

Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper

Purpose of Report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

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

LGA Plan Theme: Championing climate change and local environments

Recommendation

That the Committee note the report.

Contact details

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Fire Services Management Committee update paper

Updates

Fire Reform White Paper

1. Government response to the White Paper is yet to be published. Officials have indicated that they are working towards publishing a response prior to recess starting on the 20 July, though this is not guaranteed.

Fire Performance Oversight Group

2. Cllr Frank Biederman attended the Fire Performance Oversight Group (FPOG) meeting on 7 June to provide support to our members.

Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) updates

3. Earlier in June a proposed amendment to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (Exceptions) Order 1975, which would bring legislative changes relating to DBS checks was supported by both main parties in the House of Lords, having previously received strong support in the Commons.
4. The effect of a change, when it comes into force, would be to make all Fire and Rescue Authority employees eligible for Standard Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, alongside existing eligibility.
5. This change is expected to come into force on 6 July, subject to Ministerial signature on 5 July.

Fire Commission

6. On 9 June the LGA's Fire Commission met. Agenda items included culture in the Fire & Rescue Service, updates from the National Fire Chiefs Council on work around On-Call firefighters, an update from the Home Office on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme as well as work of the Fire Standards Board.

Implications for Wales

7. None

Financial Implications

8. None.

Equalities implications

9. HMICFRS's inspection reports highlighted a range of issues that impact on equality, diversity and inclusion within the fire and rescue sector. The LGA's Fire Diversity and Inclusion Champions Network has been specifically established to assist authorities in improving equality, diversity and inclusion in fire and rescue services.

Next steps

10. The Committee note the report.