

Fire Services Management Committee membership and appointments to outside bodies 2012 – 13

Purpose of report

For decision.

Summary

This report outlines the membership of the Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Services Management Committee for the 2012 / 13 meeting cycle. The report also outlines outside bodies to which Committee is asked to appoint for the 2012 / 13 meeting cycle.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

1. Formally note the membership for the LGA Fire Services Management Committee (attached as **Appendix A**)
2. Formally appoint to outside bodies in accordance with the procedure outlined in **Appendix B**, ensuring that the bodies to which they wish to appoint accurately reflect LGA priorities;
3. Note that members currently representing the Committee on outside bodies provide any appropriate feedback from the previous meeting cycle;
4. Provide the LGA Executive October meeting with the Committee's 2012-2013 list of outside body appointments.

Actions

Officers to:

1. Inform outside bodies of any changes in, or confirm continuation of, LGA representatives.
2. Confirm appointments directly to members and also via a paper for information at the next appropriate full Committee meeting.

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Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) membership

- Members are invited to formally note the membership and to confirm the Committee's Lead Members for 2012 / 13 (as detailed in **Appendix A**). With the agreement of the LGA political groups, the Committee has been reduced from 15 to 14 members since 2011/12 as the proportionality of the groups meant that no single group had a clear entitlement to the fifteenth place. The breakdown of the committee by authority type is as follows:

FA type	FSMC 2009/10 (1 Conservative vacancy)		FSMC 2010/11		FSMC 2011/12		FSMC 2012/13	
	Number of Members	Percentage of Members	Number of Members	Percentage of Members	Number of Members	Percentage of Members	Number of Members	Percentage of Members
London	4	29	2	13	3	20	2	14
Mets	2	14	3	20	2	13	3	21
CFAs	5	36	7	47	6	40	6	43
Counties	3	21	3	20	4	27	2	14
Other*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Total	14	100	15	100	15	100	14	100

*Denotes FSMC Members who sit on Welsh fire authorities or non-fire authorities.

FSMC outside body appointments

- The Local Government Association (LGA) currently benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across a range of LGA member structures. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and activities of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA.
- A list of the organisations to which the Fire Services Management Committee currently appoints member representatives is attached as **Appendix C**. This list also details where Councillors have been returned to the Committee in the new cycle and where changes in membership have created a vacancy on an outside body. Members are asked to note and comment upon the appointments for this meeting cycle, which are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA.
- A database for centrally recording all the information relating to appointments is held by the Member Services team.
- In order to clarify the process for making appointments; the method of recording information on appointments; and to set out the level of support we will offer to

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appointed members, a procedure has been drawn up (**Appendix B**) which aims to ensure that Members are, ahead of the first meeting of the cycle, fully briefed on both the policy direction of the outside body and the logistical arrangements, such as meeting frequency, meeting location and membership.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LG Association for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

Appendix A

Fire Services Management Committee Membership 2012/13

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Kay Hammond [Chairman]	Surrey CC
Mark Healey	Devon & Somerset FRS
Maurice Heaster OBE	London FEPA
John Bell	Greater Manchester FRA
David Topping	Cheshire FA
Kevin Foster*	West Midlands FRA
Substitutes:	
Richard Hobbs	Warwickshire FA
Ann Holland	Essex FA
David Rowlands	Bucks & Milton Keynes FA
Labour (5)	
Sian Timoney [Vice Chair]	Bedfordshire & Luton FRA
John Joyce	Cheshire FA
Navin Shah	London FEPA
Julie Young	Essex CC
John Edwards	West Midlands FRA
Substitutes:	
Les Byrom CBE	Merseyside FRA
Leslie Christie	Kent FA
Darrell Pulk	Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham FA
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Jeremy Hilton [Deputy Chair]	Gloucestershire CC
Keith Aspden	North Yorkshire FRA
Substitutes:	
Roger Price	Hampshire CC
Terry Stacy MBE JP	London FEPA
Independent (1)	
Brian Copping [Deputy Chair]	Shepway DC

Appendix B

Procedure for LGA appointments to outside bodies

1. List of Outside Bodies

1.1 It is the responsibility of the Boards to review the need for representation on outside bodies as part of their annual appointments process. Boards should:

- Ensure that the list of outside bodies reflects LGA priorities, both by ending appointments where these are not felt to be of value and by actively seeking representation on new organisations;
- Evaluate both the value of the LGA's relationship with the organisation and the level of LGA influence on that body; and
- Have consideration of when it is necessary to appoint a member representative and when an officer appointment would be more appropriate.

1.2 The Boards will submit a report to the LGA Executive setting out their current list of outside bodies every year in October.

2. Political Proportionality

2.1 As stated in the LGA Political Conventions:

Every effort will be made to ensure that all groups recognised by the Association are fairly represented on outside bodies both numerically and in terms of the range/type of appointments made. Each Board or Panel responsible for making appointments should agree the means by which this is achieved ... Appointments to individual outside bodies should reflect political balance where possible, subject to the constraints set by the number of appointments to individual bodies.

