

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.

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Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper

LGA Annual Fire Conference 2022

1. The LGA Annual Fire Conference took place 15th - 16th March in Gateshead, Newcastle, this was the first in-person LGA Conference since Covid restrictions were lifted.
 - 1.1. The theme for the Conference was “Delivering Transformation”. Lord Stephen Greenhalgh and Sir Thomas Windsor discussed the Government’s Fire reform programme. Workshops covered sector-led improvement, climate change, EDI in the fire and rescue sector and workforce engagement and Effective Scrutiny and oversight of Fire Services. And plenary sessions focussed on people, efficiency, and effectiveness.
 - 1.2. There were 185 delegates in attendance of which 39 returned completed feedback forms. 94.8% of respondents were either very or fairly satisfied with the conference overall, with the remaining stating they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
 - 1.3. 92.3% said the conference met their needs and 86.5% said it provided them with information that they will use in their organisation.
 - 1.4. Written feedback was also positive and highlighted a good variety of content and speakers. When asked what could be improved some respondents addressed a need for more delegate interaction during sessions and greater use of case studies.

Fire and Rescue Leadership Essentials

2. The dates for the next Fire and Rescue Leadership Essentials course have been confirmed and will take place Tuesday 12 July – Wednesday 13 July at Warwick University.
 - 2.1. 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:
 - 2.2. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the fire sector, including clarity on duties and responsibilities Develop skills around leadership in fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).
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 - 2.4. Gain a thorough understanding of scrutiny and governance in FRAs and practical skills to apply that understanding.
 - 2.5. Improve knowledge of the key strategic issues facing the sector, including fire reform, building safety, the fire inspections regime and issues around culture, inclusion and diversity in the fire sector.

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Fire Inclusion and Diversity Member Champions Network

3. The Fire and Diversity Member Champions Network reconvened virtually on 24 March 2022. The network brings together elected representatives who are responsible for diversity and inclusion issues in their fire and rescue authorities.
 - 3.1. The group heard from Alex Johnson, Chief Fire Officer at South Yorkshire FRA who delivered a thought-provoking presentation about her experiences in the sector including the barriers she has faced and the work she has been doing to remove barriers for others in the sector.
4. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 10 June, taking place in a Hybrid format at the LGA offices. The exact timings are to be confirmed but we welcome all Fire Commission and FSMC members who may wish to attend.

Outside bodies update

5. HMICFRS – Consultation on Round 3 of inspection: On Monday 9 May HMICFRS wrote to fire authorities and services regarding their consultation on round 3 of inspection. The consultation is open until 6 June. The LGA will respond to the consultation.
6. HMICFRS External Reference Group (ERG): In early May the Inspectorate held its External reference Group with the sector. The Group is chaired by HMI Roy Wilsher and discusses a range of issues on inspection, including findings from the tranches, updating of the inspection programme
7. ESMCP Fire Customer Group: The Fire Customer Group has continued to meet to discuss the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme. We hope to provide a further update at the July FSMC meeting.
8. Strategic Resilience Board: On 19 April the Strategic Resilience Board met. The Board discussed a range of issues on resilience across the UK.