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## Update from Fire Services Management Committee - 5 September 2008

1. The Fire Services Management Committee met on 5 September 2008 at Local Government House where the following issues were discussed:

### Work programme for 2008/09

2. Members agreed their work programme for 2008/09 highlighting the following three key priorities:
  - Spending Review settlement;
  - The development of CAA and the role of fire and rescue in LAAs;
  - Equality and diversity.

### Update on current issues

3. CLG had issued a consultation on the draft National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in England 2008-11 which closed on 14 November. The LGA would be seeking views from its membership before submitting a response and the FSMC were encouraged to submit their comments via Clive Harris (clive.harris@ga.gov.uk).
4. Booking forms were now available for the LGA Fire Conference to be held at the Marriot Hotel in Bristol on 10/11 March 2009.
5. Cllr Fred Walker updated the FSMC on pensions and Project Fireguard. Two papers (National Business Continuity Event Arrangements and Financing New Burdens) were tabled on Project Fireguard.
6. Anthony Maude, CLG, referred to the new Director of Fire and Resilience, Shona Dunn, who was keen to engage with fire and rescue authorities and planned to undertake fortnightly visits.

### Comprehensive Area Assessment and Fire and Rescue Authorities

7. Emma Varley introduced the paper on Comprehensive Area Assessment and tabled the proposed model for fire assessment, explaining how it would operate as set out in the Audit Commission consultation. It was explained that the Inspectorates had published their second consultation paper and officers were working closely with the 10 sites that are trialling CAA as well as talking extensively with the sector on their views on CAA.
8. Cllr Mehboob Khan highlighted the key messages that the LGA should be giving in their response. Members were in agreement with the proposals for peer review and thought Fire and Rescue Authorities needed to prepare and understand CAA. The LGA Fire Conference in 2009 would be an important

**mechanism for promoting understanding of CAA and the role of fire and rescue in Local Area Agreements.**

**Sector led improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities.**

- 9. Emma Varley introduced the proposals for an approach to sector led improvement for FRAs as set out in the paper and explained that the LGA needed to be proactive on this important issue. It was noted that the fire and rescue sector itself must develop an approach to driving sustained improvement across FRAs and the LGA should lead on the development of this.**

**New Dimension Long Term Capability Management**

- 10. Terry Standing, CFO Gloucestershire FRS, updated members on New Dimension programme and explained that of the four strands, two of them, assurance and transfer of assets, were still to be completed. He then referred to £3.83m/£3.92m/£4.01m for the three CSR years that had been proposed for support for the Assurance Body and the National Team, as well as the support for short term refresh which had been given £1.5m for each full year.**

**Date of next meeting**

- 11. The next meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 11am at Local Government House.**