

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: Support for councillors

Recommendation(s)

That the Committee note the report.

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Fire Services Management Committee Update Paper

HMICFRS Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England

1. HMICFRS produces a 'State of Fire and Rescue' Report which is an annual assessment of fire and rescue services across England. The [previous version](#) was published in January 2023. The 2024 report is expected in the first few months of next year and HMICFRS are currently consulting on what should be included.
2. We have received a request from HMICFRS to contribute. Officers have written a letter in response which outlines the LGA's excellent work on culture issues, independent reporting lines, building safety, and climate change within the sector. It also highlights ongoing issues and concerns of our officers and members regarding workforce challenges, emerging technology, finance and the Fire Reform White Paper. Lead Members are approving the response.

Updated Climate Emergency Handbook

3. The LGA published the original [Climate Emergency Handbook](#) in March 2020. Officers have updated the Handbook to ensure the information included is relevant and up to date.
4. We have received contributions from the NFCC on wildfires and sustainable procurement, from Professor Rowena Hill on climate change, the Environment Agency on incidence management and resilience, as well as relevant case studies from several fire and rescue services.
5. The updated handbook will be published as soon as all contributions are finalised and the digital team has confirmed the design.

Fire Performance Oversight Group

6. Councillor Frank Biederman attended HMICFRS's Fire Performance Oversight Group on 19 October 2023. He highlighted the work the LGA has done to assist the services currently in FPOG.

Chairs and Chiefs

7. Councillor Frank Biederman attended Chairs and Chiefs and spoke about his reflections on inspections, key challenges for the sector, and key future considerations for HMICFRS. He also detailed the priorities of FSMC for the year ahead.

Fire Standards Board

8. Councillor Greg Brackenridge has attended the Fire Standards Board on behalf of the FSMC. They have recently opened a consultation on the [Internal Governance and Assurance Fire Standard](#) which is now live on their website.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and rescue service - Independent Review

9. [Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have undertaken an independent review](#) following allegations of misconduct reported in media in February 2023. Alex Johnson QFSM, the previous Chief Fire Officer at South Yorkshire FRS, led the review, which has now been published. The report contains a number of recommendations. The fire service has responded to the recommendations and will be using them as the foundation for formulating a single Culture Action Plan, which will be overseen by the fire authority.

Events

Leadership Essentials

10. The most recent Fire Leadership Essentials Programme was held in Warwick on 1 & 2 November 2023. The programme was hosted by David Weaver and had eight attendees. We had excellent feedback from delegates about each of the sessions which covered a range of topics from building safety legislation to EDI and good governance.
11. The next Fire Leadership Essentials Programme is scheduled for 6 & 7 February. We shall run a similar programme but with a few changes to the schedule.

LGA Fire Conference 2024

12. Our annual fire conference will be held on 12-13 March 2024 at the Delta Hotels (Bristol Marriott) City Centre. Please see item 6 for further information.

Implications for Wales

13. None

Financial Implications

14. None

Equalities implications

15. None

Next steps

16. Committee members to note the report.