

11 March 2019

## **Spending Review update**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

The report outlines ongoing activity around the governmental Spending Review to ensure that any submission to the Treasury by the Home Office on behalf of the Fire Sector is joined up and reflective of the needs of the sector.

### **Recommendation**

That members of the Committee note and discuss the report as necessary.

### **Action**

Officers to take into forward any actions as prescribed by members.

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## **Spending Review update**

### **Background**

1. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) attended Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) on the 23 November 2018 and provided an update on NFCC activity with the Home Office around a joint submission to the Treasury to provide a joined-up perspective of the Fire Sector financial needs. Members highlighted the need for political oversight of this process in order for it to be truly reflective of the whole sector.
2. At the meeting the Home Office and members of NFCC agreed to hold a series of workshops to look at key priority areas with members of FSMC. The Home Office also committed to creating a Senior Sector Group to provide oversight of all activity on the Spending Review submission.

### **Workshops**

3. On the 8 January representatives from the FSMC, the National Fire Chiefs Council, and the Home Office attended the first of two workshops as part of the Spending Review (SR) work. This workshop was on the objectives for capabilities development, and the capabilities needed to meet these.
4. It was agreed that this should be broader than the development of particular technologies, and look at wider capabilities that fire and rescue will need to invest to maintain or develop.
5. Following the workshop the Home Office produced a series of agreed priorities for this area.
6. On the 26 February FSMC members met Home Office officials and NFCC representatives for a second workshop, on Efficiency and Productivity.

### **Senior Sector Group**

7. On the 30 January the Home Office held the first Senior Sector Group (SSG) around finance and the SR submission. The Group includes key representatives from the Home Office, NFCC and FSMC. The Group will provide oversight leadership to the delivery of a comprehensive proposal for the future funding of Fire and Rescue beyond 2019/20. At this meeting the priorities identified in the Capabilities workshop were refined and agreed.
8. The next meeting of the SSG will be on the 27 March, where the outcomes of the Efficiency and Productivity workshop will be considered.

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### **Home Office letter**

9. Following the first Spending Review Fire Senior Sector Group FSMC members agreed to write a letter to the Home Office reiterating the Committee's view on the process of producing a submission for the Treasury. This letter has now been sent to the Home Office Director of Fire and Resilience, Luke Edwards.

### **Implications for Wales**

10. There are no implications for Wales as funding for fire and rescue services is a devolved matter to the Welsh Assembly Government.

### **Financial Implications**

11. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this work as it is delivered from existing resources.

### **Next steps**

12. Members who attended these meetings may wish to feedback.
13. Members are asked to consider whether they are happy with the progress of the SSG and workshops, and to make any comments/suggestions they think necessary.