

Fire Services Management Committee Update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That members of the Committee note the report.

Actions

Officers to continue to provide updates to members.

Contact officer: Rachael Aldridge
Position: Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3370
Email: Rachael.Aldridge@local.gov.uk

Fire Services Management Committee Update paper

Senior Stakeholder Group – Spending Review

1. The LGA continues to work together with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) to input into the next Spending Review process. The timing of the next Spending Review is not yet known; however, HM Treasury is expected to make an announcement in Summer 2021. Submissions will likely then be due in the Autumn.
2. At the Fire Services Management Committee meeting on 21 May 2021, Members were advised that the Senior Stakeholder Group (SSG) would be reconvened following the positive engagement we had with the Home Office through the SSG throughout 2020. The SSG has now met twice, once in June and once on 1 July.
3. The first meeting of the SSG was chaired by the Minister and set the overall themes that the submission into the Treasury would cover. The second looked in more depth at the efficiencies and productivity gains that the sector could look to make over the period of the Spending Review.

Governance Task & Finish Group – Fire Reform White Paper

4. On 16 March 2021, the Home Secretary laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament setting out the findings from part one of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Review. This included a series of recommendations to reform the police service and fire and rescue sector. Government has outlined that findings from this part of the review will inform options for the upcoming White Paper on fire reform. Centred on three pillars of improvement – Professionalism, People, and Governance - the White Paper will outline the roadmap for reform, alongside the comprehensive legislative programme on fire and building safety. The White Paper is scheduled to be published in Summer 2021, for consultation throughout the Autumn.
5. At the FSMC meeting on 21 May 2021, Members were advised that a Governance Task and Finish Group would be convened to explore the key issues regarding governance and alternative models for creating stronger executive and scrutiny functions within fire and rescue authorities. The Group first met on 30 June and will convene again in late July. All proposals will be brought to FSMC for consideration.

Governance and leadership workshops

6. Throughout July and September 2021, the LGA will be hosting a series of half-day workshops focusing on governance and leadership in the fire and rescue sector. In the context of the outcomes from part one of the PCC Review and the upcoming Fire Reform White Paper, experienced facilitators will deliver a range of interactive learning and development activities that aim to:
 - 6.1. Provide FRA members with a comprehensive overview of their role within the fire and rescue authorities and best practice for good governance

- 6.2. Strengthen knowledge and understanding of various leadership approaches, including a focus on the practical scrutiny skills required to support effective executive decision-making.
7. Workshops will be convened on:
 - 7.1. Wednesday, 21 July 2021, 9.30am – 1.30pm
 - 7.2. Wednesday, 28 July 2021, 9.30am – 1.30pm
 - 7.3. Tuesday, 7 September 2021, 9.30am – 1.30pm.
8. The workshops are open to all Members, with some limitations to the number of delegates per Fire Authority. Chairs of FRAs will be particularly encouraged to attend. Registrations will be done via Eventbrite.

Fire Leadership Essentials

9. Each year the LGA runs two Fire Leadership Essentials programmes to support Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) members with their responsibilities. Now delivered virtually via Zoom, the next course will be held over three-days from Tuesday, 14 September to Thursday, 16 September 2021.
10. Free to all Members, this course aims to provide an induction to the fire sector and is a great opportunity to network with other fire members, so new fire authority members are being particularly encouraged to attend. By the end of the course, delegates will have had the opportunity to:
 - 10.1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the fire sector, including clarity on duties and responsibilities
 - 10.2. Develop skills around leadership in fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).
 - 10.3. Gain a thorough understanding of scrutiny in FRAs and practical skills to apply that understanding.
 - 10.4. Improve knowledge of the key strategic issues facing the sector, including building safety, the fire inspections regime and issues around culture, inclusion and diversity in the fire sector.
 - 10.5. Share ideas and network with leading members from a variety of FRAs.

Outside bodies update

11. Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) Working Group: On 21 June, the LGA held its first ESMCP working group with Councillors Dave Norman, Eric Carter, Carolyn Lambert and Leigh Redman. There were presentations from Ian Taylor, Senior User and Business Change Lead (Fire) for NFCC, and Simon Parr, Senior Responsible Officer for the Programme at the Home Office. Members discussed the latest Full Business Case for the programme and the LGA's response. Subsequently, a letter went to the Home Office outlining the sector's key concerns regarding the potential

09 July 2021

impact of the programme on the delivery of statutory duties, the costs and the timescales. On 1 July, the ESMCP's Fire Customer Group convened, with Cllr Dave Norman and Cllr Eric Carter in attendance.