

Update from Fire Services Management Committee 12 May 2008

1. The Fire Services Management Committee met on 12 May 2008 at Local Government House where the following issues were discussed:

Update on current issues

2. The National Leadership Event for Members had taken place between the 28th and 30th March at the Fire College. This had been a successful and well attended event and it was hoped that a similar seminar would be held in October/November
3. The issue of Combined Fire Authorities and funding for the Civil Contingencies Act was discussed and it was agreed that this would be raised at the Central-Local Partnership meeting on the 18th June.
4. A National Functions Working Group had been established to look at work that needs to be carried out on a collective basis. This follows CLG's announcement that a Centre of Excellence would not be established at the current time.
5. CLG's review of procurement and Firebuy had been completed although it was not yet known when it would be published.
6. The Equality and Diversity Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service was launched in London on the 28th May. The LGA is committed to promoting equality and diversity in the service at the highest level.

Fireguard Project Update

7. Barry Dixon gave a presentation to members and highlighted two outstanding issues; the need for a discussion at the political level on new burdens on participating authorities and a future stakeholders' event taking place on the 11 July that Members were encouraged to attend.

The Audit Commission – Transition from CPA to CAA

8. Nick Easton (LGA) gave a presentation on the transition from CPA to CAA which included the differences between the two and the LGA's ambitions for CAA. A fire CAA steering group has been created to take forward specific points and a self assessment tool is also in development. Whilst there are only two fire specific indicators in the 198 there are many more that the fire and rescue services can contribute to. CFOA is looking at which targets the fire service can contribute to within LAA partnerships.

FiReControl update

9. Cllr Jerry Willmott reminded Members that the business case would be published at the end of June. A Business Case Assumptions Review Group had been set up

to ensure that the business case is robust and includes stakeholder contributions. This will be discussed at today's meeting.

Operational Doctrine

- 10. Responsibility for this function had been inherited by the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser's Unit. At a meeting of the Practitioners' Forum meeting it was agreed that this term was not easily understood. There was agreement that individual FRAs should have ownership of operational doctrine documents as employers with the legal responsibility for health and safety.**

Pensions update

- 11. Cllr Fred Walker told Members that good progress had been made on the issue of ill-health retirements and that the target was to achieve 3 ill-health retirements per 1000 fire-fighters or full-time staff. It was also reported that the Fire Minister had made a commitment that no fire-fighter who was genuinely ill would be prevented from receiving an ill-health pension.**

NJC Update

- 12. The NJC met on the 13th March where the middle managers negotiation board audit was discussed. Agreement was reached on arrangements on those that were still on protected pay points as a result of the pay assimilation process in 2003.**

Next meeting

- 13. The next meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee will be held on Monday 14th July at London Fire Brigade HQ.**