

23 November 2017

Fire Services Management Committee Update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That members of the Committee note the report.

Action

Officers to continue to provide updates to members.

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Fire Services Management Committee Update paper

PCCs and fire governance

1. The Statutory Instrument to change the governance of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service from the Authority to the Police and Crime Commissions (PCC) was laid before Parliament on the 6 September and came in to force on the 15 November. Julia Mulligan is now the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for North Yorkshire.
2. There has been no further progress in the potential change of governance of West Mercia (Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services), Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service.

HMICFRS Inspections

3. Reports from the first tranche of HMICFRS Inspection are expected on the 6 December 2018. Chief Fire Officers and Chairs will have early sight of the reports, 48 hours before publication. In addition to the individual reports, HMICFRS will also publish a report setting out their overarching views arising out of the individual reports.

Ministry of Justice Circular: Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018

4. The Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 gained received Royal Assent on the 13 September 2018. To coincide with the Act coming in to force the Ministry of Justice have issued a Circular (linked above). The Circular provides guidance on the Act.

Leadership Essentials Fire and Rescue Services

5. The LGA will be holding two Leadership Essentials programmes in this financial cycle. In a similar manner to previous programmes the agenda will include a general introduction to Fire and Rescue Authorities and the LGA and sessions on various topics including Effective scrutiny, the Home Office Fire Reform Agenda; Inclusion and Diversity; Grenfell Tower and fire safety; the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC); the Inspections programme; and political leadership around public relations.
 - 5.1. The first programme will be held on the 28-29 November 2018 at Warwick Conference Centre and is already fully booked.
 - 5.2. The second programme will be held on the 26-27 February 2019, also at Warwick Conference Centre, and still has some places available.

LGA Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses

6. Following Fire Service Management Committee's decision to include diversity in the main priorities of the Committee this year, and with help from supportive members of the

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Committee, the LGA will be holding five Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses for members in the New Year.

7. With assistance from individual Authority's staff and the NFCC we have begun marketing these events. However, we would be grateful if the Committee could promote these events in their own authorities. For more information and for marketing text please email Jessica.norman@local.gov.uk.
8. Please see below for information on each event, including capacity for each event and the number of members booked to attend each at the time of writing:
 - 8.1. [London, 09 January 2019](#), the maximum capacity for this event is 40 and we current have five bookings on to the event;
 - 8.2. [West Yorkshire, 18 January 2019](#), the maximum capacity for this event is 30 and we current have 15 bookings on to the event;
 - 8.3. [Exeter, 31 January 2019](#), the maximum capacity for this event is 20 and we current have four bookings on to the event;
 - 8.4. [Lancashire, 12 February 2019](#), the maximum capacity for this event is 30 and we current have eight bookings on to the event;
 - 8.5. [Birmingham, 20 February 2019](#), the maximum capacity for this event is 30 and we current have three bookings on to the event.

Peer support

9. The LGA, working in partnership with NFCC, has developed a flexible Peer Support offer for the Fire & Rescue Sector. The LGA and NFCC Fire & Rescue Peer Support Framework provides FRS with a range of tailored sector led products that complement the newly introduced HMICFRS Inspection. These include but are not limited to:
 - 9.1. Peer Challenge
 - 9.2. Leadership & Governance Peer Support
 - 9.3. Targeted Peer Support
10. In 2017/18 and 2018/19 take up of the offers have been limited, due to the roll out and understandable focus by the sector on inspection. In 2017/18 the LGA delivered 4 peer challenges and to date have delivered 2 peer challenges with a further 2 planned. However, since the completion of the first tranche of inspections the LGA is in discussion with several fire and rescue services regarding future sector led support needs.

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11. The LGA continues to evaluate its offers and will provide an update report to FSMC in March 2019.

The Budget

12. The LGA's response to the Government's Autumn Budget outlined that although it showed the Government starting to listen to the LGA's call for investment in local services, it still falls short of what is needed in the long-term. The response highlighted that the funding provided in the Budget cannot be a one-off and that the real test is to come in next year's Spending Review.
13. The Budget made very little reference to issues around Fire and Rescue Services. However, it did confirm the reduction of the discount rate for calculating employer contributions in unfunded public service pension schemes to 2.4 per cent plus CPI, down from 2.8 per cent. This was an expected announcement, but will constitute a significant increase in the employer contribution from 17.6 per cent to an expected 30.2 per cent. This increase is yet to be confirmed as the full impact of changes to the pension scheme are currently being consulted on by the [Firefighters Scheme Advisory Board](#). The LGA will continue to make the case and work with the Government in order to secure a positive outcome.
14. The Chancellor made no announcement on pay for Fire and Rescue employees. The LGA was disappointed that the Government failed to recognise the need to address the issue of rewarding fire employees to reflect the positive impact that the broader work of Fire and Rescue Services in collaboration with health providers and other partners could have.
15. For the all documents concerned with budget including, the LGA Budge Submission, Budget Summary, and Full Briefing on the Budget see [here](#).

Update from Outside bodies

16. The Fire Standards Board was due to meet for the first time on the 26 November. However, it has now been cancelled due to the availability of the members. A new date will be announced in due course.
17. HMICFRS' External Reference Group met on the 22 October, and heard outline feedback on the process of the first round of inspections and progress on the second round of inspections. HMICFRS also updated on the process for publishing the first round of reports in early December.
18. No further updates have been provided for Outside Bodies, due to lack of meetings since the last FSMC.