

## **Fire Services Management Committee**

8 March 2010

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There will be a meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee **at 4.00pm on Monday 8 March 2010 in Committee Room 4 in Manchester Town Hall.**

### **Apologies**

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

**Labour:** Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: [aicha.less@lga.gov.uk](mailto:aicha.less@lga.gov.uk)  
**Conservative:** Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: [angela.page@lga.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@lga.gov.uk)  
**Liberal Democrat:** Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: [evelyn.mark@lga.gov.uk](mailto:evelyn.mark@lga.gov.uk)  
**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@lga.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@lga.gov.uk)

### **Attendance Sheet**

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

### **Location**

***A map showing the location of Manchester Town Hall is printed on the back cover.***

### **Contact**

Paul Johnston (Tel: 020 7664 3031, email: [paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk) )

**Carers' Allowance:** As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £4.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. Children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.



## Fire Services Management Committee

Date: 21.1.10

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### Fire Services Management Committee - Membership 2009/2010

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (7)</b>	
Brian Coleman <b>[Chairman]</b>	London FEPA / Barnet LB
Richard Hobbs	Warwickshire CC/RMB
Bertha Joseph	London FEPA / Brent LB
James Pearson	Greater Manchester FRA
Paul Bryant	Royal Berkshire CFA
Kay Hammond	Surrey CC
Tony Ward	West Midlands FRA
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
David Kirk	Hampshire CFA
Tony Arbour	London FEPA
<b>Labour (4)</b>	
Fred Walker <b>[Vice Chair]</b>	Greater Manchester FRA
Brenda Forster	Cleveland FA
Navin Shah	London FEPA
John Joyce	Cheshire FA
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Sian Timoney	Luton BC
Mehboob Khan	West Yorkshire FRA
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
Paul Shannon <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Greater Manchester FRA
Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire FRS
Roger Price	Hampshire FRA
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Cllr Christopher Newbury <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Wiltshire Fire Authority

**15 Member Steering Committee**



## LGA Fire Services Management Committee Attendance 2009-2010

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>18/09/09</b>	<b>23/11/09</b>	<b>18/01/10</b>	<b>08/03/10</b>	<b>24/05/10</b>	<b>19/07/10</b>
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
Cllr Brian Coleman	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Richard Hobbs	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Bertha Joseph	YES	NO	YES			
Cllr James Pearson	NO	YES	YES			
Cllr Paul Bryant	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Kay Hammond	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Tony Ward	YES	YES	YES			
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Cllr Fred Walker	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Brenda Forster	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Navin Shah	YES	YES	NO**			
Cllr John Joyce	YES	YES	YES			
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
Cllr Paul Shannon	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	YES	YES	YES			
Cllr Roger Price	NO *	YES	YES			
<b>Independent</b>						
Cllr Christopher Newbury	YES	YES	YES			
<b>Substitutes</b>						
Cllr Tony Arbour	YES	YES	YES			

\* Cllr Price was not expected to attend, as his appointment was confirmed only very shortly prior to the Committee meeting.

\*\* Cllr Shah was not expected to attend, as he was named as a substitute Member for this meeting.



# Agenda

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## Fire Services Management Committee

Committee Room 4, Manchester Town Hall

Monday 8 March 2010, 4.00pm

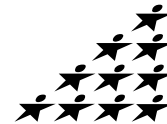
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	Page no.
<b>1. Influencing a new Government – key lobbying positions for the Fire Services Management Committee</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Total Place</b>	<b>7</b>
The Committee will receive a presentation from Hereford and Worcester FRA, and from Nicky De Beer, Leadership Centre for Local Government.	
<b>3. FiReControl</b>	
The Committee will receive an oral update from the FSMC Chairman and Vice-Chair, and Cllr James Pearson.	
<b>4. Other business update</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. Note of the Last Meeting</b>	<b>17</b>

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 24 May 2010, 11.00 – 13.00,  
Local Government House, London**







8 March 2010

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## **Influencing a new Government – key lobbying positions for the Fire Services Management Committee**

### **Summary**

As we approach the most keenly contested General Election for over a decade it is important that the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee identifies the key issues that will need to be addressed by any incoming government to ensure member FRAs are well placed to perform well in a period of serious spending constraints.

