

Fire Services Management Committee update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

Members to note the update.

Action

Officers to progress as appropriate.

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Fire Services Management Committee update paper

Publication of Fire Statistics, Great Britain 2012 to 13

1. The Government published the annual analysis of fire incident records on Friday 23 May 2014. The analysis includes the location and causes of fire, fire casualties, and the operation and effectiveness of smoke alarms. The publication can be accessed on the Government's website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics-great-britain. The headline findings are as follows:
 - 1.1. Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) in Britain attended 192,600 fires in 2012-13. This is nearly a third fewer than the year before, due to fewer outdoor fires as a result of above average rain-fall.
 - 1.2. While only 12 per cent of dwellings report not having a working smoke alarm in England, more than one third of fires occurred in dwellings in Great Britain where no alarm was installed.
 - 1.3. Three quarters of fire-related fatalities occurred in dwelling fires, the figure fell by 11 per cent (32 deaths) compared to 2011-12.
 - 1.4. Smoker's materials (i.e. cigarettes, cigars or pipe tobacco) have caused the largest share of deaths in dwelling fires, while cooking appliances are the source of ignition in more than half of fires in dwellings.
 - 1.5. Half of fire deaths in buildings that were not dwellings resulted from smoker's material or cigarette lighters.
 - 1.6. The risk of dying in a fire for elderly people (65 and over) is over twice as high as the average for all ages.
 - 1.7. In the year to 2012-13 fire fatalities rates fell by 10% in England and by over 20% in Scotland and Wales. Scotland continued to have a higher rate of fire deaths compared to both England and to Wales.
 - 1.8. Males have higher rates of fire fatality than females, but the gender gap in fire fatality rate narrowed in 2012-13.

LGA's Annual Conference

2. This year's LGA Annual Conference took place between 8 – 10 July in Bournemouth. There was a good presence from the fire and rescue sector at the Conference. The dedicated breakfast session for the fire and rescue service on national resilience was chaired by Cllr John Edwards, Chairman of the West Midlands FRA. Cllr Kay Hammond spoke to the group alongside Paul Netherton, Local Resilience Forum Chair and Assistant Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall Police. The session generated

an interesting and useful discussion around lessons learned from last winter's extreme weather. The presentations from the session will be available on the LGA's website soon.

Big Society Award Winner

3. The Fire and Rescue Service has been awarded the Prime Minister's Big Society Award for its work with children and young people to promote fire safety, reduce anti-social behaviour and transform lives.
4. The award was presented to the Service by the Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, via video link, at a local event in Essex on Friday 4 July and was accepted on behalf of the service by Paul Fuller, president of the Chief Fire Officers' Association. A press release can be found here: www.cfoa.org.uk/18072

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

5. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament every two years on the extent to which FRAs are acting in accordance with the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The 2014 report shows that all FRAs have full compliance with the Framework, including:
 - 5.1 publication of their annual statement of assurance;
 - 5.2 publication of their updated Integrated Risk Management Plan; and
 - 5.3 and complying with the national resilience assurance elements.

LGA's Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition

6. The next Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition will be taking place at the Hilton in Gateshead on the 10 – 11 March 2015. We previously held the Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition at this venue in 2011.
7. To respond to feedback from this year's conference, the LGA will be calling for bids from FRAs to participate in a new innovation workshop. We are calling for FRAs to bid for the chance to showcase their innovative practice during a series of short table discussions with attendees. Up to 3 FRAs can participate in the workshop with all the table discussions taking place in the same room. The workshop will be held at the same time as the other workshops in the programme. Delegates will be able to move between the different table discussions to engage in greater debate and ask further questions.
8. If your FRA would be interested please contact Lucy Ellender (lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk) for further details.

Recovery of Public Sector Exit Payments - Consultation

9. In May 2014 the Government announced that the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill will include legislative provisions to ensure exit payments are

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recovered when high earners return to the same part of the public sector within twelve months of leaving. The Government would like to gather views on its proposals and is currently consulting on them. The deadline for responding to the consultation is the 17 September and the consultation can be found on the Government's website:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/recovery-of-public-sector-exit-payments