

12 March 2018

## **LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2018 and 2019**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

The paper sets out a number of location proposals for the 2019 Fire Conference.

### **Recommendation**

Fire Services Management Committee Members are asked to agree the venue and location for the 2019 Fire Conference and Exhibition.

### **Action**

Officers to proceed as directed.

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## **LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2018 and 2019**

### **Background**

1. The LGA annual Fire Conference and Exhibition attracts an average of 250 delegates and a range of exhibitors and sponsors in recent years. This year we have attracted a number of new exhibitors to the event. The event is considered to be an important part of the annual fire industry calendar, one of the showcase events organised by the LGA and an important income-generator.
2. Numbers for 2018 are broadly similar to previous years.
3. The current programme for the Fire Conference will follow on from this agenda. Officers will provide an oral update in the meeting.
4. The FSMC are asked to consider a number of potential venues for the 2019 Fire Conference.

### **Considerations**

5. The FSMC has previously agreed that the following criteria must be taken into consideration when sourcing a venue for this annual conference:
  - 5.1. To only consider venues of a high standard that have in place a fire sprinkler system throughout;
  - 5.2. To only consider venues that can provide both conference rooms and accommodation; and
  - 5.3. To continue to hold the conference over two days (finishing with lunch on the second day).
6. Other factors emerged during the organisation of past conferences which also need to be taken on board when organising future conferences and these include:
  - 6.1 The need to negotiate a larger number of bedrooms at the chosen conference hotel;
  - 6.2 To have a larger exhibition area to accommodate increased demand from commercial exhibitors (we have 19 exhibition stands at this years' conference); and
  - 6.3 To ensure that all the workshop rooms are of a sufficient size to accommodate delegate numbers.
7. The 2018 conference will be held at the Gateshead Hilton Hotel for the second year. The Gateshead Hilton is also on hold for 2019 but the recommendation is that we chose another location for 2019.

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## Options

8. Officers would recommend that Brighton be considered as the location for the 2019 conference. There are two hotels that would be suitable and meet the criteria for the conference. Officers have also considered that after two years in the North East we should go to another region of the UK. In particular being close to London is a key consideration for some speakers.
9. The following dates and rooms are on hold at the Hilton Hotel Brighton and Jurys Inn Waterfront Hotel:

### 10. **Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton seafront**

10.1. The hotel is currently on hold on 12 - 13 March 2019.

Room	Purpose	Capacity (theatre)
Regency Suite	Main Room and Dinner	400
Viscount Suite	Refreshments /lunch and exhibition area	20 exhibition spaces
Edinburgh Suite	Breakout	40
Gloucester Suite	Breakout	60
Churchill	Breakout	40
Osbourne	Breakout	70

### 11. **Jurys Inn – Brighton Waterfront**

11.1. The hotel is currently on hold 18-20 March 2019, however we know that it is also available on 12 - 13 March 2019 though these are not the hotel's preferred dates.

Room	Purpose	Capacity (theatre)
Renaissance Suite	Main Room and Dinner	300
Promenade Lounge	Refreshments and exhibition area	20 exhibition spaces
Atrium Restaurant	Lunch (adjacent to promenade lounge)	300
Tennyson Room	Breakout	60
Keats and Shelley	Breakout	50
Noblesse	Breakout	100
Wordsworth Room	Breakout	40

12. Both hotels offer a range of pros and cons for members to consider.
13. The Hilton Brighton Metropole pros:

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- 13.1 The main room is large and could accommodate 400 theatre style.
- 13.2 We have used the Hilton Hotel in 2013 for the Fire Conference so we know that it meets the requirements. However, in 2013 there were some problems with heating and it also snowed but the venue has reassured officers that there are no current problems with the heating system.
- 14. Hilton Hotel cons:
  - 14.1 We would not have sole use of the conference facilities as it is a large hotel so there might be another conference taking place at the same time. They can accommodate 3000 delegates in their meeting space so the Fire Conference would be quite a small conference for them.
  - 14.2 The exhibition space that has been suggested, which is also the room where lunch and refreshments would be served, is one level above the main conference room. So delegates would have to take the stairs or lift to reach it.
  - 14.3 The breakout rooms are towards the back of the hotel and do not have natural light though they are good sizes.
- 15. The Jurys Inn pros:
  - 15.1 The hotel was previously a Thistle Hotel which was bought by Jurys Inn and has been totally refurbished. The hotel has some very nice spaces including a central atrium with sea views. Breakout rooms have natural light and partial sea views.
  - 15.2 We would be the only conference taking place as the conference would take over most of the meeting space.
  - 15.3 The rates are very competitive and they are keen to host the conference.
  - 15.4 The lanes car park is situated underneath the hotel and guests receive a discounted rate.
  - 15.5 All the exhibitors would be in the same area - although there are additional spaces that could be used if needed.
- 16. Jurys Inn Cons:
  - 16.1 The exhibition space would be a short walk from the main conference room but delegates would have to walk through the area to have refreshments and lunch. There might be an issue with delegates not spending much time with exhibitors.
  - 16.2 The main conference room is not as big as the room at the Hilton so the maximum would be 300 theatre style.

