

Fire Commission Update Paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

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

Recommendation

That members of the Commission note the report.

Actions

Officers to continue to provide updates to members.

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Fire Commission 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).
 - 2.3. Develop skills around leadership in fire and rescue authorities (FRAs).
 - 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.

- 2.6. 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.

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, at LGA offices.

Sector Led Improvement (SLI)

5. We ran a series of workshops at the LGA's Fire Conference earlier this year with the intention of gauging the views of the sector about how, or even if, the LGA can support improvement within the Fire Sector. Following some very positive feedback from the Members and Chief Fire Officers who attended these sessions, we are continuing to evolve our Fire Sector Led Improvement (SLI) Offer. We heard from those in the sector who have benefited from our unique Peer Support offer – and how this has helped them address a wide range of improvement challenges from Protection to Governance, as well as from those who are keen to embrace SLI as they respond to the most recent tranche of HMICFRS Inspections. Another positive outcome of the sessions has been a greater connection with the NFCC's Service Implementation Team – since Gateshead, we have met with the Head of this team to identify opportunities for mutual support to ensure the sector has access to the most effective improvement tools possible.
 - 5.1. Our Fire SLI offer is an evolving picture – and we are using the next 6 months to establish the needs and expectations of all key stakeholders – and how the LGA can deploy our organisational knowledge and experience to support the sector moving forward. As part of the development process, we will be looking at funding options. Exciting opportunities exist to support Fire and Rescue Services and Authorities on a journey of continuous improvement, using the LGA's proven sector led improvement expertise which is centred around using member and officer peers from **within** the sector to provide a supportive approach to both improvement and

sharing learning across the sector. We plan to keep LGA members involved and informed as the offer develops, and please do not hesitate to contact Emily McGuinness (Emily.mcguinness@local.gov.uk) if you have any comments, queries or suggestions.

Fit for the Future

6. The Fit for the Future engagement sessions concluded in March. At the March Fire Services Management Committee, as well as meetings of the NFCC and National Employers (England) it was agreed that a new strategic version of Fit for the Future would be developed, with an evidence base to be produced separately to support the strategic document.
7. , and the draft version was presented to partners in May. Further amendments were taken into consideration, and a pre-governance draft was finalised shortly after. This has now progressed through all partners Governance routes and is on track for completion at the end of July.

HMICFRS – Consultation on Round 3 of inspection

8. 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, if members have any particular issues that they would like to feedback regarding the consultation please contact Lucy Ellender.

Outside bodies update

9. 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
10. 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.
11. Strategic Resilience Board: On 19 April the Strategic Resilience Board met. The Board discussed a range of issues on resilience across the UK.