This paper outlines the current political context and also summarises the LGA's work ahead of the General Election undertaken so far.

### **Recommendations**

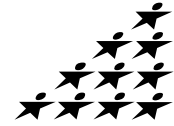
Members are asked to agree 5 key 'asks' that the Committee can present to a new Government in May 2010 and identify where these would fit within the LGA Group Business Plan 2010-11.

### **Action**

LGA officers to action as necessary.

Contact Officer: Clive Harris  
Phone No: 020 7664 3207  
Email: [clive.harris@lga.gov.uk](mailto:clive.harris@lga.gov.uk)





## **Influencing a new Government – key lobbying positions for the Fire Services Management Committee**

### **Background**

1. It is now almost certain that the General Election will be called in early May and there is the greatest chance of a change in Government for over a decade, with polls (ICM/The Guardian February 2010) showing popular support as follows:

Conservatives: 37%  
Labour: 30%  
Liberal Democrats: 20%  
Other 13%

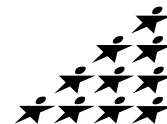
2. This has been projected to give the Conservatives a small majority and this would have major implications for the LGA Group. A hung parliament would have its own implications and this outcome cannot be discounted.

### **Economic context**

3. At the end of the 2009-10 financial year the budget deficit will stand at £175 billion. This exceeds combined annual spending of the Department for Communities & Local Government, the Department for Children, Schools & Families, the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Transport, Home Office, and many more. It is predicted that the 2010-11 financial year will see asset sales, tax rises and spending cuts. Nick Clegg MP has told people to expect "savage cuts", whilst the Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne MP has suggested that "painful changes" would be necessary. The Chancellor, Alistair Darling has stated that "it's essential we cut the public deficit".

### **The LGA's work**

4. A second series of Smith Square debates on emerging public policy issues, with leading speakers - e.g. Martin Bell on Independents' Day is taking place, alongside events with think tanks, 'commentariat' as well as bilateral meetings with Ministers and shadow spokespeople. The LGA has also been giving implementation advice on key policy proposals; the abolition of regional tiers for example.
5. The LGA's work so far has focused on positioning local government as:
  - the most efficient part of the public sector
  - beating Whitehall on efficiency improvements
  - efficient due to accountability (in contrast with quangos)
  - innovative in pursuit of efficiency (e.g. Total Place)
  - leading by example as UK approaches an age of austerity/constraint
  - over-regulated, with costs to 'the public purse'



6. The LGA *Delivering More for Less* report, published in November 2009, highlighted that £4.5bn-plus potential savings could be made through tackling:
  - the quango state
  - reviews of reviews
  - policy overkill
  - excessive reporting requirements.
7. Total place is an innovative LGA Group-backed project to find fresh ways of making public services better for people at lower cost. Initial results from pilot projects, in areas from Birmingham to Dorset, on subjects from housing to older people have been positive. These results are being promoted on a cross-party basis and publicised nationally (e.g. 'Today') and in trade media, through the LGA, Leadership Centre and IDeA 'getting closer' work.

### **Election messaging and the LGA Group Business Plan 2010-11**

8. The LGA Group Business Plan has been developed in conjunction with member authorities to identify the most important issues and where the Group can add the most value:
  - Local Democracy: putting local decision-making at the centre of debate, particularly in election year
  - Reputation: enhancing councils' reputation as outstanding service providers, community leaders and employers of choice
  - Innovation and Value for money: helping councils achieve greater efficiency, and lobbying for the funding they need
  - Economy: helping councils lead their communities, and the country, out of recession
  - Customer service: a 'fit for purpose' LGA Group delivering excellent, value for money services to members, through 'Getting Closer': e.g. Communications Review
9. Where does the Committee see the 5 'asks' fitting into the categories above?