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17. Both hotels can provide accommodation but there is a wide range of hotels nearby which can cater for all budgets. Visit Brighton can provide a managed and secure on-line accommodation booking service. The service is free of charge and they can provide preferential rates with the city's approved accommodation providers.
18. In order to fulfil the majority of the criteria set out in paragraphs 5 and 6, the availability of suitable venues is limited. As well as provisionally holding the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead we have considered the Hilton Hotel in Liverpool. However, when officers visited the hotel it was apparent that it is not big enough to hold a similar-sized exhibition to this year and the main room is wide and narrow and could not accommodate a stage set.
19. Price comparisons for the venues are shown on the table below:

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Day Delegate rate first day</b>	<b>Day Delegate rate second day</b>	<b>Bedroom rate</b>	<b>Dinner rate 3 course</b>
Gateshead Hilton	£38	£30	£107	£34
Hilton Hotel Brighton	£41	£41	£101	£34
Jurys Inn Waterfront Brighton	£32.50	£30	£104.17	£31.67
Liverpool Hilton	£38	£30	£109	£34

\*costs shown are excluding VAT

20. We can negotiate with the hotels about the day rates and the Hilton Hotel Brighton has already been asked for a reduced price for the half-day.

### **Recommendation**

21. That Members agree the date and venue for 2019.

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**Appendix A**

**Programme**  
**Annual fire conference and**  
**exhibition**  
**13-14 March 2018**  
**Hilton Hotel, Newcastle Gateshead**

**Tuesday 13 March**

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09.00	Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing
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10.30	<b>Conference opening and Chair's welcome</b> <b>Mayor of Gateshead Councillor Pauline Dillon</b> <b>Chair: Councillor Ian Stephens</b> , Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Isle of Wight Council
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10.40	<b>Keynote session 1. Grenfell: Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Fire Sector</b> <b>Dany Cotton</b> , Commissioner, London Fire Brigade <b>Ian Hayton</b> , Chief Fire Officer, Cleveland FRS <b>Laura Lawrence</b> , Welfare Manager, Tyne and Wear FRS <b>Steve Malley</b> , GMB Risk and Information, Tyne and Wear FRS <b>Chair: Fiona Twycross</b> , Vice Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority Questions and discussion
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11.20	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
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11.50	<b>Keynote session 2. Grenfell: Building Safety</b> <b>Dame Judith Hackitt</b> , Chair, Independent Review into Building Regulations and Fire Safety <b>Roy Wilsher</b> , Chair, National Fire Chiefs Council <b>Chair: Cllr Rebecca Knox</b> , Deputy Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Dorset and Wiltshire FRA
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12.45 Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking  
To 1.50

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2.00 **Workshops – session 1**

An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will not be repeated.

**W1. Taking a Portfolio approach to managing fire transformation**

**Nick Collins**, Programme Director, National Operational Guidance Programme

**Doc Holliday**, Programme Manager, National Operational Guidance Programme

**Susan Ellison Bunce**, Senior Responsible Owner, National Operational Guidance Programme

**Chair: Cllr John Bell**, LGA Fire Services Management committee and Greater Manchester FRA

**W2. Creating Innovative Solutions via Meaningful Engagement with Partners**

**Rick Hylton**, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Cambridgeshire FRS

**Jon Anderson**, Area Commander, Cambridgeshire FRS

**Cameron Matthews**, FBU Representative, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Chair: Cllr Simon Spencer**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Derbyshire FRA

**W3. The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme: The Opportunities for Service Transformation from Next Generation Communications Technology**

