

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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Chairman's report

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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. On 18 November, I led 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.

9. I attended a **Reform event** entitled “**Blue light collaboration- the route to emergency services efficiency**” in Westminster on 26 November. Both Earl Howe, Minister for Quality at the Department of Health and Brandon Lewis spoke at the event, which was billed as an opportunity to generate practical ideas on implementing joint capability and interoperability between blue light services from both public and private sectors while Sir Ken Knight’s report is being considered by Government. Delegates also heard from John Lewis, Chief Operating Officer at Airwave.
10. Alongside Cllrs Howson and Wright, I represented the LGA at the **Fire Futures Forum** hosted by CFOA in London on 27 November. The event brought together stakeholders from a range of sectors to find a cost effective and proportionate solution to prevent fires in waste management and recycling facilities.
11. Following on from the Safer Suffolk partnership workshop in November, I will be undertaking a **fire peer challenge** at Suffolk from 2-5 December. Alongside core elements of the challenge such as leadership, the review will focus on a number of key service challenges that Suffolk have identified within their self-assessment.
12. On 11 December I have been invited to attend a local **members’ information day on Emergency Responsibilities and Terrorist threat levels** given by Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority. The day will highlight the preparation of the service for the current risks faced within this community and will hear from the Emergency Planning college on the responsibilities of elected members regarding civil resilience and emergency planning.
13. Finally, on the evening of 11 December, I will be in London to attend **LFEPA’s annual Carol Service**, marking the end of a challenging but productive year for Fire and Rescue Services across England and Wales.
14. On that seasonal note, may I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year and a restful holiday period. As I stated in my letter of October, as far as diary commitments permit, I am always happy to visit you in your own authorities, so please get in touch with stephen.service@local.gov.uk if you would like to meet me on a particular issue or if there are any events in the new year which you feel would be beneficial for me to attend as FSMC Chairman.