

LGA Fire Conference and Exhibition 2022

Summary

This paper outlines a draft programme for the Annual LGA Fire Conference and Exhibition, on 15-16 March 2022.

Recommendation

That members approve the proposed theme and programme for the Annual LGA Fire Conference and Exhibition 2022.

Actions

Officers to incorporate members' views in the work to prepare for the Fire Conference.

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LGA Fire Conference and Exhibition 2022

Background

1. The LGA Annual Fire Conference is held each year in early March. The event is an important part of the annual fire industry calendar. It is one of the showcase events organised by the LGA and an important income-generator. In recent years, the conference attracts an average of 230 delegates and a range of exhibitors and sponsors.
2. The 2021 LGA Fire Conference was delivered virtually, from 1-4 March 2021, due to Covid-19 restrictions and the corresponding government guidance at the time. The virtual offering replicated the delivery model used during the LGA Annual Conference 2020, consisting of four plenary webinars and two interactive meeting sessions over the four days. Given Covid-19 restrictions have eased, LGA event and conference activity has begun to reconvene in-person.

Fire Conference 2022

3. At the FSMC meeting on 15 October 2021, Members agreed that the 2022 LGA Fire Conference should be held in-person (subject to tighter Covid-19 restrictions not being introduced) at the Newcastle Gateshead Hilton Hotel, between 14-16 March 2022. The format includes:
 - a. Monday, 14 March – Conference set-up and FSMC meeting from 16:00-18:00.
 - b. Tuesday, 15 March – Conference sessions (plenaries and workshops), political group meetings and the Fire Conference Dinner.
 - c. Wednesday, 16 March – Conference sessions (plenaries) and closing with lunch.
4. The delegate fees, which also include the cost of the dinner, will be held at the same rate as they have been since 2016:
 - a. LGA Members – £395 +VAT
 - b. Non-members – £495 +VAT
5. The conference will not be offering hybrid engagement options, including live-streaming sessions, due to the cost associated with the technology and resources required to facilitate this delivery method. Further, the LGA Events Team have advised that a hybrid option may deter delegates from attending in-person, which could have a significant financial impact on the LGA.
6. The LGA has launched [the Fire Conference website](#), which includes an overview of dates, cost, and registration details.

Proposed conference programme

7. The 2022 LGA Fire Conference will have a forward-looking theme to focus plenary sessions and workshop activity: “Delivering transformation in the Fire and Rescue Sector”. Given the wider work underway in the sector, through Government and Her

Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on reform and improvement, this theme encompasses the nature of most work currently led by the LGA with key partners.

8. Following consultation with the FSMC Lead Members, the proposed conference programme is outlined in the table below:

		Monday, 14 March	Tuesday, 15 March		Wednesday, 16 March	
AM			9.00-10.30	Registrations	9.30-10.20	PLENARY Fire Safety Act / Building Safety
			10.30-10.35	Conference welcome		
			10.35-11.20	OPENING PLENARY Fire Minister	10.20-11.10	PLENARY Efficiency pillar budgets
			11.20-12.05	PLENARY HMICFRS - Sir Tom Winsor		
			12.05-12.30	BREAK	11.10- 11.40	BREAK
			12.30-1.15	Workshops Round One 1. Governance: effective scrutiny and oversight 2. Workforce engagement 3. Climate change 4. Sector-led support offer 5. Improving equality, diversity and inclusion in the fire and rescue sector	11.40-12.30	PLENARY (longer) Effectiveness pillar
PM	1pm - 4pm	Conference set-up	1.15 - 2.20	LUNCH (Lunchtime breakouts TBC)	12.30-1.30	LUNCH
			2.20 -3.10	PLENARY People pillar	End of Conference	
			3.15- 4.05	Workshops Round Two 1. Governance: effective scrutiny and oversight 2. Workforce engagement 3. Climate change 4. Sector-led support offer 5. Improving equality, diversity and inclusion in the fire and rescue sector		
			4.05-4.35	BREAK		
	4 - 6pm	FSMC meeting	4.35-5.20	Workshops Round Three 1. Governance: effective scrutiny and oversight 2. Workforce engagement 3. Climate change 4. Sector-led support offer 5. Improving equality, diversity and inclusion in the fire and rescue sector		
			5.30-6.30	Political Group meetings		
			7.30pm >	Fire Conference Dinner		

9. The timings and order of plenaries and workshops is subject to speaker/facilitator availability. Subject to FSMC approval of the plenary and workshop topics, LGA Officers will report back in January to confirm the Chairs and speakers of each session.

Conference publication

10. In previous years, the LGA has developed a conference publication that is distributed along with delegate packs at the conference. The LGA did not prepare a publication for the 2021 Fire Conference, given it was a virtual offering. In previous years the conference publication has focussed on particular issues of note at the conference. The publication for the 2020 Fire Conference focussed on climate change, while previous ones have focussed on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and collaboration.
11. In an effort to 'green' the Conference, the LGA is proposing to digitise the Fire Conference resources, including the handbook. The LGA is exploring options for development of a 'Best Practice Scrutiny Toolkit', which is a key output identified during the Governance and Leadership Workshops (held during September-November 2021). Officers will report back to FSMC in January regarding the progress of developing Conference resources.

Financial Implications

12. All work will be carried out using existing LGA resources.

Next steps

13. Members are asked to agree the theme and topics for conference plenary and workshop sessions.
14. Members are asked to note the approach to the development of Fire Conference resources.
15. Officers will take forward any decisions as directed and proceed with conference planning.