

20 September 2018

Note of last Fire Services Management Committee meeting

Title: Fire Services Management Committee
Date: Friday 22 June 2018
Venue: Smith Square Rooms 1&2, Local Government House, Smith Square,
London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chair noted apologies received, and substitute Board members in attendance. No Declarations of Interest were made.	
2	Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attacks and Business Continuity Planning - presentation The Chair invited Julian Hilditch, National Resilience Policy Adviser of the Home Office to introduce the item. Julian stated that his presentation was in two parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The first part will discuss business continuity planning in the event of industrial action.- The second part will discuss Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attacks (MFTA) capability. Julian touched on many points throughout his presentation, which included the risk of industrial action and related planning approaches as well as the letter sent by the Minister of State for Policing and Fire Service to authorities in January 2018, which sought clarity on a number of areas. Julian also discussed the key findings in his recent visits to eight FRSs, and the next steps that would follow on from the visits. Julian then went on to discuss the fire services' role in responding to MFTAs. Members raised a range of comments in relation to business continuity planning and the role of the service in MTFAs. Members raised questions about some of the assumptions in the Home Office's assessment of	

business continuity arrangements, the way information on business continuity capabilities had been gathered, and the views of the workforce on MTFA.

The Chair agreed with Members comments and thanked them for their contribution.

Julian stated he taken note of all comments and will be in-touch late on in the year.

Action:

- Members noted the presentation.

3 Kerslake Report Fire and Rescue Service Actions

The Chair invited Roy Wilshire, Chair of the National Fire Chief's Council to introduce the item.

Roy discussed key findings and went on to discuss next steps, which include a coordinated response by the emergency services to recommendations made in the report.

The Chair thanked Roy for the update and invited Members to comment:

- Members discussed the NFCC's action plan in response to the report.
- Members noted that some actions in the plan had yet to be finalised.
 - o Roy stated that this work was on-going, and that future updates to the plan will be made.
- Members discussed the media's coverage of the terrorist attack in Manchester in 2017.
- Members also discussed the impact on the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the changes in governance that had resulted in the combined authority from the report.
- Members suggested that they received a further presentation about the lessons from the Manchester attack, and that fire and rescue authority members should be provided with a list of questions they should be asking to reassure themselves of their own services' preparations.
 - o Roy stated that a further report could be brought back to the Committee and members could be provided with a checklist.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Members noted the report.

4 Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme Update

The Chair invited Ian Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and NFCC Business Change Lead, and Becca Jones of the Home Office, to introduce the item.

Ian updated Members on the delay in the roll-out of the ESMCP, and the proposals for the future delivery of the project.

The Chair invited Members to comment on the report:

- Members discussed how important the current communication system is to the service, and how clarity and certainty is needed around both cost and timing of the replacement project. Members raised concerns about the impact the delay in the project would have, and whether the equipment would become out of date quickly given the long timescales.
- Members went on to discuss the funding for this project, and how it would be extremely detrimental for FRS if the cost was passed on to them.
- Members discussed the possibility of consulting with the private sector, and learning from front-runners in the communication sector.
- Members discussed the current relationship and discontinuity of the use of Airwave – the current provider to FRSs, and the quality of this system as some of it was reaching obsolescence.
- Members also raised FSMC's desire to be represented on the governance board overseeing the ESMCP project.

Becca stated that she completely understood the disappointment communicated by Members, and that lessons had been learnt from previous mistakes. Becca stated that the project was learning from the private sector. Becca also stated that clarity around cost and timings were currently work in progress – her team were endeavouring to ensure this would be ratified as soon as possible.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Members noted the update.

5 Automatic Fire Suppression Systems Working Group Report

The Chair invited Charles Loft, Senior Adviser, to introduce the item.

Charles stated that the report summarised the work of the sprinklers working group set up by FSMC earlier in the year, and included the evidence the working group had received from external stakeholders on the use of Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS), which included sprinklers.

- Members on the working group highlighted how useful they had found the evidence session.
- Members agreed with the recommendations set out in the report,

noting that this was a work in progress.

- Members discussed the LGA's role in spreading good practice.
- Member discussed the definition of vulnerable adults in the report.
- Members discussed next steps, and the possibility of releasing a joint position statement aligned with the NFCC.

The Chair stated that this was a solid foundation to start from, and thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Members noted the report

6 FSMC Policy Priorities for 2018-19

The Chair invited Lucy Ellender, Adviser, to introduce the item.

