

## **Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The report outlines issues of interest to the Committee not covered under the other items on the agenda.

### **Recommendation**

Members to note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Lucy Ellender  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3321  
**E-mail:** [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)

## **Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper**

### **Ministerial meeting**

1. On 31 October the FSMC lead members met with Brandon Lewis, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service.
2. The agenda covered a number of issues including Inspection and peer challenge; Equality and diversity; Procurement; Working with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA); and Governance.
3. On inspection members outlined their support for inspection and welcomed the that the Home Office has recognised the role of Operational Assessment (OpA) & Fire Peer Challenge programme in sector-led improvement. Members agreed that the LGA's chief concern was to ensure that the inspection regime was proportionate and did not overburden FRAs.
4. Members reaffirmed their commitment to improve diversity in the firefighter workforce and outlined the work that the LGA is doing on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century firefighter and the work of the Inclusive Fire Service.
5. Lead Members discussed the engagement that the Fire Services Management Committee and Fire Commission had undertaken with Ann Millington on procurement. It was noted that the FSMC and Fire Commission had agreed to procurement as a priority for the year.
6. Work with CFOA is already underway and Lead Members have started to have new regular meetings with the CFOA and have agreed the key principles for the future of this work.
7. The meeting was positive and the Minister welcomed the constructive engagement he had had with the LGA. The Minister was clear that his main area of interest was workforce reform. His priority for the future was to increase the rate of reform in the fire service, and he was looking to the sector to assist him in driving the reform agenda.

### **Policing and Crime Bill**

8. The Policing and Crime Bill has now completed the committee stage in the House of Lords. The Bill will have its report stage on the 28 November. It is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in January. This is slightly later than originally anticipated.

9. The LGA's briefings on the Bill can be found on our website:  
[http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/7730394/ARTICLE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/briefings-and-responses/-/journal_content/56/10180/7730394/ARTICLE)

### **Sprinklers in new school buildings**

10. Following on from the discussion at the last FSMC meeting and the further discussion at Fire Commission, the LGA has written to Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, to highlight our concerns about the changes to the new version of the Building Bulletin 100 regarding sprinklers in new schools. We highlighted the damage that fires in these buildings can do to students and families, and how cost effective they can be. We have asked that the Department reconsiders their decision on sprinklers and supports the provision of sprinklers in new schools.

### **Independent Assessment of the Business Case**

11. In August members of the LGA and the Home Office discussed the method for ensuring independent scrutiny of any business case submitted in support of a PCC assuming FRA responsibilities. Members discussed the importance of ensuring that there was a panel of experts who would look at the business case against the four key pillars of efficiency, effectiveness, economy and public safety, and a letter was sent to the Minister outlining Member's views.
12. The LGA has discussed these issues further at officer level with the Home Office. Home office officials feel the proposed approach of a fixed panel, put forward in the letter, is too inflexible. The government is considering whether a list of individuals could be agreed between the Home Office, LGA and APCC, from which the minister could then appoint one to conduct the scrutiny.

### **Fire/Health**

13. Cllr Hilton and Cllr Acton from the FSMC and Cllr Kemp from the Community Wellbeing Board attended the last Fire/Health Summit, which took place on the 19 October. There was representation from Public Health England, NHS England, CFA, the Home Office and Age UK
14. The summit looked at the progress of the programme. This included learning from PHE's winter health pilots in Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and Greater Manchester; the publication of "Working Together"; a draft evaluation framework for FRAs to use to assess the benefit of safe and well visits; data sharing and the parliamentary event the group is running with the APPG for Fire and Rescue Services in February 2017. Members of the FSMC will receive an invitation to the parliamentary event.
15. Further information and useful documents from the programme are available on the NHS's website: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/out-frwrk/dom-2/fire-asset/>

**LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme – 25-26 October**

16. The LGA ran its fire leadership essentials programme on the 25 – 26 October at Warwick Conference Centre. The programme had contributions from external speakers including fire and rescue authorities and the Home Office and covered a range of issues including collaboration, personal leadership style, influencing and media skills as well as providing an overview of councillors duties and responsibilities of members of FRAs and current strategic issues facing FRAs. Feedback from the event was positive.