

20 September 2018

Annual Fire Conference 2019

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The paper provides an overview of the fire conference programme.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note progress in planning the next Fire Conference and are invited to make suggestions.

Action

Officers to proceed as directed.

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Annual Fire Conference 2019

Background

1. In 2019 the Annual Fire Conference will be taking place on 12-13 March at the Hilton Metropole Hotel, Brighton, with the FSMC meeting there on 11 March.
2. Officers have produced an outline of the programme for members' input, and the format of the sessions and the topics of the plenaries have been considered by Lead Members.

Plenary sessions

3. There are currently six plenary sessions planned for the conference, including the Fire Minister leaving five plenaries for wider discussion of other issues. These sessions will focus around responding to inspection reports and support, implementation of the Hackitt recommendations, major incidents and fire finance. These issues are likely to be dominating services thinking and that of the Home Office over the remainder of 2018 and into 2019.
4. A draft conference programme is appended (**Appendix A**), but may be subject to amendment in light of the timing of announcements about the outcomes of the Hackitt Review and the interim report of the Grenfell Public Enquiry.

Workshop sessions

5. This year we have once again opened up a number of sessions for bidding. Bidding closes on 10 October. Can members please encourage their FRAs to consider putting in bids before the deadline.
6. Workshops we ran last year included:
 - 6.1. Taking a portfolio approach to managing fire transformation
 - 6.2. Creating innovative solutions via meaningful engagement with partners
 - 6.3. The Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme: The opportunity for service transformation for the next generation
 - 6.4. Blue Light services working together: National leadership through local delivery
 - 6.5. Fire and Rescue Service fleets – the environmental challenge
 - 6.6. It takes two (or three) to tango – the legal and practical implications of joint working and collaboration
 - 6.7. Wearable technology for the Blue Light services
 - 6.8. Working together – it's easy, isn't it?
 - 6.9. The fundamental operating principles of a Fire and Rescue Service.

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7. While bids may reflect any topic a member authority wishes to cover, suggestions members may wish to consider include:
 - 7.1. Wildfires
 - 7.2. Impact of environment/climate change
 - 7.3. Career development in the fire service
 - 7.4. Attacks on firefighters
 - 7.5. Diversity (led by the FSMC Diversity Champion)
 - 7.6. Central Programme Office of the NFCC.

Conference publication

8. It is proposed that the conference publication should be a joint document with the National Fire Chiefs Council around the outcomes of the Hackitt Review and related matters, including finance, the Joint Competent Authority, remediation work, future legislation, inspections and sprinklers. This will need to go to print and design at the beginning of February 2019 for publication at the conference.

Implications for Wales

9. There are no particular implications for Wales.

Financial Implications

10. There are no particular financial implications.

Next steps

11. Members are asked to note the content of the report, comment on the draft agenda and consider whether they wish to submit a workshop bid for the Fire Conference.

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Appendix A: Draft programme for Annual Fire Conference 12-13 March 2018

Tuesday 12 March 2019

09.00	Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing
10.30	Conference opening and Chair's welcome Councillor Dee Simpson , Mayor, City of Brighton and Hove Chair: Councillor Ian Stephens , Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Isle of Wight Council
10.45	Keynote session 1. Ministerial Keynote Nick Hurd MP , Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Home Office Chair: Councillor Ian Stephens , Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Isle of Wight Council Questions and discussion
11.20	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
11.50	Keynote session 2. Pay/ NJC Matt Wrack , General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union and Joint Secretary, National Joint Council Cllr Nick Chard , LGA FSMC and Chairman, Kent
12.45 To 1.50	Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking
2.00	Workshops – session 1 An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will not be repeated.
3.00	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
3.30	Workshops – session 2 An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will not be repeated.
4.40	Keynote session 3. Lessons from Inspection Zoë Billingham , HM Inspector, HMICFRS

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5.30 **Political group meetings**

6.30 **Fire authority meetings**

7.15 Drinks reception

8.00 Conference dinner

Wednesday 13 March 2019

09.00 Registration for new delegates, refreshments and exhibition viewing

09.30 **Welcome to day two from the conference chair**

09.40 **Keynote session 4. Fire finance/spending review**

10.25 **Keynote session 5. Building safety - beyond the Hackitt Review**

11.20 Refreshments and exhibition viewing

11.50 **Keynote session 6. Dealing with major incidents**

(eg Wildfires, Manchester bomb or Grenfell) NB the content of this session will depend on what has been published by the Grenfell Inquiry

12.30 Conference close, lunch, exhibition viewing and networking

Chair: **Councillor Ian Stephens**, Chair LGA Fire Services Management Committee and Isle of Wight Council