2.2. While the Boards are responsible for ensuring appointments are made in accordance with the LGA's political proportionality, the political group offices have oversight of this process through:

2.2.1 Considering individual appointments in the context of all appointments to outside bodies across the organisation.

2.2.2 Maintaining lists of members of Boards and other councillors willing to serve on outside bodies, together with details of their particular skills and experience.

2.2.3 Discussing nominations to outside bodies with their members at the political group meetings preceding September Board meetings.

2.2.4 Being kept informed of any additional appointments that arise during the course of the board cycle.

2.2.5 Finding a representative if a Board is unable to secure an appointment.

3. Appointments

3.1 Appointments will be agreed by each Board at their September meeting and will be time limited – set according to the outside body's governance arrangements.

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- 3.2 The Member Support Officer will then write to each organisation notifying them of the appointment and requesting details of forthcoming meetings.
- 3.3 Certain appointments are made centrally and appointments are also made by the LGA to negotiating bodies. While the process for making these appointments will be different, this information will be recorded on the central database and the same requirements for review and for support to members apply.

4. Recording information about appointments

- 4.1 A database of existing outside body appointments will be maintained centrally by the member support team, to include:
 - 4.1.1 Councillor details, including political party;
 - 4.1.2 Term of Office;
 - 4.1.3 A key contact at the organisation;
 - 4.1.4 Any allowances or expenses paid by the outside body; and
 - 4.1.5 Named LGA link officer.
- 4.2 The Member support team will add details of the appointment to the notes on the appointed councillor's database entry and on the organisation's database entry.
- 4.3 The list of Outside Bodies, broken down by Board, will be published on the LGA website and details will also be added to each member's web profile. The member support team has responsibility for ensuring this is kept up to date.

5. LGA support for members appointed to Outside Bodies

- 5.1 Members appointed to outside bodies must receive support from LGA officers in order to maximise their contributions to outside bodies, including being kept informed of key LGA lobbying messages. Support will therefore be provided in line with the following Scrutiny Panel recommendations, agreed by the LGA in 2003:
 - 5.1.1 For each Board making appointments to outside bodies, there should be a designated LG Group member of staff to oversee the appointment process for that executive, including the provision of introductory briefing for new appointees.
 - 5.1.2 A named member of staff should be appointed as the liaison person for each outside body.
 - 5.1.3 Each Board should consider the need for induction support for appointees in relation to particular outside bodies.
 - 5.1.4 Where deputies or substitute representatives are appointed, they should also be made aware of arrangements for support and report back.

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- 5.1.5 Details of any financial support from either the LGA or the outside body should be provided for all appointees.
- 5.2 Member Support Officers will oversee the appointment process and in most cases will be the liaison officer for outside bodies linked to their Boards; however, in certain cases it may be more appropriate for a Policy Adviser to act as the liaison.
- 5.3 Member Support Officers will ensure that appointees receive a letter setting out the details of the appointment, term of office, future meeting dates, arrangements for expenses and the contact details of both the organisation's named contact and the LGA's link officer.
- 5.4 New appointees will receive an initial briefing on the work of the outside body and relevant LGA lobbying messages from the link officer and will also be kept informed of any arising policy issues and of other local government contact with the organisation.
- 6. Mechanisms for feedback**
- 6.1 All appointees should be encouraged to provide updates to the link officer following meetings and when important issues arise.
- 6.2 All appointees, including non-board members, should be encouraged to feed into board 'other business' reports every 2 months. Appointees who are not board members may also wish to attend a board meeting to report back.
- 6.3 Towards the end of each year, all appointees will be contacted by the Member Support Officer and invited to feed back their views of the appointment, in preparation for the Boards' annual review of appointments. This should cover how many meetings they have attended, how useful they feel their role has been, whether they wish to continue and whether they have any additional support needs.
- 6.4 The named contact at the outside body should also be contacted annually to confirm details of attendance and provide an update on any changes.
- 7. Expenses**
- 7.1 Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.
- 7.2 Expenses will be paid to members appointed to outside bodies, in line with the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme:

Approved Duties for payment of Travel and Subsistence Costs

- 7.2.1 *Approved duties (for payment of Travel & Subsistence) under the LGA scheme are:*

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- 7.2.1.1 *Attendance at meetings with Ministers, Government Departments or consultations with other bodies where members have been appointed by the Association;*
 - 7.2.1.2 *Attendance at receptions, visits, conferences, seminars or other functions where members have been appointed by the Association to attend in a representative role on behalf of the Association; and*
 - 7.2.1.3 *Attendance as the Association's appointed representative on any public body, charity, voluntary body or other organisation formed for a public purpose (and not for the benefit of its members).*
- 7.2.2 *Travel and subsistence costs for all other meetings should be met by member authorities.*

Travel and Subsistence Costs

- 7.2.3 *The Association will reimburse rail fares on the basis of the standard fare. In exceptional circumstances, the Association will reimburse the first class fare, but this will be subject to certification of the claim form as to why travel by first class was necessary. It will also reimburse reasonable levels of subsistence. Receipts should always be provided for travel and subsistence claims. Where it is necessary for a member to use his or her own vehicle when on an approved duty on behalf of the Association, mileage will only be reimbursed to a maximum of the first class rail fare.*

