

# **Elected Member Workshop – At the Fire College**

## **‘Practical Challenges facing Fire Authorities’**

**As part of the National Leadership Programme, the Centre for Leadership (CfL) and the Local Government Association (LGA) ran an Elected Member Workshop at the Fire College March 28th -30th, 2008.**

**Some 22 senior Elected Members from Fire Authorities across the country attended the Workshop.**

### **Programme**

The programme was well supported by leading speakers from Fire and Rescue Services, CLG and the LGA. Topics debated over the Friday & Saturday included:-

- The FRA and the Institutional Framework within which it operates
- The National approach to Integrated Risk Management - Local Risk Planning
- Regional Issues and the challenges facing Regional Control Companies
- The Executive Leadership Programme for senior fire officers
- Equality & Diversity – Embedding it into the Organisation
- Selection & Recruitment – issues arising from IPDS
- The Role of the Elected Member in engaging with the Organisation
- Civil Resilience and the New Dimension Programme – responsibilities and links to other emergency services and to emergency planning
- Future Funding Challenges – dealing with increasing burdens
- Resource Management Challenges

On Saturday night Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor to HM Government, gave the Keynote Speech on the Role of the Fire Authority in the Community at the Workshop Dinner.

### **Practical Leadership Challenge**

On Sunday morning members took part in a “Gold Command” exercise based on a major incident scenario. This scenario was similar to that which Principal Officers are exposed to on their Gold Command exercises. There was an opportunity for elected members to visit the fire ground at the College and see first hand the result of an explosion in a high rise block of flats in a town. The exercise challenged the elected members to assess the issues this would present to a community and to consider the co-ordination and deployment of the emergency services.

### **Evaluation**

Elected Members found the Workshop engaging, challenging and relevant to current issues in Fire Authorities. The feedback from Members was very positive and the analysis from the evaluation sheet scores indicated 86% satisfaction for the Workshop.

**Looking Ahead**

It is hoped that a further Workshop can be arranged for late September/October this year for elected members who were unable to attend the March Workshop.

Details to follow.

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the speakers who contributed to the programme and for the high standard of their presentations. My appreciation also goes to the College Staff for their help and support during the organisation and the running of this Workshop.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Elected Members for sharing their wide experience of the Fire and Rescue Service, which in turn made a positive contribution to the Workshop.

**Cllr Anthony Duggan, Chair of Bedfordshire and Luton CFA**

**[On behalf of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee]**