

LGA Response to Publication of Thomas Review

LGA media release - 3 November 2016

Responding to the publication of an independent review by Adrian Thomas of conditions of service for fire and rescue staff in England, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, Chair of the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee, said:

"The LGA welcomes the publication of this long-awaited report and commends Adrian Thomas on a comprehensive piece of work. He has made a large number of detailed recommendations that require – and deserve – detailed consideration, but we believe we can make quick progress in some areas.

"We have already established a framework of meetings with the Chief Fire Officers Association to take forward the fire reform agenda and we will be using these to identify recommendations that can be progressed without delay. We are already undertaking work with a wide range of stakeholders, through the Inclusive Fire Service Group, to increase the diversity of the fire service and to support the development of best practice on some of the cultural issues raised by Adrian Thomas.

"The LGA will shortly be writing to special interest groups representing women and black and minority ethnic firefighters to invite them to discuss a memorandum of understanding in accordance with the review's recommendations.

"Much is already underway to address the issues identified in the report and local government shares the Minister's determination to drive forward fire reform. We agree with Adrian Thomas that where change is common sense it should be common practice and we will work closely with the Government, chief officers and the workforce and unions to make that happen."