### **Financial Implications**

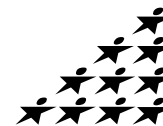
10. There are no financial implications for the LGA Group.

### **Implications for Wales**

11. There are no implications for Wales.

Contact Officer: Clive Harris

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8 March 2010

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## **Total Place**

### **Summary**

This report was originally submitted to the LGA Executive in November 2009 and provides an update on the Total Place initiative and informs members of the interim findings from the pilots which have been submitted to government in time for the pre-budget report (PBR).

Members will be joined at the Committee meeting by colleagues from Hereford and Worcestershire FRA who are one of the pilot authorities and will be able to provide input from the Fire and Rescue Authority perspective.

Members will also be joined by Nicky De Beer from the Leadership Centre who will be able to give a national perspective on this work.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and use it to inform discussion at the Committee meeting

### **Action**

Officers to take forward Member's comments as appropriate.

Contact Officers:

Jo Miller, Deputy Chief Executive

Phone No: 020 7664 3276

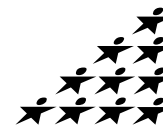
Email: [jo.miller@lga.gov.uk](mailto:jo.miller@lga.gov.uk)

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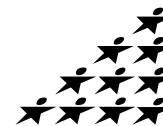
## **Total Place**

### **Background**

1. The 13 pilot Total Place areas have submitted their final reports, which are being reviewed by LGA Group officers and Government officials.
2. The findings from the reports are expected to inform the Government budget expected in mid-March.

### **Emerging Findings from Total Place**

3. The interim findings from the 13 pilots showed that:
  - a. Countless organisations are spending public money in the same area and often on the same things; for example in one of the pilot areas, 25 Social Housing providers for 19,000 homes with 47 funding streams for housing, 18 of which come from one funder.
  - b. There is significant overlap in management and administration costs with excessive waste on reporting & performance regimes.
  - c. The majority of money spent in places is under centralised control, more than almost any other western country, which leaves little or no room for innovation. For example, the amount of money spent in places varies, but for an average £7,000 of spend on public services in any one place, only £350 is discretionary spending by Councils.
  - d. Public services are not best organised around the needs of individual customers. Organisations tend to focus service delivery on their slice of need rather than dealing with the whole customer experience.
4. Unsurprisingly, the key message from the pilots is that more of the same is not an appropriate way of working across the public sector. Whilst this is obvious and has long been the case, the need for change is brought even more to the fore because of the current fiscal situation. All pilots have pointed to four areas, which require change at a central and local level in order to vastly improve public services:
  - a. Funding (and any reductions in public sector funding) should be allocated by place, need and priority, rather than be institutionally or initiative driven.
  - b. The ring-fencing of money together with the target and report writing that goes with it needs to end. The current system is wasteful and often means that



## **Local Government Association**

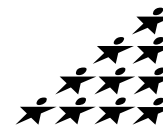
money is spent in the wrong areas. Localities need to have more of a say around local priorities and spending with local government playing a key lead role.

- c. There needs to be a single performance framework across all the public services in any one place which focuses on outcomes, not inputs or unnecessary process.
- d. Public service organisations need to redesign their services around the whole customer experience.

### **Current Activity**

- 5. All of the pilots are pressing on with potential service re-design in their area and sharing their thinking with other authorities. In response to the total place report the high level officials group at Whitehall has commissioned a number of workstreams where they need to look at how they might change. They are as follows:
  - a. Cross-cutting barriers to effective working from a Whitehall perspective. Pilots involved none- this is a Whitehall internal workings review.
  - b. Asset management Pilots involved: Worcestershire, Kent, Birmingham, Lewisham, and Cambridgeshire.
  - c. Services for children aged 0-5 and their families  
Pilots involved: Manchester, Croydon, and Coventry
  - d. Workshop on Housing  
Pilots involved: Durham and others to be confirmed
  - e. Crime & reducing re-offending  
Pilots involved Birmingham, Bradford, and Central Luton & Beds.
  - f. Drugs & Alcohol  
Pilots involved: South Tyneside, Gateshead, Leicester, Leicestershire and Birmingham.
- 6. All of the Whitehall workstreams identified fed into the total place Ministerial meetings at which Cllr. David Parsons represents the LGA Group. The Ministerial Group met on Monday 9 November with the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government chairing the meeting and Ministers from all spending