Lucy stated that the paper sets out proposals for the FSMC priorities and work programme for 2018/19. These priorities were based on corporate LGA priorities, areas of work that the Committee previously expressed an interest in, on-going work and recent policy announcements made by the Government.

The Chair thanked Lucy for the update.

Action:

- Members noted the update and agreed to the recommendations.

7 The Hackitt Review and Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, to introduce the item.

Mark stated that the report outlined:

- The recommendations from the final report on the independent review of building regulations and fire safety, led by Dame Judith Hackitt, which was published in May.
- The implications of these recommendations for FRS.
- Other building safety related work since the last FSMC Committee meeting.

Mark explained that Members' views regarding the reviews recommendations will be used to inform the LGA's response to them and its lobbying around government's plans to reform the building regulation and fire safety system.

The Chair thanked Mark for the update and invited Members to comment:

- Members discussed the report's recommendations related to inspection and fire safety.
- Members also discussed the media coverage of the Grenfell public

inquiry and the response to the fire by the firefighters. They noted the bravery of the firefighters involved in fighting the fire, that failings in the building had affected the ability of firefighters to fight the fire, and that the fire safety measures incorporated into the building had failed.

- Members discussed the reliance in Dame Judith Hackitt's final report on self-regulation by industry, and agreed there should be a greater degree of prescription around fire safety.
- Members also highlighted the need for funding to support training if services were to implement the recommendations.
- Members noted the important role the Joint Competent Authority would play in the new regulatory framework, and that there should be more consideration given to how it would work. As a result, Members requested that an additional meeting of the FSMC be held in order to discuss the recommendations from the final report further.

The Chair thanked members for their comments, and agreed to an additional meeting of the FSMC to discuss Dame Judith Hackitt's final report further.

Action:

- An additional meeting of the FSMC be organised in order to discuss the Hackitt Review further, where further consideration and next steps can be considered.

8 Workforce Report

The Chair invited Gill Gittins, Principal Negotiating Officer, and Clair Alcock, Fire Pensions Adviser, to introduce the item.

Gill stated that the report updated Members of the FSMC in relation to key fire service industrial relations and pension matters at present.

Gill also stated that work continued on the NJC's 'broadening the role' negotiation. Matters within NJC control were progressing well such as constructive discussion with the employees' side of the NJC on the content of a broadened role.

Members were aware that lobbying of governments across the UK in respect of necessary additional funding was also taking place and the need for a timely outcome from all.

- Since this report had been published, NJC representatives had held their second meeting with the Minister in Wales. This meeting had been more encouraging in tone and it was agreed to undertake further work at officer/civil servant level over the next couple of months. .
- A meeting with the new Minister in Scotland was planned for the following week.
- Discussions were on-going with the Home Office.

The National Employers had invited Chairs and Chiefs to attend one of

three update meetings that would be held over the next few weeks. They would cover the broadening the role negotiation and the potential to apply a pay award while those talks continue, which would likely be effective from 1 July 2018.

Members noted the pension issues also contained within the report.

The Chair thanked Gill and Clair for the update and invited members to comment:

Members thanked officers for their hard work on these important matters. Members present at the most recent NJC meeting reported that it had been an extremely constructive and positive meeting.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments.

Action:

- Members noted the update.

9 Outside Bodies - verbal update from Members

Members gave no update in relation to their Outside Bodies appointments.

10 Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper

The Chair invited Lucy Ellender, Adviser, to introduce the item.

Lucy stated that the report outlines the issues of interest to the FSMC not covered under other items on the agenda.

The Chair invited Members to comment:

- Members discussed the assessment of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire's business case in relation to a possible transfer of governance to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Members also stated that there had been no feedback from the inspectors.

Action:

- Members noted the update.
- Lucy to find out more information on the assessment of North Yorkshire's business case.

11 Note of last Fire Services Management Committee meeting

The Board agreed to the Notes of the previous FSMC on 12 March 2018, with the correction that Cllr Nick Chard had attended the meeting.

Appendix A - Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Councillor Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chairman	Fiona Twycross	Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Rebecca Knox	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Keith Apsden	North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Members	Cllr Jason Ablewhite	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr John Bell	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
	Cllr Nick Chard	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Simon Spencer	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Les Byrom CBE	Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr John Edwards	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr John Robinson JP	Durham Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr Kevin Dodds	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
Apologies	Cllr Mark Healey MBE	Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Judith Hughes	Kirklees Metropolitan Council