

## **Chairman's report**

### **Purpose of report**

For noting.

### **Summary**

This paper summarises the meetings and events that the FSMC Chairman has attended since the Commission's last meeting.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

### **Action**

Officers will take action as directed by members.

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1. This paper provides information on the meetings and engagements that the Chairman of the Fire Commission has attended on behalf of member fire and rescue authorities.
2. On 26 July I visited the millennium stadium in Cardiff as the venue for the **2014 LGA Fire Conference** and met with the Chair and Chief Fire Officer of South Wales FA. During our meeting, we discussed the National Issues Committee, a group comprising members of all three Welsh Fire Authorities that is looking at increased joint working and interoperability. South Wales have agreed to give a presentation to the Fire Commission on this project in the next few months, with the potential for a plenary session at conference.
3. During a **visit to Merseyside Fire Authority** on 1 August, I met with the Chair, Vice Chairs and the Chief Fire Officer to discuss current issues and their priorities for the year ahead. The day included visits to 3 stations, including a new facility at Toxteth which contains a fitness hub for young people. This is part of a county-wide "fire fit" programme which aims to make a direct contribution to delivering safer, stronger and healthier neighbourhoods across the area.
4. On 9 August, I met with the Fire Minister Brandon Lewis MP and representatives from CFOA to consider the application of the **Primary Authority Scheme** to fire safety. The meeting was an opportunity to set out some of the Fire Services Management Committee's concerns, particularly around the timing of the implementation of the extension of the scheme to fire safety, which has led to the implementation being put back to April 2014.
5. On 3 September I attended the **funeral of firefighter Stephen Hunt** in Bury following his tragic death tackling the Oldham Street fire in Manchester in July. All 46 Fire and Rescue Services were represented in what was a moving tribute to a much loved member of Greater Manchester's personnel.
6. I attended the LGA's annual **Councillors' Induction Briefing** on 5 September. During the day, I met with new members of the FSMC and Safer Communities Board and was on hand to answer questions about our work and how it links into the wider LGA agenda.
7. On 8 September, I attended the Fire Memorial Trust's annual **Firefighters' Memorial Service and wreath laying ceremony** at The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, in Smithfield. This is an annual event to honour all those firefighting personnel who have given their lives in the course of their duties. Following the Service I laid a wreath on behalf of the LGA at the National Firefighters' Memorial.
8. I gave evidence on behalf of the FSMC to the **DCLG Select Committee on Sir Ken Knight's Review** on 9 September, alongside Matt Wrack, General Secretary of the FBU, and Paul Fuller, the new President of CFOA. In particular, I highlighted the importance of service reform being designed and led locally.
9. On 11 and 12 September, I led on 2 sessions about the strategic context of the Fire and Rescue Service and political leadership as part of a two day **leadership academy** for

elected members with leading roles on fire and rescue authorities. The free academy at Warwick Conference Centre forms part of the LGA's offer to fire and rescue authorities.

10. On 18 September I attended the **annual Presidential Awards Ceremony** at the CFOA Autumn Conference. The event reviews the past year and recognises achievements across the sector.
11. I represented the LGA at the **Fire Service College Management Board** on 27 September, which meets every two months in Moreton in Marsh. The Board received a summary of transformation activity at the College and an update on the development of its business strategy.