Carers' Allowance

- 7.2.4 *A carers' allowance of up to £5.93 per hour, (i.e. actual expenditure incurred up to a maximum of £5.93 per hour) will be paid for care of dependants whether children, elderly people or people with disabilities to those members who receive responsibility allowances for approved duties set out under paragraph 4, and to those members representing the LGA on outside bodies. The maximum period of the entitlement will be the duration of the approved duty and reasonable travelling time. The allowance will not be payable to a member of the claimant's own household. The carers' (reasonable) expenses will be paid.*

Payment of Travel & Subsistence Costs and Carers' Allowances

- 7.2.5 *Members should initially claim travel and subsistence costs and the carers' allowance, as appropriate, from their authority. Authorities should then seek reimbursement from the Association on a quarterly basis.*
- 7.2.6 *Claims from authorities should be submitted promptly identifying clearly and fully the meeting to which the claim refers. (Reference to a meeting as "LGA, London" for example will not be sufficient and will delay re-imburement of the claim).*

Appendix C

Fire Services Management Committee: Outside Bodies and Internal Working Groups

Appointed Outside Bodies

Organisation / contact details	Background	Appointee (2011 / 12 appointees below)
CLP Sub Group for Fire	A regular meeting between the Local Government Association (LGA) and government ministers in order to discuss fire and rescue service policy issues.	5 places Cllr Brian Coleman, LFEPA (Cons); Cllr Sian Timoney, Bedfordshire and Luton FA (Labour); Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Gloucestershire CC (LD); Cllr Christopher Newbury, Wiltshire and Swindon FA (Ind) 1 vacancy
Firefighters' Pensions Committee	The Firefighters' Pensions Committee is a consultative body, representative of key stakeholders in the Fire and Rescue Service, on issues related to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme(s).	Cllr Maurice Heaster, LFEPA (Cons)
Strategic Resilience Board		2 places Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Gloucestershire CC (LD); Cllr Mark Healey, Devon & Somerset FA (Cons)

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Fire Service College Strategic Stakeholder Board	The Fire Service College is responsible for providing leadership, management and advanced operational training courses for senior fire officers from the UK and foreign fire authorities. The Board ensures stakeholder involvement in the activities of the College.	Cllr John Joyce, Cheshire FA (Labour)
CFOA, RDS and Operational Training Working Group	The Group meets to discuss work practices for retained duty systems and develop recommendations.	Cllr Kay Hammond, Surrey CC (Cons)

Appointed Members may wish to continue on the abovementioned bodies, but are not obliged to do so. Members are asked to ensure that appointments for 2012 / 13 are in broad proportionality with the political group makeup of the Committee, which is as follows:

Conservative Group: 6 appointees

Labour Group: 5 appointees

Liberal Democrat Group: 2 appointees

Independent Group: 1 appointee

Based on the LGA Political Proportionality Figures, the 9 seat allocation for 2012 / 13 should be broadly as follows:

4 Conservative, 3 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Independent

Appointed Internal Working Groups (meeting in 2011/12)

Organisation / contact details	Background	Appointee (2011 / 12 appointees below)
Sprinklers Campaign Working Group	The Sprinklers Campaign Working Group was set up to develop a campaign to highlight the importance of fitted Sprinkler systems and increase public awareness of the issue.	Cllr John Edwards, West Midlands FRA (Labour); Cllr Rebecca Knox, Dorset FA (Cons); Cllr Richard Hobbs, Warwickshire FA (Cons) Cllr Dave Hanratty, Merseyside FA (Labour); Cllr David Milsted, Dorset FA (LD);

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Fire Peer Challenge Working Group	Working Group to develop the Fire & Rescue Service peer challenge offer.	Cllr Kay Hammond, Surrey CC (Cons); Cllr David Rowlands, Bucks & Milton Keynes FA (Cons); Cllr Les Byrom CBE, Merseyside FRA (Labour); Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Gloucestershire CC (LD)
Fire College Working Group	The Group met to examine the strategic issues facing the Fire Service College, explore options for its future governance, structure and financial operation and to report back with recommendations to the Fire Services Management Committee.	David Cartwright QFSM, LFEPA (Cons); Cllr Mike Bawden, Wiltshire and Swindon FRA (Cons); Councillor Peter Abraham, Avon FRA (Cons); Councillor John Joyce, Cheshire FRA (Labour); Councillor Sian Timoney, Bedfordshire and Luton FRA (Labour); Councillor Jeremy Hilton, Gloucestershire CC (LD)

LGA Strategic Advisor:

Ron Dobson CBE, Commissioner, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Finance Adviser:

Kieran Timmins, Executive Director of Finance, Procurement and ICT, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Human Resources Advisers:

James Dalgleish, Head of Human Resources, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority;

Bob Warren, Director of Human Resources, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service;

Karen Palframan, Human Resources and Development Manager, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service