

8 March 2010

Other business update

Summary

This report updates Members on current issues of interest to the Committee which are not covered elsewhere on this agenda. Updates are included on:

- LGA Fire Services Forum – 12 February 2010
- Lakanal House
- Fire and Rescue Services Equality Framework
- *People like me: advancing opportunity and fairness in the fire and rescue service*

Recommendations

Members are asked to note policy developments.

Action

Secretariat as appropriate.

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Other business update

LGA Fire Services Forum – 12 February 2010

The LGA Fire Services Forum on 12 February 2010 heard from speakers covering a wide range of issues across the Fire sector. Members were updated on the FiReControl project, and on the CLG Select Committee inquiry into the project. Sir Ken Knight, the Government's Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser, updated Forum Members on the emerging findings from the Lakanal House fire and on efforts in preparing for catastrophic disasters in the UK. Forum Members also heard about the work done by the Fire Services College, as well as information on the Freedom to Lead, Trust to Deliver consultation.

Lakanal House

Following on from last summer's fire at Lakanal House in Camberwell, south London, the IDeA and the Chief Fire Officers Association have produced a guide entitled "*Extinguishing the Risk: a councillor's guide to fire safety*" for leading Councillors, as well as those Members whose remit covers fire safety, housing or regulatory services. The aim is to give members the information they need to be confident that their authority is doing all it can to comply with the law, enforce the law and safeguard people in their own homes.

Copies of this important document are available via:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=8152278>

Fire and Rescue Services Equality Framework

The Fire and Rescue Services Equality Framework (FRS EF) has been developed by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) to provide a bespoke equality framework which recognises and addresses equality objectives that are a priority for the fire and rescue service. Launched in December 2009, the new framework replaces the Equality Standard for Local Government which has existed since 2001. It has been cross-mapped with the national Fire and Rescue Service: Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-2018 and the Equality Framework for Local Government. The Framework has been constructed around the five priority areas set out in the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy 2008-2018.

People like me

People like me; advancing opportunity and fairness in the fire and rescue service was launched at the last Member Champions' Network meeting in January. The report can be found via the LGA website. This report looks at progress by the sector since

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the government launched its Equality and Diversity Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service in 2008. A few headline achievements are that:

- the majority of FRAs have achieved level 3 or above in the Equality Standard for Local Government.
- 72% of FRAs have joined Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme to promote lesbian, gay and bisexual equality in the workplace.