

Productivity and Efficiency

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The Fire Efficiency and Productivity Forum was initiated in response to the Fire and Rescue Services Spending Review Submission 2021 and brings together representatives from across the fire sector to work towards common goals of improving understanding of efficiency and productivity in the fire sector in England and supporting and monitoring the implementation of improvements.

This report outlines the work underway on behalf of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

Is this report confidential? Yes No

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the work already underway and how the FSMC may be able to contribute towards furthering this work.

Actions

LGA and National Fire Chiefs Council to work together to take forward emerging opportunities.

Contact officer: Phil Shillito
Position: Deputy CFO Humberside FRS
Email: pshillito@humbersidefire.gov.uk

Productivity and Efficiency

Background

1. In August 2021 the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) produced and submitted a joint submission on behalf of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Fire and Rescue Services to inform the 2021 Spending Review.
2. The submission, to the Minister of State for Building Safety, Fire and Communities was a collaborative effort and presented a coherent and realistic proposal for sustainable funding of the fire and rescue sector over the spending review period covering four main areas. The work outlined in this paper is related to the commitment contained within the submission to improve productivity and efficiency.
3. In September 2021 the Home Office (HO) chaired the first Productivity and Efficiency Forum. Colleagues from NFCC, HMICFRS and Home Office joined with the LGA to discuss and set out the work of the forum. This was reported back to the committee in October 2021.

Issues

4. At the meeting 6 January 2022 the Forum agreed the Terms of Reference (ToR) and workplan for the group, this is included at **Appendix A**.
5. The Forum is seeking to support greater efficiency and productivity in the fire and rescue sector in England by:
 - 5.1. improving the evidence base on efficiency and productivity improvements and monitoring future progress in achieving the 3 per cent productivity and 2 per cent efficiency target committed through SR21
 - 5.2. assessing the success of efficiency and productivity initiatives, including identifying what works and the barriers that exist
 - 5.3. proposing solutions and enablers to overcome any barriers
 - 5.4. sharing, or encourage sharing of, information on efficiency and productivity improvement work leading to improved estimates to inform future Spending Reviews.
6. A key output from the Forum will be improving the narrative on efficiency and productivity savings to inform future Spending Reviews, as well as providing numerical estimates for the scale of productivity and efficiency improvements.
7. The NFCC is directly involved in two areas of work:

- 7.1. Collation and review of current NFCC/LGA projects related to efficiency and productivity.
- 7.2. A data review. Forum to consider and agree what further data data/evidence is required to measure efficiency and productivity.
8. The NFCC has taken a number of steps to progress this work, identifying an Efficiency and Productivity lead (Phil Shillito), providing project support, subsequent initiation of a working group and collecting information from across the sector.
9. Following discussion with several services, a workshop was held 23 February 2022 bringing stakeholders from across the sector together to generate a common understanding of the spending review commitments, share learning and good practice, and agree how existing data and evidence can be used to track progress against the commitments. LGA officers attended.
10. The outputs from the workshop are being developed into a report to take back to the forum for consideration.

Implications for Wales

11. There are no implications for Wales.

Financial Implications

12. There are no further financial implications at this stage

Next steps

13. Members are asked to consider the work already underway and how the FSMC may be able to contribute towards furthering this work, beyond the LGA's membership of the Forum.