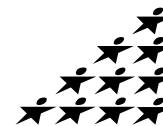


***Local Government Association***

departments were represented. At that meeting Ministers reflected on the themed areas in which they are working and acknowledged that there was a significant need for government to let go in terms of accountability frameworks and funding. The Secretary of State was keen to learn what reform proposals government would need to put in place to deliver more effective public services

At the next meeting on 2 March, they wish to focus on how government might get itself in a position to significantly reduce ring-fencing of funding, whilst having a clear line of accountability to individual places.

7. The initial findings from total place have strong resonance with the LGA group strategy, lobbying and general election messaging. Work flowing from Total Place must be incorporated within the Group Business Plan which the Executive will be asked to approve in due course. The Improvement Board have already recognised the need to have a revised performance management framework, which significantly reduces current reporting burdens, and reflects performance of place. The Improvement Board, in its “Freedom to Lead” call for evidence, invites local authorities and partners to consider how a performance management framework that liberates public sector partners to work together might be designed. This is a key part of the Improvement Board’s work this year and members may wish to offer comments about this in their response to this report.
8. If there is to be a clear line of sight from government of any political persuasion to public services in places, then it is apparent that a robust governance model needs to be in place. LSPs are not universally the best way to provide a governance mechanism which can be accountable to government for delivery and performance. It is suggested that in order to respond to this area of work arising from Total Place, the thinking and proposals around local Public Service Boards or similar is developed and brought back to members after some other discussion with pilot areas.
9. In relation to the work area around customer service re-design and the skills needed in partnership working to respond to total place, the IDEA will in its part of the Group Business Plan reshape partnership support proposals that reflect the emerging findings from total place.
10. It is important that the Group Business Plan picks up many of the work streams arising from Total Place and members are asked to endorse this approach. In particular work needs to focus on governance, lobbying performance regimes and partnership support. The Total Place pilots need to be given further space to develop their thinking with a real focus on evidence and specifying the barriers at a national level that need to be removed for a new model of public services to work



**Local Government Association**

effectively. The Improvement Board will consider how best improvement activity can be focussed to support the findings from Total Place.

## **Financial Implications**

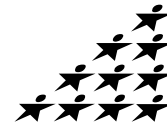
11. There are no financial implications for the LGA Group arising from this report.

## **Implications for Wales**

12. As Total Place is a programme currently being piloted in England only, there are no current implications for Wales.

Contact Officers: Jo Miller  
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8 March 2010

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## **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**

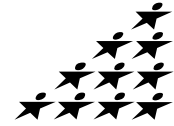
Members are asked to note policy developments.

### **Action**

Secretariat as appropriate.

Contact Officer: Paul Johnston  
Phone No: 020 7664 3031  
Email: [paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk](mailto:paul.johnston@lga.gov.uk)





## **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:

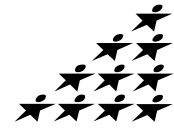
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=8152278>

### **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***

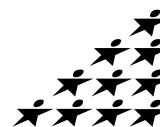
*People like me; advancing opportunity and fairness in the fire and rescue service* was launched at the last Member Champions' Network meeting in January. The report can be found via the LGA website. This report looks at progress by the sector since



***Local Government Association***

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.



