

20 September 2017

Fire Services Management Committee Update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That members of the Committee note the report.

Action

Officers to continue to provide updates to members.

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Fire Reform agenda

Police and Crime Commissioners and fire governance

1. The Statutory Instrument to change the governance of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service came into force on 1 August. Matthew Ellis is the new Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime.
2. The [Statutory Instrument](#) to change the governance of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority was laid before Parliament on the 6 September and will come into force on the 15 November.
3. There have been no Statutory Instruments made for the change of governance for West Mercia (Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services) or Cambridgeshire following the Home Office confirmation of the changes in March 2018. We understand the judicial reviews of the Home Office's decisions are continuing.
4. No Statutory Instruments have been made for Northamptonshire which was similarly announced in April 2018. Dates for transfer of governance in these three services therefore remains unconfirmed.
5. Hertfordshire FRA have issued a joint press release with Hertfordshire PCC, David Lloyd, announcing that they have agreed to maintain the current governance arrangements, whilst working to strengthening collaboration across blue light services through a formal Hertfordshire Emergency Services Collaboration Board.

Fire Standards Board

6. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has confirmed that LGA has a place on the Standards Board. The details of secretariat contacts and meeting dates are still being established.

HMICFRS Inspections

7. The first tranche of inspections have now been completed with 14 services having been inspected with Kent FRA being shifted to the second tranche of inspections. 14 individual reports and a national report are expected to be published in early December. Dates for the second tranche of inspections are expected to have been sent to relevant authorities by mid-September.

Corporate inspection and the Inspection External Reference Group

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8. HMICFRS is in the process of developing the corporate inspection criteria and will be consulting across the sector on various elements of the inspection process and triggers. The expectation is that corporate inspections will be by exception and that in general inspections will not be required. The FSMC and Fire Commission will be receiving presentations on this at future meetings.
9. The Inspection External Reference Group continues to meet regularly with representatives from HMICFRS, FSMC, NFCC and the Home Office.

JESIP Interoperability Board

10. The latest JESIP Interoperability Board meeting took place on the 3 September. Members of the group discussed key issues around the continued use of the Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) to share good practice and development of a multi-agency self-assurance or peer review process.

Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)

11. The NFCC briefed the FSMC meeting in June around the extension to timelines of the ESMCP project beyond the life-expectancy of the current FireLink (Airwave) communications system. Since then the NFCC, in partnership with FSMC, have written to Sir Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, to voice concerns around the extended timeline for introduction and the continuation of the Section 31 Airwave grant beyond the current end date of Dec 2019.

Local Government Association

12. **LGA Leadership Essentials Fire and Rescue:** The LGA will be holding two fire leadership essentials courses in 2018/19 on 28-29 November 2018 and 26-27 February 2019, both events will be held at Warwick Conference Centre.
13. **Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses:** The current plan is to hold five regional Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Masterclasses from December 2018 to March 2019 following the publishing of the first tranche of HMCIFRS inspections in November. Dates are provisionally set for a London event on 9 January 2019 and a West Yorkshire event on 18 January 2019. Three further events are planned for the South West, West Midlands and the North West.