

Chairman's report

Purpose of report

For noting.

Summary

This paper summarises the meetings and events that the Fire Services Management Committee Chairman has attended since the Committee's last meeting.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Action

Officers will take action as directed by members.

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Chairman's report

1. This paper provides information on the meetings and engagements that the Chairman of the Fire Services Management Committee has attended on behalf of member fire and rescue authorities.
2. On 25 March I chaired the Reforming Blue Light Services Conference which examined how to develop effective partnerships and discuss the future for **integrating our emergency services** and was attended by senior representatives of the Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Services. Speakers at the conference included Brandon Lewis MP and Sir Ken Knight.
3. In my role as Chair of the FSMC I sat as one of the Panel members at the **Commissioning LIVE event** on 26 March at the London Business Design Centre. The event explored the challenges that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) face and looked in depth at a number of practical case studies from a number of local authorities.
4. On 24 April I visited **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority**. I spoke with the Cabinet member for Fire, Councillor Les Caborn, as well as the Leader of the Council, Councillor Izzi Seccombe, and Andy Hickmott, Chief Fire Officer, on a number of local and national issues including, how county-wide CSPs are working with Health and Wellbeing Boards and the issue of deploying defibrillators across geographical borders, the use of volunteers in FRS's and youth engagement schemes.
5. On 25 April I visited **Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority**. I spoke with Councillor Peter Robinson, the Cabinet member for Fire as well as Dave Ramscar, the Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Fire Officer. The discussion was wide-ranging and included discussion on their co-responding work and how this would be extended in the future. I also visited their training facilities.
6. On 30 April I attended a **CFOA Fire Futures Forum**, on fires in waste management and recycling centres. The discussion focussed around CFOA's recent publication: <http://www.cfoa.org.uk/17512>. The Group also heard from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service on some recent enforcement activity, as well as discussing guidance on fighting these fires.
7. On 8 May I visited **Cumbria Fire and Rescue Authority**. I met with Cllr Barry Doughty the portfolio holder with responsibility for Fire and Rescue and Ian Cartwright, the Chief Fire Officer. I was told about the scale and topography of Cumbria and the challenges of delivering the fire and rescue service in this area. I also heard about the difficult decisions that members had taken to reconfigure the service. The Cumbria Fire HQ is in a building which also serves as a community hub. It is on a campus site with the Police HQ and Cumbria Fire is hoping soon to host an ambulance station on the same site. Cumbria undertakes some impressive community safety work. In line with the recommendations of the recent peer challenge it has moved away from targets for home visits towards a risk based targeting of the most vulnerable. It is working closely with other agencies to achieve this. Cumbria has also championed the greater use of

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defibrillators and has used volunteers to roll out a training programme in their use. Cumbria remain concerned about the sustainability of the retained service in its current form. Cumbria is also concerned that the existing method for assessing the rurality element of funding is not sufficient with dealing with the particular circumstances of delivering a fire service in this location.

8. I have written out to all North East Fire and Rescue Authority Chairs and Vice-Chairs to invite them to an **informal dinner in June/July**. The purpose of the event is to explore the challenges the region is facing going forward. I am also writing out to FRA Chairs in the South West to arrange a similar event.
9. I have a number of engagements over the next few weeks including,
 - 9.1 On 2 June I will be taking part in the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service Peer review;
 - 9.2 On 6 June I will be attending the official opening of the Fire Service College; and
 - 9.3 My next meeting with Brandon Lewis MP will take place on 10 June.