

Update from Fire Services Management Committee - 18 September 2009

1. The Fire Services Management Committee met on 18 September 2009 at Local Government House where the following issues were discussed:

Work Programme 2009 / 2010

2. The Committee discussed its work programme for 2009 / 2010, with Members giving particular focus to the issues of co-responding and industrial relations. There was some discussion as to whether it was appropriate for the FSMC to consider co-responding schemes, as Members of the Committee held differing views on whether implementation of these schemes should be decided upon at the local or national level. It was agreed that a standing report updating Members on industrial relations be provided at future meetings.

FiReControl update

3. At its June meeting, the Fire Services Forum asked that the FSMC reconsider the LGA position on FiReControl in light of continued delays in the project and a refreshed Committee membership.
4. The Committee accordingly discussed its position on the FiReControl scheme. Following a robust discussion, the Committee agreed (by a vote) the refreshed position below:

“The Fire Services Management Committee is against the principle of the implementation of Regional Control Centres however will continue to engage with CLG to ensure FRAs are properly resourced, will afford effective oversight and review the programme regularly on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Authorities and will continue to promote good industrial relations where applicable and asks LGA officers to develop alternative options in the event of project failure, to be brought back to the Fire Services Management Committee at a future date.”

Other business

5. The Committee considered government proposals for the in-service management of the Fire and Resilience Programme, and the draft LGA response to those proposals. Members indicated that they were broadly happy with the draft response, though they asked officers to circulate a final draft

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response to FSMC Office Holders before the consultation closed in early October. This finalised response was accordingly circulated, and agreed by office holders, and has been fed into the CLG consultation.

6. The Committee noted that the following Members had been nominated by the LGA to sit on the National Joint Council: Cllr Brian Coleman, Cllr Richard Hobbs, Cllr Fred Walker and Cllr Paul Shannon.
7. The Committee also wished to express its thanks to Steve McGuirk, who was stepping down from the post of Principal Fire Advisor to the Committee. It was agreed that the Chairman convey the Committee's best wishes to Steve. The process for appointing his successor was also discussed and agreed.

Date of next meeting

8. The next meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee will take place on **Monday 23 November 2009 at 11am at Local Government House.**