

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	Fire Services Management Committee
Date and time:	Monday 19 March 2012, 4.00pm
Venue:	Bryanston Suite, Bournemouth Highcliff Marriott Hotel

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Cllr Brian Coleman	London FEPA / Barnet LB
Vice chair	Cllr Sian Timoney	Bedfordshire & Luton FRA
Deputy chair	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire FRS
Deputy chair	Cllr Christopher Newbury	Wiltshire FA
Members	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey CC
	Cllr Maurice Heaster OBE	London FEPA / Wandsworth LB
	Cllr John Bell	Greater Manchester FRA
	Cllr Ann Holland	Essex FRS
	Cllr David Topping	Cheshire FA
	Cllr John Joyce	Cheshire FA
	Cllr Keith Aspden	York City
Substitutes	Cllr Les Byrom CBE	Merseyside FRA
	Cllr Leslie Christie	Kent FA
	Cllr Darrell Pulk	Nottinghamshire FA
	Cllr Andre Gonzalez de Savage	Northamptonshire FA
	Cllr Paul Bryant also attended as an observer	
Apologies	Cllr Mark Healey	Devon & Somerset FRS
	Cllr Julie Young	Essex FRS

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Cllr Nick Forbes
Cllr Navin Shah

Tyne & Wear FA
London FEPA

Officers: Commissioner Ron Dobson, David Cartwright (LFEPA); CFO Dave Webb (Leicestershire FRS); Helen Murray, Eamon Lally, Stephen Service (all LGA).

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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Chairman Coleman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

1 National Framework Consultation response

Helen Murray, LGA Head of Programme reported that an agreed response on the National Framework proposal had now been finalised for submitting to CLG, as presented in Appendix A of the paper. Assurance and scrutiny were key areas that the LGA have asked to be amended.

Cllr Coleman requested final comments from Members, but warned that the document already reflected lengthy discussions on the issue and could not be redrafted significantly.

On FSMC involvement on the strategic governance body, Members asked how many places would be sought. Cllr Coleman responded that while 1 place was likely, the LGA would aim to get 2 representatives involved.

Cllr Hilton noted that the response referred to the resilience “forum”. Officers agreed that this should be changed to “Board” in line with current arrangements.

On CFOA’s response to the National Framework, Commissioner Ron Dobson, LFEPA confirmed that this was broadly in line with the LGA’s own submission.

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Decision

Members agreed the response to the consultation.

Action

Officers to replace National Resilience “Forum” references in the consultation response with National Resilience “Board”.

**Eamon Lally /
Helen Murray**

Officers to submit the final response to DCLG.

LGA Officers

2 Next Generation Telemetry Frequency Issues

Commissioner Dobson introduced this paper. He explained that the purpose was to alert Members to potential issues of mobile frequencies to be sold off. However, he was reassured that the Government have already identified this as a potential problem and have agreed to fund a solution once it is found. The Commissioner added that for Fire Authorities which have not yet bought telemetry, it would be sensible to wait and see what the solution will be before committing.

Commissioner Dobson emphasised that it is not yet clear how much the cost will be for the Government to provide a solution.

Members stressed that the health and safety of fire crews was paramount and warned that a quick solution was needed so that Authorities can budget accordingly. A protracted process for implementing a solution would be unacceptable. Commissioner Dobson agreed and said that the Fire Service is working with other stakeholders to resolve the situation urgently.

Action

Officers to reflect Members’ comments in taking this issue forward.

**Commissioner
Dobson / LGA
Officers**

3 LGA Fire Conference and Exhibition 2012 and 2013

Jane Marcroft from the LGA Conference and Events team presented this item. She confirmed that delegate numbers and exhibitor demand for this year’s conference were up on previous

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years. The Conference team is looking for a venue with a bigger exhibition space for next year. However, choice is restricted due to the limited number of venues which have sprinkler systems fitted.

Cllr Coleman argued that an attractive location increased the popularity of the event with delegates. He welcomed the increase in commercial exhibitors and said that the conference needed to be seen as the premier event for the Fire Service.

On sprinklers, Cllr Coleman said that there was potentially a piece of work to be done by the Sprinklers working group on why so few hotels had sprinklers fitted.

Decision

Members noted the report.

4 Industrial Relations

Cllr Maurice Heaster and LGA Senior Advisor Eamon Lally updated Members on the latest developments in industrial relations.

While Cllr Heaster said that the risk of industrial dispute remained, Members praised the positive approach of all stakeholders to date, emphasising that negotiations had been largely positive thus far with a genuine desire for compromise demonstrated.

Decision

Members noted the report.

5 FSMC update paper

Cllr Hammond reported that the **Peer Challenge** pilots were going well and a full evaluation was expected to be completed by mid March. The working group plan to try extending the time of the challenge from 3 to 4 days to see how this affects them. This model will still comprise 3 working days but with 1 full day allocated for feedback, in response to comments that this aspect of the challenge is too constrained by time.

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Cllr Hammond suggested that the Challenge be included as an item at the FSMC in July to ensure the final model is signed off within the current cycle.

On **Fire Control**, Cllr Coleman announced that London FEPA has become the first privatised authority.

Eamon Lally said that the **Sprinklers Working Group** has now met twice and is currently looking to build coalitions with other Boards within the LGA. The Environment and Housing Board will present to the Executive committee in May.

Cllr Coleman responded that while this approach was helpful, the issue needed radical and challenging initiatives that would get the message heard. He emphasised that the time for polite gestures was over and that there was now a need to get the Sprinklers agenda moving.

On **Retained Firefighters' Pensions**, Eamon Lally reported that the LGA has provided the Government with information on numbers and are waiting for them to respond on costs in order to understand the scale of the issue, including the range of payouts expected. They will then move on to addressing how to finance this obligation.

Helen Murray said an announcement on the **Fire College** from Ministers is imminent and that CLG were hoping to get ministerial clearance by the end of the week. Cllr John Joyce reported that the Fire College Board met on 7 March to discuss the new terms of reference for the college.

Action

Officers to include Peer Challenge as an item on the FSMC agenda in July.

**Stephen
Service**

6 Notes of the last meeting

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting.



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Management Committee**
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Date of next meeting: Monday 14 May 2012, Local Government House