

Chairman's report

Purpose of report

For noting.

Summary

This paper summarises the meetings and events that the FSMC Chairman has attended since the Committee's last meeting.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Action

Officers will take action as directed by members.

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1. This paper provides information on the meetings and engagements that the Fire Services Management Committee has attended on behalf of member fire and rescue authorities.
2. I met Brandon Lewis MP on 15 May as part of my quarterly cycle of meetings with the minister. Discussion focused on next steps for the fire service following the publication of Sir Ken Knight's Efficiency Review. The Minister indicated that DCLG intend to consult a number of stakeholders, including the LGA before publishing the government's response to Sir Ken's report.
3. As part of the LGA Conference I hosted a breakfast session on 4 July with Sir Ken on the review, which provided an initial opportunity for authorities to ask questions and respond to the issues raised.
4. I attended the first College Management Board meeting on 29 May where discussions focused on the new governance arrangements and the vision for the College.
5. The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme Strategic Board met on the 8 July. The focus of this meeting was an HMIC review of the work undertaken by the programme so far and what could be done to ensure aims and objectives can be met when the programme closes in mid-2014.
6. I met with the Chair and Chief of Humberside FRA on 12 June to hear their views on Sir Ken Knight's efficiency review and also to find out more about HFRSolutions, a community interest company that has been set up by the FRS.
7. On the 27 June I met with Chairmen/portfolio holders from Devon and Somerset, Cornwall, Avon, Gloucestershire and North Wales to gain a better understanding of the issues facing Welsh and south west fire and rescue authorities.
8. I attended the opening of the Firefighters Charity's third rehabilitation centre at Marine Court, Littlehampton on 9 May. The charity is the UK's leading provider of services that enhance quality of life for serving and retired fire fighters, fire personnel and their families. The charity aims to make a positive difference by supporting people in the fire and rescue community when they are in need. It costs £9million a year to keep the Charity running and with no government funding they are completely reliant on the public to support the charity's work.