## **Notes of Decisions Taken and Actions Required**

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### **Fire Services Management Committee**

18 January 2010

at Local Government House, London

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#### **Present**

- Chairman:** Cllr Brian Coleman (LFEPA/LB Barnet) (Conservative)  
**Vice Chair:** Cllr Fred Walker (Greater Manchester FRA) (Labour)  
**Deputy Chair:** Cllr Paul Shannon (Greater Manchester FRA) (Liberal Democrat); Cllr Christopher Newbury (Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority) (Independent Group)
- Conservative:** Cllr Richard Hobbs (Warwickshire CC); Cllr Bertha Joseph (LFEPA/LB Brent); Cllr James Pearson (Greater Manchester FRA); Cllr Paul Bryant (Royal Berkshire CFA); Cllr Kay Hammond (Surrey CC); Cllr Tony Ward (West Midlands FRA)
- Labour:** Cllr Mehboob Khan (West Yorkshire FCDA); Cllr John Joyce (Cheshire FRA); Cllr Brenda Forster (Cleveland FRA)
- Liberal Democrat:** Cllr Jeremy Hilton (Gloucestershire FRS); Cllr Roger Price (Hampshire FRA)
- In attendance:** Commissioner Ron Dobson (LFEPA); Dave Webb (CFO Leicestershire); Roger Hargreaves (CLG) (item 1 only); Trish O'Flynn, Clive Harris and Paul Johnston (LGA)

#### **1. FiReControl**

The Committee received an update on FiReControl from Roger Hargreaves, Department for Communities and Local Government, which focussed on Intergraph being chosen as project subcontractor following the decision to terminate the contract with Ericsson.

In response to concerns set out by Cllr James Pearson, the Committee's lead Member on FiReControl, Roger stated that CLG had fully assessed Intergraph's ability to deliver on the project, and confirmed that the previous subcontractor was no longer involved with the project. EADS had given top level assurances on its ability to deliver the project to agreed milestones, and, having acknowledged previous limitations in its delivery of the project, had committed more resources to FiReControl. To restore confidence in the project, EADS would nonetheless have to demonstrate its ability to deliver high quality product to agreed timetables. Roger stated that Fire and Rescue Authorities would not be expected to cover any of the project costs.

Members raised broad concerns over the viability of the project, and the ability of the contractors and subcontractors to deliver the project on time, and reiterated the low confidence of Authorities in FiReControl.

The lack of an up-to-date, visible work plan for the project was concerning to officers and Members, who queried how EADS and Intergraph could be expected to deliver to milestones that were not embedded in a current work plan. Roger responded that the key elements and interdependencies of the plan remained unchanged, but that aspects of the plan which EADS were to deliver on had changed. The latest iteration of the plan would be available in February.

Responding to concerns over project costs, Roger stated that the cost to CLG remained the same, and reiterated that FRAs would not bear any of the cost.

The Committee thanked Roger for attending the meeting.

Members discussed the upcoming Select Committee inquiry into FiReControl, noting that the National Audit Office would undertake work as part of this inquiry and that the LGA had fed in its submission to the Committee.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted Roger's update on FiReControl and noted the LGA submission put forward to the Communities and Local Government Committee.

### **Action**

Officers to circulate up-to-date version of the CLG FireControl project plan to Members. **Paul Johnston**

Officers to provide a high level plan to enable Members to monitor key deliverables by EADs. **CFO Dave Webb**

Officers to inform Members over decisions coming out of the Select Committee Inquiry. **Trish O'Flynn**

Officers to examine work in Scotland and Wales in their work on resilience to compare best practice. **Trish O'Flynn**

## **2. LGA Membership**

Clive Harris introduced the report, stating that it highlighted the benefits to Fire and Rescue Authorities of LGA membership.

The following points were raised:

- Members acknowledged the reduction in subscriptions for 2010-2011
- Members suggested that LGA Fire Forum papers be more comprehensive and that Forum agenda be circulated to Members further in advance of the meeting. Members noted that the Forum was a focal point for Fire and



Rescue Authorities, and meetings needed to provide the opportunity for all Members to have a reasonable debate.

