

11 May 2009

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## **LGA Annual Fire Conference 2009 - Improving outcomes for communities through partnership working – the role of fire and rescue**

### **Summary**

1. This paper provides Members with a summary of feedback from delegates who attended the LGA Annual Fire Conference which took place in Bristol on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. To note the contents of the paper
2. Play an active part in formulating the programme for the 2010 conference in due course.

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## **LGA Annual Fire Conference 2009 - Improving outcomes for communities through partnership working – the role of fire and rescue**

### **Overall**

1. Total attendance for the conference was 302, an increase of 74 (approximately 30%) delegates on 2008. This can be broken down as 241 paying delegates, of which 211 were members, 27 non-members, 25 speakers, 34 exhibitors and sponsors (along with 13 exhibition stands) and 2 members of the press.

### **Officer feedback:**

2. The conference was marketed effectively with initial date for your diary and brochure distributed to all contacts three months earlier than 2008. This highlighted the need for longer lead-in times in order for a wider audience to be reached and in turn to ensure a higher number of delegates attend.
3. It was felt that the location of the hotel was central and easily reachable by public transport. The hotel was of a good standard and although the layout of the exhibition and catering rooms was not ideal, the space available was used effectively. Venue staff and the AV team members were very helpful and provided a fast and effective service. Members and speakers were also managed efficiently and they were briefed and kept aware of any amendments and changes throughout the lead up to the event and on the day
4. With regards to the exhibition it was felt that the main exhibitors should have been placed along the corridor area outside the main auditorium, but in general all exhibitors were pleased with the outcome of their attendance and already expressed interest in signing up to next year's conference. Lion apparel – the main sponsors - were extremely pleased and provided personal written thanks for this year's conference – this led to the renewal of the sponsorship deal for another three years.

### **Delegate Feedback:**

5. Delegates felt this conference was a huge improvement on the 2008 conference both in terms of the location, venue and organisation. The satisfaction level achieved (gathered from the online evaluation forms) was 90.25%.
6. Below are some of the delegate's comments:
  - The conference event was great as a whole, and the facilities first class - I just felt very guilty thinking about the cost to Council Tax payers!
  - It was a very interesting conference, enjoyable looking forward to the next one

# 23 4

- Several people agreed that this was the best one for a number of years - keep it up and thanks to those who did the hard work.
- I thought it was extremely professionally organised. The Bristol Marriot did an excellent job of providing refreshments in a timely way that allowed delegates to maximise break times.
- The structure and organisation of the conference was I felt about right and the venue a significant improvement on 2008.
- Generally, and as always, professionally organised, managed and delivered.
- A useful range of exhibitors and those I specifically spoke with were very helpful.
- This was a brilliant networking opportunity.

## **Financial Implications**

7 There are no financial implications.

## **Implications for Wales**

8. There are no implications for Wales.

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