**Paul Channing**, Regional Coordination Manager, NFCC ESMCP

**Pete Clarke**, Trials and Pilots Lead

**Nick Carroll**, Transition Support Coordinator, ESMCP, Home Office

**Chair: Cllr Brian Grocock**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Nottingham City

**W4. Blue Light Services Working Together: National Leadership through to Local Delivery**

**Stewart Adamson**, Assistant Chief Officer, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

**Rebecca Gill**, Senior Programme Manager, Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group

**Chair: Cllr Mark Healey**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Devon and Somerset FRA

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**W5. Fire and Rescue Service fleets - the environmental challenge**

**Sue Budden**, Director of Finance and Contractual Services, London Fire Brigade  
**Samir Maha**, Fleet Management Director, Babcock International

**Chair: Cllr Judith Hughes**, LGA Fire Services Management committee and West Yorkshire FRA

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3.00 Refreshments and exhibition viewing

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**3.30 Workshops – session 2**

An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will not be repeated.

**W6. It takes two (or three) to tango - the legal and practical implications of joint working and collaboration**

**Allison Cook**, Partner, Veale Wasbrough Vizards  
**Mark Heath**, Consultant, Veale Wasbrough Vizards

**Chair: Cllr Roger Reed**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and South Bucks District Council

**W7. Wearable Technology for the Blue Light Services**

**Christopher Davies**, Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service  
**Neil Pollock**, Metropolitan Police

**Chair: Cllr Les Bryom**, LGA Fire Services Management committee and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

**W8. Working together – it's easy, isn't it?**

**Michelle Gaff**, Project Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service  
**John Spoors**, Senior Procurement Officer, Northumbria Police

**Chair: Cllr John Robinson**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee, Durham and Darlington FRA

**W9. The fundamental Operating Principles of a Fire and Rescue Service**

**Phil Loach**, Chief Fire Officer, West Midlands Fire Service  
**Ben Brook**, Area Commander, West Midlands Fire Service

**Chair: Cllr John Edwards**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and West Midlands FRA

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4.40      **Keynote session 3. Early reflections from pilot inspection authorities**

**Mark Hardingham**, Chief Fire Officer, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

**Cllr Matthew Hicks**, Cabinet Member for Environment, Public Protection and Broadband, Suffolk County Council

**Zoe Billingham** HM Inspector, HMICFRS

**Chair: Cllr David Acton**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Greater Manchester FRA

Questions and discussion

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5.30      **Political group meetings**

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6.30      **Fire authority meetings**

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7.15      Drinks reception

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8.00      Conference dinner

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## **Wednesday 14 March**

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09.00      Registration for new delegates, refreshments and exhibition viewing

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09.30      **Welcome to day two**

**Cllr Ian Stephens**, Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Isle of Wight Council

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09.35      **Keynote session 4. Lib Dem Shadow session**

**Baroness Pinnock**, Lib Dem Shadow Fire Minister

**Chair: Cllr Keith Aspden**, Deputy Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and North Yorkshire FRA

Questions and discussion

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10.00      **Keynote session 5. Recruitment and Inclusion**

**Micky Nicholas**, Secretary of the Black and Ethnic Minority Members' section of the Fire Brigades Union

**Samantha Rye**, Secretary of the National Women's Committee of the Fire Brigades Union

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**Lt Colonel Andrew Black REME**, Engagement NE, Ministry Of Defence

**Chair: Cllr Rebecca Knox**, Deputy Chair LGA Fire Services Management  
Committee and Dorset and Wiltshire FRA

Questions and discussion

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10.50 Refreshments and exhibition viewing

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11.15 **Keynote session 6. Future of Fire Finance**

**Charles Kerr**, Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Kent and Medway FRS  
and Chair of the Fire Finance Network

**Emma Lawrence**, Head of Fire Funding, Home Office

**Councillor Nick Chard**, Chairman Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

**Chair: Cllr Ian Stephens**, Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and  
Isle of Wight Council

Questions and discussion

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12.05 **Keynote session 7. Labour Shadow session**

**Karen Lee MP**, Shadow Fire Minister

**Chair: Fiona Twycross**, Vice Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and  
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Questions and discussion

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12.30 **Keynote session 8. Contested PCC Business cases: West Mercia case study**

**Cllr Eric Carter**, Chairman Shropshire fire and rescue authority

**Cllr Roger Phillips**, Chairman Hereford and Worcester fire and rescue authority

**Chair: Cllr Nick Chard**, LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Kent FRA

Questions and discussion

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1.15 Conference close, lunch, exhibition viewing and networking

**Chair: Councillor Ian Stephens**, Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee  
and Isle of Wight Council

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