

## **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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## Update paper

### Chairman's engagements

1. Ahead of the new Board cycle, the new FSCMC/FC Chairman Cllr Jeremy Hilton met with LGA officers to discuss the forthcoming work programme for the Fire Services Management Committee, the Fire Conference and diary/speaking engagements. Cllr Hilton and officers also discussed the priorities for the year as set out in **Item 2**.

### The Government's response to the Knight Review

2. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government delivered a statement to Parliament on the Government's priorities following Sir Ken Knight's independent review of the Fire and Rescue Service, including:
  - 2.1. fire prevention and protection
  - 2.2. a modern and flexible fire and rescue workforce, increasing in the proportion of on-call firefighters
  - 2.3. a more joined up approach to procurement
  - 2.4. the need for better and more sharing of services including senior staff between fire and rescue authorities and other organisations to drive efficiencies
  - 2.5. encouraging greater collaboration between FRAs, and between fire, police and ambulance services to deliver better outcomes for the public.
3. The full statement is available on the Government's website:  
[www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-and-rescue-services](http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/fire-and-rescue-services)
4. In response to our enquiry about publication of the DCLG Select Committee Report, we understand that this will be published after the Independent Review of Conditions of Service for Operational Staff in the Fire and Rescue Service. (**Item 3 refers**)

### Publication of Fire Incidents Response Times in England for 2013-14

5. In August the Government published the latest statistics on fire incident response times for 2013/14. It was noted that in England the average response time to fires in dwellings was 7.4 minutes. This was unchanged from 2012/13 and 2009/10. The average response time to fires in other buildings was 8.1 minutes. This was slightly longer than in 2012/13 by 18 seconds and 12 seconds longer than in 2009/10.
6. The report stated that over the last 10 years from 2003/04 to 2013/14 response times to both dwellings and other buildings had increased on average by 1 minute and twenty seconds. However the average severity of the fire and numbers of casualties had decreased thanks to fire safety and prevention work.

### **English Housing Survey: Fire and Fire Safety**

7. The Department for Communities and Local Government published the *English Housing Survey: Fire and Fire Safety; Annual report on England's households and housing stock, 2012-13*. This is a national survey of people's housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England and it provides the latest findings on fire and fire safety. This is the first time the survey results have been published as a standalone document.
8. The report noted that there has been a significant increase in the proportion of houses with at least one working smoke alarm, though private renters were less likely to have a working smoke alarm than those who owned their house or were in social housing. An estimated 1.9 million households did not have a smoke alarm installed.

### **LGA's Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition**

9. We are calling for bids from FRAs to participate in a new innovation workshop at our next Fire Conference.
10. The workshop will take the form of table discussions, with up to 3 FRAs hosting their own discussions in the same room. Delegates would be free to move around between different table discussions to engage in greater debate and ask further questions. The workshop will be held at the same time as the other workshops in the programme.
11. If your FRA would be interested please contact Lucy Ellender ([lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)) for further details.

### **LGA Shared Services Map**

12. We are keen to include examples from the FRAs in the LGA's Shared Services Map. We would therefore like to hear from you if you have shared services with another FRS, the police or the ambulance service. In order to add projects to the map we need information about the project, the partners involved and the savings made from the shared service as well as contact details. If you would be interested please contact Lucy Ellender, [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk).
13. The LGA's Shared Services Map can be found on [www.local.gov.uk/shared-services-map](http://www.local.gov.uk/shared-services-map)