

Fire Conference Draft Agenda

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

This report outlines potential sessions and speakers for LGA Fire Conference 2024.

LGA Plan Theme: Communications and events

Recommendation

That the Board give direction regarding the sessions to be included in the Fire Conference 2024 programme.

Contact details

Contact officer: Marshall Scott

Position: Policy Adviser (Fire)

Phone no: 07884 312232

Email: marshall.scott@local.gov.uk

Fire Conference Draft Agenda

Background

1. The next LGA Annual Fire Conference is to be held on 12-13 March 2024 at the Delta Hotels (Bristol Marriott) City Centre.
2. A blank programme can be found in **Appendix A** of this report.

Proposal

3. Officers propose that the programme consist of eight plenary sessions and two workshop sessions, each consisting of five individual workshops.
4. The plenary sessions could include:
 - 4.1. Ministerial Address
 - 4.1.1. Chris Philp MP, the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, has been invited to address the conference. His address would likely comment on the Government's reform programme.
 - 4.2. Discussion/Panel Session
 - 4.2.1. Following member's comments regarding the need for greater interaction between attendees and speakers, this session would follow a discussion format. We would form a panel, with representatives from a range of relevant organisations then utilise 'Mentimeter', an interactive polling tool, which would allow the audience to influence which topics would be discussed and/or which questions they would like to be answered. We could ask people to vote in advance of the session starting.
 - 4.3. Inspection
 - 4.3.1. Andy Cooke could be invited to discuss the work of the inspectorate, the New State of Fire Report and findings from the Misconduct thematic review.
 - 4.4. Shadow ministerial addresses (Labour and Liberal Democrat)
 - 4.4.1. Each shadow minister would be encouraged to give their view on the current state of the fire and rescue services and the future of the service and then answer questions.

4.5. CRMPs

4.5.1. This session would focus on CRMPs, identifying risks and mapping across to resources. We have separately been approached by Hampshire and the Isle of Wight FRS, who are interested in demonstrating their new approach to constructing a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). They have produced a document looking at pure risk in their area and will be using this as the basis for further work as they look to update their CRMP going forwards. This might be a session that the NFCC would also wish to input into as well.

4.6. Mental health in the fire and rescue service

4.6.1. This session would focus on the topic of mental health in the fire and rescue service. The session could include case studies and outside speakers.

4.7. Finance

4.7.1. This session would include a discussion of finance and funding of the fire sector and looking towards the next spending review.

4.8. Fire Standards Board

4.8.1. Suzanne McCarthy can provide an update on the work of the Fire Standards Board as Chair of the Board. This could alternatively be a part of discussions in other panels such as inspection, sector-led improvement or the discussion panel.

4.9. Other speakers/issues for consideration would be:

4.9.1. Culture and equality, diversity and inclusion

4.9.2. Improvement in the sector – for example, sector-led improvement. This could include contributions from the LGA, NFC, HMICFRS, FSB

5. The two workshop sessions will consist of five workshops each. These could include:

5.1. Toxicity

5.1.1. Chemicals released from combusting home furnishings and building materials contribute significantly to the toxicity of domestic fires. This affects firefighters as they are then exposed to significantly higher levels of toxicity than the average worker, leading to higher rates of preventable diseases such as various forms of cancer. This session will look at the issue of toxicity in domestic materials and potential mitigations through regulation or behaviour change.

5.2. AI use in Norfolk County Council

5.2.1. Norfolk County Council are using AI to predict falls from a social care perspective, then working with their fire service to visit people to put in mitigation measures.

5.3. Local Resilience Forum Pilots

5.3.1. The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities are currently undertaking a series of pilots with Local Resilience Forums, stemming from the new Resilience Framework published in December 2022. The Stronger Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Pilot Programme focusses on governance and the creation of a central officer role in relation to three pillars of Leadership Accountability and Integration.

5.4. Climate change modelling

5.4.1. This workshop would be in addition to the climate change plenary and would demonstrate the modelling tools available to FRSs to analyse future risks from fire and flooding. The presentation starts with a general explainer of areas of concern regarding climate change and then demonstrates the use of modelling tools to forecast 'pinchpoints'. These are areas of significant concern due to infrastructure vulnerabilities, population increases, or likely increases in rainfall and flooding. This workshop could be useful to those who are looking to enhance CRMPs with data-led forecasts.

5.5. Building Safety and RAAC

5.5.1. This workshop would update delegates on the developments in the post-Grenfell building safety regime. Topics for discussion could include the work of the Building Safety Regulator, the impact and progress of fire safety legislation and the central government and local response to the RAAC crisis.

5.6. Emerging technology

5.6.1. This workshop would include a presentation on emerging energy technologies and their current and potential impacts on FRSs. This could include discussions around vapes, e-scooters, e-bikes, electric cars and energy storage facilities. Phil Clark came to speak at last year's conference on this issue.

5.7. Workforce

5.7.1. Workforce colleagues are considering if there are any particular issues that they would wish to highlight at the conference.

Implications for Wales

6. None

Financial Implications

7. Individual sessions mentioned in this paper should not incur significant financial burdens. Financial implications will mainly result from hiring and venue costs and revenue from sponsorship of the conference.

Equalities implications

8. As the agenda is confirmed officers will consider the equalities implications. We will always try to ensure that panels provide a range of views and perspectives and are diverse.

Next steps

9. The Committee is asked to give direction to officers on which sessions should be pursued as items for the Fire Conference agenda.

Appendix A

LGA Fire Conference 2024

Tuesday 12 March – Wednesday 13 March 2024

Tuesday 12 March 2024

09.00	Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing
10.30	Conference opening and Chair's welcome
10.35	Keynote session 1. Ministerial address
11.20	Keynote session 2.
12.05	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
12.30	Workshops – session 1 An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will be repeated. 1. Workshop 1 2. Workshop 2 3. Workshop 3 4. Workshop 4 5. Workshop 5
1.15	Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking <i>[Lunchtime fringe sessions to be announced]</i>
2.20	Plenary session 3.
3.15	Workshops – session 2 An opportunity to attend a workshop from the list below. These sessions will be repeated. 1. Workshop 1 2. Workshop 2

3. Workshop 3

4. Workshop 4

5. Workshop 5

4.05	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
4.35	Plenary Session 4. Shadow Fire Minister (Labour) Alex Norris MP
5:00	Plenary Session 5. Shadow Fire Minister (Liberal Democrat) Baroness Kath Pinnock
5.30	Political group meetings Conservative Group Meeting Labour Group Meeting Liberal Democrat Group Meeting Independent Group Meeting
7.30	Drinks reception
8.00	Conference dinner

Wednesday, 13 March 2024

08.45	Registration for new delegates, refreshments and exhibition viewing
09.30	Welcome to day two
9.35	Plenary Session 6.
10.35	Plenary Session 7.
11.35	Refreshments and exhibition viewing
12.00	Plenary Session 8.
1.00	Conference close
1.15	Lunch, exhibition viewing and networking



Fire Services Management Committee

6 December 2023