

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LG Group Fire Services Management Committee
Date and time:	Friday 10 September, 11.00
Venue:	Rathbone Rooms 1 & 2, Local Government House

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Organisation
Chairman	Cllr Brian Coleman	Barnet LB / LFEPA
Vice chair	Cllr Fred Walker	Greater Manchester FRA
Deputy chair	Cllr Paul Shannon	Greater Manchester FRA
Deputy chair	Cllr Christopher Newbury	Wiltshire FRA
Members	Cllr Richard Hobbs	Warwickshire CC
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey CC
	Cllr Maurice Heaster	Wandsworth LB / LFEPA
	Cllr John Bell	Greater Manchester FRA
	Cllr Ann Holland	Essex FRS
	Cllr David Topping	Cheshire FA
	Cllr Sian Timoney	Bedfordshire & Luton FRA
	Cllr John Joyce	Cheshire FA
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire CC
	Cllr Roger Price	Hampshire FRA
In attendance	Cllr Paul Bryant (as observer)	Royal Berkshire FRS
Apologies	Cllr Brenda Forster	Cleveland FA

Officers: Commissioner Ron Dobson (LFEPA); John Bonney (Hampshire CFA); Helen Murray, Clive Harris, Gill Gittins, Paul Johnston (LG Group)

The Chairman noted the passing of Cllr David Kirk, former Member of the Fire Services Management Committee. Attendees observed a minute's silence for Cllr Kirk.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p>Fire Services Management Committee membership, terms of reference and appointments to outside bodies 2010 - 11</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed new Members to the Committee.</p> <p>Members agreed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.</p> <p>Members agreed the list of outside bodies to which the Committee should appoint, and agreed the Committee's appointees. Officers agreed to progress appointments to the NJC.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p><i>Members agreed the Membership, Terms of Reference and outside bodies for the Fire Services Management Committee.</i></p> <p>Action</p> <p>Officers to write to Members to confirm their outside body appointments for 2010 / 11.</p> <p>Officers to confirm appointments to the National Joint Council.</p>	<p>Paul Johnston</p> <p>Clive Harris</p>
2	<p>Fire Futures</p> <p>Members agreed the preliminary points to include within the LGA submission to the Fire Futures review, and that the LGA submission be discussed further at the next meeting of the Fire Commission.</p> <p>With the Fire Futures project determining the future strategic direction of Fire and Rescue Services, Members expressed concern that the tight timescales of the project would prove detrimental to the development of policy that would be of the maximum possible benefit to the fire and rescue service.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that a special Fire Commission meeting would be held on 24 September to ensure all FRAs would have an opportunity to input to the LG Group's submission.</p> <p>Decision</p>	

Members noted the report and agreed the preliminary points to make for the four workstreams.

Action

After the Commission meeting, officers to draft the Fire Services Management Committee's submission to Government on Fire Futures, and to clear the submission with the Committee's Lead Members. Helen Murray

3 FiReControl

The Committee received a presentation from Roger Hargreaves, Department for Communities and Local Government.

Roger informed Members that there were ongoing contractual problems with the FiReControl project and that the operational quality of equipment delivered to date to Fire and Rescue Services was of concern.

Members said that Fire and Rescue Service staff needed a swift resolution on the future of the project in order to determine future resource requirements.

Members noted that this was an area that was likely to progress quickly over the next few weeks, and agreed to maintain the current Committee position taken on the project.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to report on progress at the next Committee meeting in November. Trish O'Flynn

4 The future of national functions

Following discussions at previous Committee meetings over the transfer to the fire and rescue sector of a number of functions currently undertaken by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Chairman summarised discussions Lead

members had had with the CFOA presidential team. Members discussed a stronger LG Group / CFOA partnership to lead on a specific group of those functions.

Members asked whether the LG Group and CFOA had sufficient resources to fulfil the more consolidated role set out within the report. Officers responded that the LG Group and CFOA would in many instances take a coordinating role in sharing best practice, and that many of those functions currently undertaken nationally would be, under the proposed model, fully devolved to the local level. Officers added that there was a commitment from both organisations to make the proposed model work to the benefit of the Fire and Rescue Service.

Decision

Members agreed that the LG Group and CFOA make a joint offer to the Department for Communities and Local Government to take over a specific group of national functions as set out in the report.

Members agreed that a report on progress be given to the Fire Commission in December.

Action

Officers to draft correspondence for clearance from Committee Lead Members on the proposed joint model.

Helen Murray

(A copy of this correspondence, sent on 24 September, is **attached**.)

5 Firebuy – future fire procurement

Members noted the proposals, as part of the wider piece of work for the LG Group / CFOA partnership around the delivery of a range of national functions, for fire and rescue service procurement. Members said that they were pleased that the model envisaged greater local decision-making responsibility for fire and rescue services in this area but had concerns about the enhanced role for the Procurement Board.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to progress discussions with CFOA and LG Leadership on the draft proposals for future fire procurement. Trish O'Flynn

6 The 2010 Spending Review

The Committee received a presentation from Bill Wilkinson, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, in which the likely impacts of the 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review on the fire and rescue service, and the public sector more widely, were outlined.

Members noted the report and asked that the LG Group submission to Government note the wider role in society that the Fire and Rescue Service is able to play, such as in tackling antisocial behaviour.

Decision

Members noted the strategy and agreed the content of the fire submission.

Action

Officers to feed Members' comments into the fire submission. Clive Harris

7 Work Programme for 2010 – 11

Members noted the Committee's Work Programme for the year, noting that the Programme would have to be flexible to respond to the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

8 Retained Duty System project

Members noted the report.

9 Pensions - early retirement and commutation cap under Rule B7 (4)

Cllr Walker updated the Committee on the firefighters' pension scheme, and on a draft proposal submitted to the Pensions Committee which suggested amendments to the scheme.

Cllr Walker agreed to continue to update the Committee on progress.

10 Industrial relations update

Members noted the report, and noted that the National Joint Council had recently agreed a protocol on good industrial relations.

11 Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.