

Report from the Fire Services Management Committee

1. The Fire Services Management Committee met on 10 September 2010 at Local Government House where the following issues were discussed:

Fire Futures

2. Members agreed the preliminary points to include within the LGA submission to the Fire Futures consultation. These points will be shared and discussed further at this meeting of the Commission.
3. With the Fire Futures project determining the future strategic direction of Fire and Rescue Services, Members also expressed concern that the tight timescales of the project would prove detrimental to the development of policy that would prove to be of the maximum possible benefit to the fire and rescue service.

FiReControl

4. Roger Hargreaves, Department for Communities and Local Government, attended the Committee to update Members on the FiReControl project. Members noted that this was an area that was likely to progress quickly over the next few weeks, and this is also an issue for Members to discuss at this meeting of the Commission.

The future of national functions

5. Following discussions at previous Committee meetings over the transfer to the fire and rescue sector of a number of functions currently undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government, Members discussed more developed plans for the LG Group and CFOA's offer to Government to take over a specific group of those functions. This would include a more pronounced LG Group / CFOA role in fire and rescue service procurement.
6. Members agreed that Committee Lead Members and officers continue work on developing this offer, and that a report on progress be given to the next meeting of the Fire Commission in December.

The 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review

7. Members noted that the LG Group would shortly, through the LG Group Executive, be agreeing its submission to contribute toward the Government's Spending Review. Members noted that the section of the submission

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concerning fire and rescue would also be sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Other business

8. Members considered and agreed the Committee's Work Programme for 2010 / 2011. Topics for the Work Programme include the future of national functions, improvement and development of the Fire and Rescue Service, and pay and reward solutions.
9. Cllr Walker updated the Committee on the firefighters' pension scheme, and on a draft proposal submitted to the Pensions Committee which suggested amendments to the scheme. These amendments would give Fire and Rescue Authorities the discretion, on the grounds of efficiency, to allow Fire and Rescue service personnel the ability to commute 25% of their accrued pension into a lump sum where they elect to retire before 30 years' service aged 50 or above. Cllr Walker will continue to update the Committee on progress.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee will take place on **Monday 15 November 2010 at 11am in Local Government House.**