- Members suggested greater joint working between LGA Member structures on topics of joint interest, and this should extend to planning of conferences and events.
- Members praised the quality of agenda papers and the notes of meetings, and suggested that these be circulated more widely to all FRAs within LGA membership.

### **Action**

Officers to establish the number of FRAs represented at the LGA Fire Conference. **Clive Harris**

Officers to examine means of sharing information on FSMC and Fire Forum meetings with member Authorities. **Paul Johnston**

## **3. The Future of National Functions**

Trish O'Flynn introduced the report, stating that it considered the future ownership of key national functions that were currently carried out by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Members were concerned over proposals that advocated the creation of a further quango or quango-type body, and held similar concern over the number of bodies currently involved in national decision making on fire services issues. However, any initiative that belonged to the sector and afforded Fire and Rescue Authorities, more responsibility over local issues was to be welcomed, with lead authorities commissioned to carry out work on behalf of the sector.

Members also noted that there was a strong role for the Local Government Association, as the voice of English Fire and Rescue Authorities, to play in these discussions. Members were disappointed that the group of stakeholders set out within the Fire Protection Association's proposals did not include mention of the LGA.

### **Decision**

Members noted the report, and suggested exploring further the scope for Fire and Rescue Authorities to take on additional responsibility.

### **Action**

Officers to continue to develop work on possible alternative options for Fire and Rescue Authorities to be more widely involved in the delivery of national functions, including commissioning based options. **Trish O'Flynn**

## **4. Equality and Diversity progress report**

Cllr Brenda Forster, as the Committee's Equality and Diversity Champion, introduced the report.

Members agreed the need for Fire and Rescue services to be exemplar employees in this area, and the need to ensure that services were both reflective of the communities they served and able to meet the diverse range of needs that those communities might hold.

The following further points were raised:

- Bullying and harassment were best addressed as management issues, and Authorities should have policies and processes in place to address this.
- Members recognised that the Fire and Rescue Service had already progressed hugely in this area, but some Members felt there was a large amount of work still to do and that it was appropriate for the LGA to take an active lead on this issue to encourage further culture change and share good practice. Other Members stated that much of what was prescribed within the report was “business as usual” for Authorities, and that Fire and Rescue services performed well in this area compared with other services.
- Some Members felt the imposition of equality and diversity targets to be harmful, and that signing Charters did not necessarily demonstrate a full and active commitment toward ensuring equality and diversity within the fire service.
- Concerns were raised over the implications, particularly on rural authorities, of the Equalities Bill.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted LGA activity on equality and diversity, and agreed future Group activity.

## **5. Transfer of New Dimensions assets contracts**

Cllr Jeremy Hilton and Jon Hall, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, introduced the report.

Members noted CLG’s request in a recent circular for Fire and Rescue Authorities to accept a transfer of function, which would see ownership of all vehicles and equipment transferring to those authorities hosting them. Several Members stated that their Authority had not yet agreed this transfer as there were contracting issues, or more information was being sought. Members also raised concern over the increasing duties imposed on FRAs that were not in statute.

### **Decision**

The Committee supported the work undertaken in developing the National Resilience Board, and noted the contents of the report.

## **6. Treatment of supplements for Pension purposes**

Cllr Fred Walker introduced the report and circulated a briefing paper on the recent actuarial assessment of the pension schemes. Cllr Walker stated that

there were concerns over increasing demands on the Firefighters' pension schemes and that funding mechanisms needed to be reviewed. The paper had been brought to the Committee seeking Members' views to inform negotiations on the Firefighters' Pension Committee.

Members agreed that the scheme must be affordable for FRAs, and that FRAs should be encouraged to make sure that any enhancements to pay be non-pensionable.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted the report, agreed the current position on treatment of supplements for Pension purposes and asked Cllr Walker to keep them informed of developments.

#### **7. Other business update**

No other business was discussed.

#### **8. Note of the last meeting**

The note of the last meeting was agreed as a correct record.

