

## **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 Chairman of the Fire Services Management Committee has attended on behalf of member fire and rescue authorities.
2. I represented the LGA at the **Fire Service College Management Board** on 27 September, which meets every two months in Moreton in Marsh. The Board received a summary of transformation activity at the College and an update on the development of its business strategy.
3. On 16 October I attended the **Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme Strategic Board (JESIP)** at the Home Office. The Board received key milestones in moving towards the anticipated completion of the programme in September 2014. After being submitted for consultation over the summer, a joint doctrine focusing on operational interoperability in the early stages of an incident was also agreed by the Board. Other items on the agenda included a recently introduced "train the trainer" programme which will enable 266 trainers to provide training across the three emergency services.
4. I gave an LGA perspective on current fire issues at the **Combined Fire Authorities Annual Conference** on 17 October at Wyboston. In my speech, I highlighted sector-led improvement and blue light collaboration as key to ensuring the sustainability of the service and emphasised the need for central government to respect a localist approach to reform.
5. On 24 October along with representatives from nearly all FRSs I attended the National Employers consultation meeting to discuss a potential set of principles on fitness and capability. These principles are being considered with the aim of assisting DCLG and the FBU to resolve their dispute on pensions.
6. On 4 November I attended a dinner hosted by Skills for Justice with senior leaders in Fire and Rescue Services, Police Services, and Ambulance Trusts across a number of regions, as well as other key stakeholders. The event sought to start a dialogue around what a more integrated **blue light emergency response service** could look like, including cross-service overlaps between operational and strategic functions. Areas of discussion included an integrated development programme for top management, a more data-driven approach to planning, prevention and benchmarking, and alternative business models for service delivery.
7. I chaired a working **dinner with Chairs from South East Fire Authorities** on 6 November. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss whether the LGA's work programme continued to meet members' needs and what support was required in the year ahead as part of the LGA's ongoing dialogue with the sector.
8. Following a survey of partner organisations gathering views on the effectiveness of its work and activities, I facilitated **an LGA workshop with the Safer Suffolk Partnership** on 7 November. The event looked at the results of analysis to explore what the foundations of effective working were and identified "hot topics" and developing ways forward for the partnership.

9. On 18 November, I will be leading sessions in the West Midlands at the second of the LGA's latest cycle of Fire **Leadership Academies** for elected members with senior roles on fire and rescue authorities.