

Fire Commission update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report outlines issues of interest to the Commission not covered under the other items on the agenda and updates members on the meetings that lead members have attended.

Recommendation

Members to note the update.

Action

Officers to progress as appropriate.

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Fire Commission update paper

Strategic Resilience Board

1. Cllr Jeremy Hilton and Cllr Les Byrom attended the Strategic Resilience Board in July. The meeting discussed Exercise Unified Response, which will be a major live exercise over 4 days taking place in London in February 2016. The group also discussed the National Coordination and Advisory Framework, flooding, interoperability and the work of the National Resilience Board as well as an update on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.

New Local Government Network – “Fire Works: A Collaborative Way Forward for the Fire and Rescue Service”

2. Cllr Hilton spoke at the launch of the New Local Government Network’s document “Fire Works: A collaborative Way Forward for the Fire and Rescue Service”. The report was published in association with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and outlined three areas for their vision of the future of the fire and rescue service:
 - 2.1. Widening the prevention agenda, particularly around health and social care.
 - 2.2. Collaborating with other emergency services, looking at where the FRS can be most effective while also noting the need for the FRS to retain its distinct brand.
 - 2.3. Achieving greater efficiency, examining the most efficient model and optimum scale for the FRS.

JESIP Interoperability Board

3. Cllr Kay Hammond attended the JESIP (Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Principles) Interoperability Board meeting. The Interoperability board looked at a series of issues and received updates on the progress of embedding JESIP across the Emergency Services. Cllr Hammond raised the importance of the wider local government family being aware of the principles that underpin JESIP.

Fire/Health Summit

4. Cllr Kay Hammond and Cllr David Acton attended the Fire/Health Summit to discuss the role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public’s health and wellbeing. The group looked at how this work could be taken forwards, particularly the important role of councillors championing this at a local level. The summit officially signed off the consensus statement between the LGA, NHS England, Public Health England, Age UK and CFOA. The meeting also discussed the “Principles for a safe and Well Visit”, these have been produced to help local areas discuss how fire and rescue authorities can take forward safe and well visits at a local level. Both documents are available on the LGA’s website: www.local.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-services.

Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group

5. Cllr David Acton attended the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group at the beginning of September. The group discussed the progress that had been made in a short period of time and the future of the group. The Group agreed to write to Ministers to request funding to allow the Group continue its work for a further six months.

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

6. Cllr Hilton visited Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority. He outlined the role of the LGA, and had further discussions with member on the issues facing the fire and rescue service as we look to the future.

Fire Leadership Essentials Programme

7. Cllr Hilton will facilitate a number of sessions at the Fire Leadership Essentials Programme taking place in Coventry between 13 – 14 October. The programme offers members a chance to discuss their leadership styles, network with other members, as well as hear about and share good practice.

JESIP-Emergency Services Collaboration Ministerial Board

8. Cllr Acton will attend the new Ministerial Board to align the governance of Emergency Services Collaboration and JESIP on 13 October. It is designed to provide Ministers with to engages with emergency services stakeholders over the proposals set out in the consultation on further emergency services collaboration. The meeting will consider the tri-service review of the level of JESIP embeddedness across the three services, and the strategic vision and future ambition for the JESIP programme in light of the review's findings. It will also discuss the proposals in the emergency services collaboration consultation.

Smoke Alarms

9. The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 came into force on 1 October 2015. This is something that the LGA has lobbied for in the past, alongside CFOA. From the 1 October private sector landlords are required to have at least one smoke alarm installed on every storey of their properties on which there is a room used wholly or partly as living accommodation; and a carbon monoxide alarm in any room containing a solid fuel burning appliance (e.g. a coal fire, wood burning stove). After that, the landlord must make sure the alarms are in working order at the start of each new tenancy.
10. Local authorities are required to issue a remedial notice where they have reasonable grounds to believe a landlord has not complied with one or more of the requirements. The landlord must comply with the notice within 28 days. If they do not, the local authority must carry out the remedial action (where the occupier consents) to ensure the requirements in the regulations are met and can issue a civil penalty of up to £5,000.

11. The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 explanatory booklet for local authorities is available on the Government's website:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464711/150929_SC_Explan_Book_Annex_B_LAs_REVISED.pdf