to-march-2017.

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Outside Bodies

HMICFRS Consultation and External Reference Group

7. The LGA responded to HMICFRS's recent consultation on their proposed inspection programme. The LGA's consultation response is attached in **Appendix B**.
8. Our main concern has continued to be the potential for additional burdens to be added to fire and rescue services as a result of the inspection programme.
9. Cllr David Acton attended the last meeting of the HMICFRS External Reference Group. The Group met on 1 March to discuss the feedback from the consultation and the judgment criteria. The criteria provide an indication of the expected levels of performance within each grading. The four grades are: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate. Once the judgement criteria have been finalised then they will be put out to sector consultation.

Strategic Resilience Board

10. Cllr Ian Stephens and Cllr Les Byrom attended the Strategic Resilience Board on 30 January. There were a number of discussions including on JESIP, the activities of the National Resilience Board and MTFA. The main focus of the discussion was on business continuity.

Local Government Association

LGA Fire leadership Essentials

11. The LGA held its most recent fire leadership essentials programme in February. We had attendees from eight FRAs and covered a range of topics. We had discussions around Grenfell, collaboration, inclusion and diversity, the NFCC and member/officer relations. The Home Office talked about their reform programme and HMICFRS discussed inspection and we also held a media session with a number of different scenarios for the councillors to respond to.
12. The course was well received and we are hoping to run more courses in the next political year.

Reserves

13. The LGA has held a meeting with the NFCC to discuss fire and rescue authority reserves. The NFCC will be conducting a survey on reserves to inform further work on this issue and the LGA will continue to be involved.