

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. From 2 - 5 June I took part in the Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service OpA and fire peer challenge. The feedback was very well received by the portfolio holder and CFO who were appreciative of the support given and as a result of the teams comments they have already made changes to the way they conduct scrutiny.
3. On 6 June I attended the 40th anniversary of the opening of the Fire Services College which was attended by HRH Princess Anne, who opened a new block of accommodation.
4. I chaired the first fire peer challenge working group on the 17 June. The peer challenge programme has been very successful with all fire and rescue authorities fully engaged. The cross party working group will consider the strengths, review the areas for improvement of the current peer challenge process for the fire sector and how best to incorporate the findings of the recent evaluation of the programme by Cardiff university. As we approach the current cycle of all FRAs engaging in this process, we are taking forward proposals to review the model.
5. On 19 June I spoke at the EP Challenge Conference in London which looked at effective multi-agency working. There was discussion around responses to the recent floods and preparing for future challenges, Changes to the Met Office's warning and informing channels, Effective communication and utilising social media during a response and Community resilience and the role of volunteers
6. On 25 June I attended the Local Resilience - planning for emergencies conference. Delegates examined best practice strategies for ensuring local resilience against a wide range of threats and heard how the latest national strategy and learning from recent incidents can be used to successfully embed resilience across local communities. The event was chaired by Hamish Cameron, London Resilience Manager for the Greater London Authority, there were a number of key note speakers including Richard Gordon from the National Resilience Unit and Martin Blunden, Senior User for Fire, Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Program.
7. I attended the graduate programme dinner at the Fire College on 2 July. It was encouraging to see the number of new graduates entering the Fire and Rescue Services.
8. On 10 July I made a presentation on the issue of national resilience at the fire breakfast session at the Local Government Association Annual Conference in Bournemouth. Discussion at the session involved the effectiveness of local partnership responses to extreme events, in the context of the recent flooding across the country. There was also an opportunity to explore the relationship between local services and national agencies and government in both response and recovery.