Date of next meeting: 8 March 2010, Manchester Town Hall



# MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



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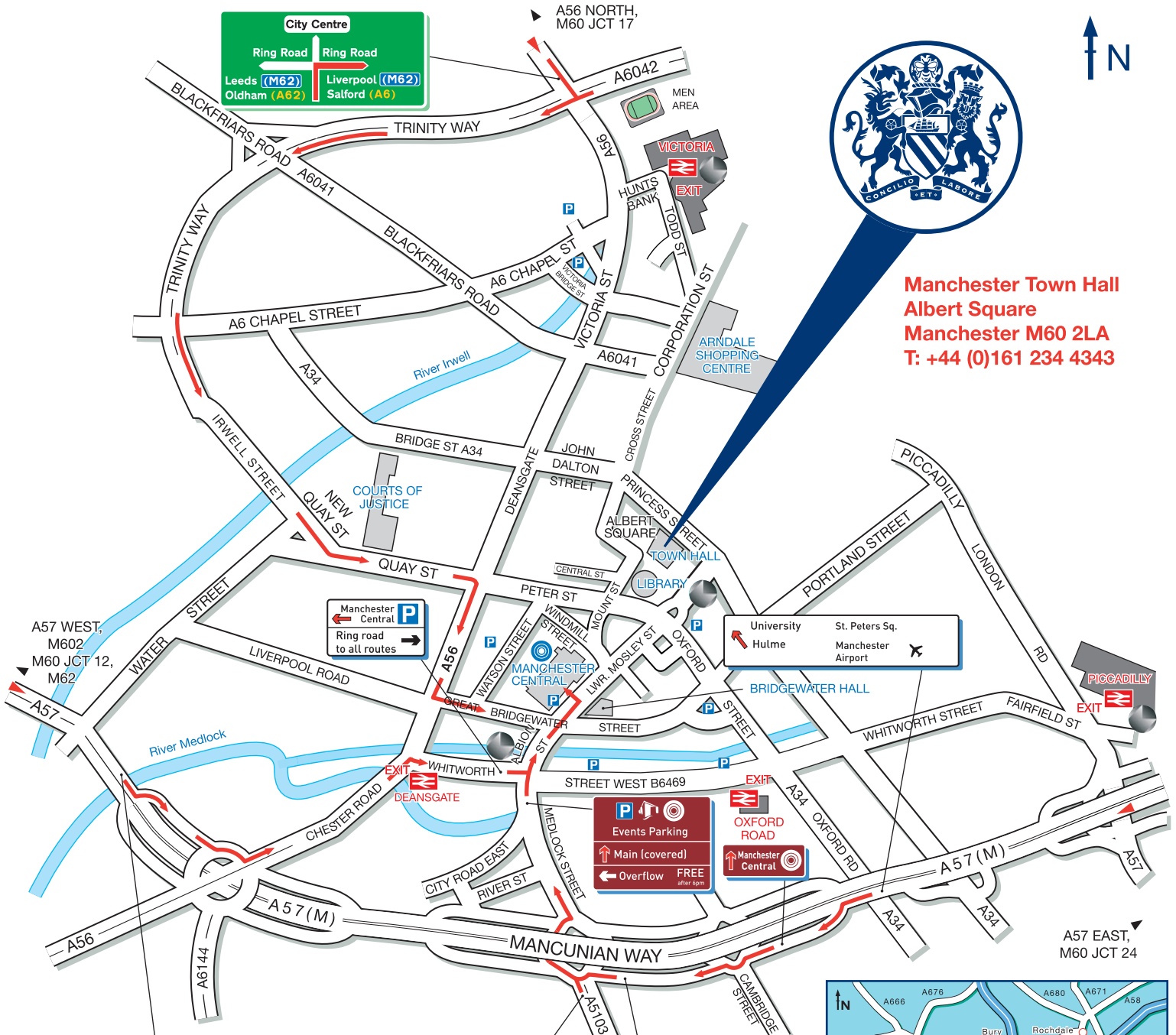
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